Dojs Memorial Ceremony

Today we remembered the heroics of Adam Dojs who was one of my constituents and his fellow inmates of Dora concentration camp.

Adam lived in Dartmouth and contacted my office to see if I could help to fulfil a wish he had made to commemorate the bravery of his colleagues who were executed. Unfortunately the day that permission was granted for the ceremony to go ahead, was the day that Adam died.

Adam's grandson Marek has written the following summary of the events that led to this dedication.

Adam Dojs was a long time resident of Dartmouth. Over the last few years of his life he had built quite a rapport with Dr. Wollaston's staff, especially by telling stories from the war.

Born in western Poland, Adam was nearly 14 when the war began. Too young to fight, he helped his father who worked at a train station. His proximity to the rails made him a perfect target for the growing Polish Underground, who approached him to be a courier. His activity with the resistance gradually increased until he was captured after an attack on a transport. He was arrested and sent to Auschwitz in December 1943.

In August 1944 Adam was transferred to Dora Concentration Camp. There he was put to work in the construction of two of the Nazi "wonder-weapons," the V-1 flying bomb and the V-2 rocket, both specifically targeting London. Groups of prisoners secretly attempted to sabotage the Nazi war efforts in whatever ways they could. Adam's group urinated in fuel and on electrical connections with the hopes of causing a malfunction. Those involved worked under the threat of execution by hanging. On March 10th the first of several mass executions for sabotage occurred. Adam's entire work group was executed. Only 6 escaped hanging: 1 Norwegian, 1 Belgian, 2 Frenchmen and 2 Poles. These 6 performed specialist trades and were seen as too valuable to execute. It is estimated that over the 20 months Dora was operational 300 prisoners were hanged for sabotage, half occurring in March 1945.

At the time of the hanging Adam made a promise that the bravery of his comrades would not be forgotten. With the help of Dr. Wollaston's office, a memorial service was planned. A trowel of soil from Dora was spread around the Holocaust Memorial Garden in Hyde Park on June 24, 2013.

My father and I were honoured to travel to Dora in order to retrieve the soil and participate in this ceremony. It is with deepest gratitude that I would like to thank Dr. Sarah Wollaston, MP for Totnes, and her staff, especially Nina and Lucy, for helping to fulfil what happened to be one of my grandfather's dying wishes.

Link to Adam Dojs story: http://www.storiesfromthethirdfloor.com/#!camps/c188o