

- 1 Jack Traynor from Liverpool was called up to be a soldier during the First World War. He was hit in the head by a piece of shrapnel which damaged part of his brain, causing him to start to have epileptic fits.
- 2 He was posted to the battle-area of Gallipoli in the Middle East where, in May 1915, he was seriously wounded by three bullets from a Turkish machine-gun. Because of his injuries he was given a full pension and was discharged from the army in 1917, a year before the end of the First World War.
- 3 Six years later Jack travelled to Lourdes, to the Shrine of Our Lady in southern France. Three doctors who accompanied the pilgrims signed a statement that he was epileptic and had lost the use of his legs, and was paralysed in one arm.
- 4 As is the custom in Lourdes, Jack bathed in the waters that flowed from the spring. Shortly afterwards he felt that he could walk, and he began to experience feelings in the arm that had been paralysed. The same three doctors examined him and confirmed that he could now walk and that he had regained the use of his arm. The doctors also acknowledged that the shrapnel wound in his head, through which his brain could be seen, had completely closed.
- 5 Jack Traynor returned to Liverpool. Because he was now fit and able, he rejoined the family's coal business. The next time his invalidity war pension arrived, he wrote to let them know that he would no longer need the pension because he was now cured of the serious disabilities. The government department wasn't able to acknowledge miracles, and continued to send the disability pension until he died, aged 64.

6 *Let us pray:*

**Lord Jesus,
we read in the Gospels
that you brought healing
and acceptance
to many people,
In your love
stretch out your hands
and touch me
and bring healing and wholeness
in my life. Amen.**



 *Or use the prayer from 11 February or 28 May.*

 *Gallipoli - modern-day 'Gelibolu' - is a town of the Dardanelles, along the waterway connecting the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, and is near the border between European Turkey and Asian Turkey.*

 *See also 11 February for some details on Lourdes. The film "The Song of Bernadette", tells of Mary's appearance to Bernadette at Lourdes and the cures that began to take place there. At the end of the film the following words appear on screen:*

"For those who believe in God,
no explanation is necessary.
For those who do not believe in God,
no explanation is possible."

 *The Guinness Book of Records mentions that the world's largest ambulances are 18m (59 feet) in length, and are often called "jumbulances". They transport the sick and handicapped on pilgrimages and holidays throughout Europe, including to Lourdes. The jumbulances carry 44 patients and staff, and are operated by the ACROSS Trust.*

 Christ be beside me; For to those who love God; Holy Virgin by God's decree; If God is for us; Lay your hands

This is an excerpt from the page of this date in
'Praying Each Day of the Year',
a 3-volume book
by Nicholas Hutchinson, FSC.

For details:

<http://www.matthew-james.co.uk/>

Could make use of a search engine
to research this topic further.

This material is part of
the prayer and education website
of the De La Salle Brothers
in Great Britain:

www.prayingeachday.org