

Annual Zeebrugge Raid Commemorations

Terry Sutton

For the first time in more than one hundred years the annual Zeebrugge Raid parade and service will not be held at St James' cemetery where heroes of the 1918 Raid are buried.


Instead, the traditional organisers of the annual event, Dover Town Council, has decided to commemorate the 104th anniversary of the Raid at the town's main war memorial in Biggin Street at 11.55 am on April 23.

A spokesman for the council explains: "Arrangements this year are different from previous years owing to the restrictions still in place for our Belgian (Zeebrugge)

colleagues and the duty of care for our townsfolk and our own staff."

Traditionally the mayor has at midday on April 23 sounded the Zeebrugge Bell from the town hall balcony. But with the redevelopment work being carried out at the town hall this will not be possible this year. Instead, the mayor will ring the bell below the balcony at midday.

The Zeebrugge Raid, carried out by Royal Marines and members of the Royal Navy, set off on their daring exploit from Dover while many of those who took part were trained at Deal.



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