



Merchant Navy Association (Wales)

Newsletter



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2011

Wednesday February 9th

Regular meeting at RAFA Club,
Ely, Cardiff at 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday March 9th

Regular meeting at RAFA Club,
Ely, Cardiff at 2.30 p.m.

March

St. David's Day Service. Details
to be announced at regular
meeting.

March

Seafarers UK Annual Concert.
Details to be announced at
regular meeting.

Wednesday April 13th

Regular meeting at RAFA Club,
Ely, Cardiff at 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday May 11th

**Annual General Meeting
(AGM) at the RAFA Club,
Ely, Cardiff at 2.30.p.m.**

Saturday May 21st

Annual Parade and Service,
Cardiff Bay at 11.00.

Wednesday June 8th

Regular meeting at RAFA Club,
Ely at 2.30. p.m.

June

Armed Forces Day, Cardiff.
Details to follow.



*Happy New Year Shipmates.
Best wishes and plain sailing to you
and yours for 2011*



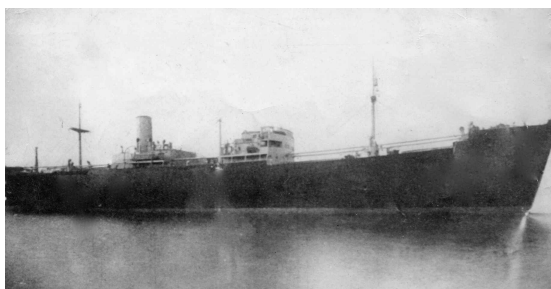
The second part of 2010 proved to be just as busy as the first part. A coach was arranged for the trip to Swansea on the 4th September to support our shipmates there at their Merchant Navy Day Service. Then followed our Barry Branch service on the 18th

September where Brian Lansley, "assisted" by Cyril James, laid a wreath. Both events were very well attended. October saw us in Llandaff Cathedral for the Annual Seafarers Service which was once again well attended with over 20 standards on parade.

November was our busiest month which started with the Field of Remembrance Service on the 4th. This year the event was moved from Cathays Park to the grounds of Cardiff Castle. Even the heavy rain couldn't put a dampener on the proceedings and the Association was well represented by Harry who took his place amongst the other

dignitaries as can be seen in the photograph above. Ray Newbury planted the cross on behalf of the Merchant Navy in the Remembrance Garden, St. Johns Church, Cardiff on the morning of the 6th. whilst John Mumford, Brian Hammett and Dave Richards represented us at the St. Davids Hall Remembrance Service and Muster in the evening. Our service down the Bay on the 13th was very well attended. The Rev. Canon Graham Francis was joined by the Rev. Malcolm Davies, Honorary Chaplain to our Barry Branch, and the new pastor of the Lightship 2000. Harry laid a wreath at the National Memorial in Cathays Park, Cardiff on the 14th whilst a number of members once again braved the cold to take part in the parade and service at the Memorial.



**Elmdene**

First Trip (Continued) by Frederick Norman Jenkins

In our July 2009 Newsletter we heard about the first trip experiences of our shipmate Norman Jenkins. Here the story continues.

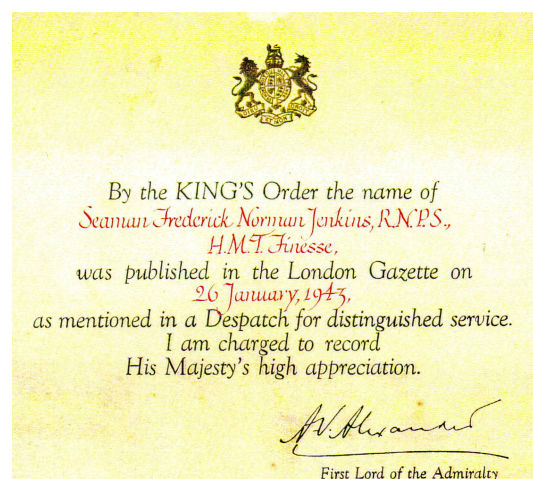
“Our last port of call in South America was Rio de Janeiro then we headed north to our discharge port of Limerick, stopping only at Dakar where we loaded bunkers and also picked up a DBS (Distressed British Seaman). The trip north was uneventful except that after leaving Rio we had a “pampero” a gale force wind which resulted in small birds, which had been blown out to sea, landing on the deck. I picked them up and the only place I could think of putting them was in the Captains bathroom which was rarely used. However he soon found out. On another occasion I fancied some marmalade on my bread and butter but the steward said I would have to ask the Captain. I went up to the bridge just as they were about to take sights. On hearing my request the Captain was not pleased and ordered me off the bridge. As I was repeating my request the steward arrived and the Captain told him to give me the marmalade and never to send me to the bridge again. I enjoyed my bread and butter.

After discharging at Limerick we proceeded to Barry Dock to dry dock as the ship had struck an obstruction and damaged one of the blades of the propellor. We laid on the buoys and I worked by her, then we loaded cargo for Rosario. We sailed on Friday November 13th 1939 in a strong wind to join a convoy from Milford Haven. We lost the convoy first night out so proceeded to Rosario on our own. Whilst off Rio we heard that the German pocket battleship Graf Spee was doing battle with three H.M. cruisers. My elder brother had left Newport for Buenos Aires in the Trekieve two days before us and was able to witness the fate of the Graf Spee. We arrived later to see the burning wreck. My last trip in the Merchant Navy was in S.S Elmdene which I joined in London with Leslie Somerset who lived near me in Canton, Cardiff. I joined as Galley Boy and Leslie as Cabin Boy. We sailed in May 1940 at the time of the Dunkirk evacuation and were bound for Malta via Gibraltar with a cargo of coal which we loaded at Blyth. With the fall of France we were unable to sail directly to Malta and had to go via the Cape of Good Hope. We called in Capetown and Durban then headed north towards the Suez canal. When we were about 800 south of Aden there was an explosion in Number 1 hold followed by a fire. When this was extinguished we proceeded to Aden where a decision was

**Norman in Aden**

made to discharge the cargo as it was deemed too risky to go through the Suez Canal. After discharging the cargo we sailed for Columbo where we loaded a cargo of monkey nuts which were brought out to the ship by small boats. It took us 10 days to load. We then proceeded to Durban then Capetown and on to Freetown for convoy back to the UK. On the way back I went down with malaria and was happy to get back to Hull in the UK where I paid off the Elmdene on June 2nd 1941.”

On leaving the Elmdene Norman joined the Royal Navy and served with distinction in the minesweeper HMT Finesse. On 30th November 1942, HMT Finesse, whilst on mine clearing duties in the English Channel, was attacked by a Focke-Wulf 190 fighter bomber. The FW190 could fly at 300 miles an hour and was armed with the latest cannon



and machine guns which had a range of 1000 yards. Finesse, on the other hand couldn't manage more than 6 knots and was equipped with a selection of largely obsolete weapons. As the German pilot swooped down to attack Norman waited tensely for the aircraft to come within range of his ancient Hotchkiss machine gun. When in range Norman was able to get two bursts of five rounds as it passed the ship. The CPO on the ships wheel watched as the tracer bullets from the Hotchkiss hit the speeding plane which pulled out of the dive, faltered and hit the sea a short distance away, the pilot having been fatally wounded. H.M.T. Finesse suffered neither casualties nor damage. For this action Norman was mentioned in a Despatch for distinguished service. He left the R.N. in 1946.

CROSSED THE BAR

Sadly the following members have crossed the bar since the last Newsletter

Mr. J. Insole of Cardiff - April 2010

Mr. H.J. Smith of Cardiff - March 2010

Mrs. Ruta Kalnins of Cardiff - November 2010

Their sailing hath ended

NEW MEMBERS

The following new members have signed on:

Captain Paul Hanson of Barry - August 2010

Dr. Raymond Hicks of Newcastle - October 2010

Captain Hanson is still employed at sea having joined as a Deck Boy in 1976. His companies have included Bibby Line, The Royal Fleet Auxiliary Service, Andrew Weir, Norfolk Line and Meridian Marine.

Dr Hicks joined the Dutch Merchant Navy in November 1942 and served as a Pantry Boy in Ganymedes and Vliestrom before transferring to the British Merchant Navy in November 1943. He left the sea in 1946 and went on to a distinguished career in Civil Engineering.

Welcome aboard

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

S.S. CANFORD CHINE (Swansea)



Canford Chine was a steam merchant ship of 3,364 tons belonging to Chine Shipping Co Ltd. Swansea. She was en-route from Cardiff to Buenos Aires with a cargo of coal. At 14.35 hours on 10 Feb, 1941, the Canford Chine, a straggler from convoy OG-52 since 8 February, was torpedoed and sunk by the German submarine U-52 south-south-west of Rockall in position 55N 15W. There were no survivors. Welsh crew members lost were:

HARRISON, Leopold. Age 22. Fireman and Trimmer. Son of Frank and Valona Harrison, of **Cardiff**.

HING, Wilfred Laurence. Age 26. Fireman and Trimmer. Son of Low Hing and of Nellie Hing (nee Stokes); husband of Doreen Hing, of **Cardiff**.

MACDOUGALL, Neil. Age 52. Master. Son of Neil and Mary MacDougall; husband of Kathleen Josephine MacDougall, of **Barry Island**.

MAGEE, Charles Thomas. Age 15. Deck Boy. Son of Charles and Violet Magee, of **Cardiff**.

PILE, George. Age 60. Chief Engineer. Son of George and Ann Pile; husband of Blanche Pile, of Canton, **Cardiff**.

PURTON, Samuel Thomas. Age 50. Third Engineer. Husband of Emma Jane Purton, of **Newport**.

SCOTT, Robert Joseph. Age 23. Cook. Son of George and Catherine Scott; husband of D. Scott, of **Newport**.

WIGGIN, Wyndham Lionel. Age 40. Steward. Husband of Henrietta Wiggin, of **Barry Island**.

All are commemorated on Panel 23 of the Tower Hill Memorial.

The Merchant Navy Medal Awards 2010

Congratulations to Captain John Sail, National Chairman, Merchant Navy Association, Tim Brant, National Secretary, Merchant Navy Association, Bryan "Wings" Barry, National Standard Bearer, Merchant Navy Association, and Captain R.A. Cooper, OBE, Royal Fleet Auxiliary Association on being awarded this prestigious and well deserved award.

Captain Sail received his award for services to merchant shipping and to the welfare of retired merchant seafarers and to the welfare of retired merchant seafarers and to the welfare of retired merchant seafarers and to the welfare of retired merchant seafarers.

Captain Cooper received his award for services to the welfare of serving and retired members of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary.



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The Medals were presented by Admiral The Lord West of Spithead at a ceremony in Trinity House London on Monday 13th December.

More information on the Merchant Navy Medal can be found on the Merchant Navy Welfare Board website www.mnwb.org or by writing to:

Merchant Navy Medal Administrator
Merchant Navy Welfare Board
30, Palmerston Road
Southampton
SO14 1LL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members are reminded that the AGM will be held on Wednesday 11th May 2011 at 2.30 p.m. at the RAFA Club Riverside Ely. This is an opportunity for those wishing to serve on the Committee or as an office holder to put their names forward. Nominations should reach the Secretary on or before April 20th – 3 weeks prior to the AGM.

The Membership Secretary reminds all members that subscriptions for the year 2010/2011 are now due.