

May 24

Br WILLIAM BLACKLEDGE 11 Sept. 1899 – 24 May 1966



William Blackledge came from Chorley, Lancashire, NW England. He was fifteen when the war started and he joined the navy as soon as he could. Attached to a destroyer, he specialised in torpedoes and was in the Battle of Jutland, the only major naval engagement of the First World War.

The war ended, he joined Leyland's specialising in back axles for trucks. A week-end retreat at Loyola Hall led him to the novitiate in 1927 and he left for Africa in 1931 where he was cook at Campion House before moving to Chishawasha, using his

mechanical knowledge on cars. He used to drive the Prefect, Msgr Brown, around and also Bishop Chichester, but he got bad sunstroke which affected him physically and mentally.

He went back to England where he worked at Southwell House and later St Gabriel's Retreat House, Birmingham (1939- 47). From 1947, he was at Loyola Hall where it all started for him. He moved to St Beuno's to keep the books in 1951 and there 'he got on well with everyone.'

His last stop was Petworth from 1955 and he died there eleven years later. So much for what he did. For who he was there is little written but perhaps these photos tell us something.

