



Merchant Navy Association (Wales) Newsletter



*Happy New Year Shipmates.
Best wishes and plain sailing to you
and yours for 2013*



Recipients: Tom Ahmum, Con Connelly, Cyril James, Oliver Lindsay, Ray Newbury, Harry Parry, Norman Phillips, Graham Sellick, Tony Woodward.

Photograph by Cardiff County Council.

The above photograph was taken on 30th October 2012 when the members listed above were presented with their Merchant Seafarers Veterans' badge at the Mansion House, Cardiff, by the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Keith Jones, supported by the Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan, Dr. Peter Beck, and their families and friends. The event was organised by Mr Derek Bristow, Chief Executive of the Federation of Merchant Mariners, supported by MNA (Wales), and Cardiff County Council. Other members of the Merchant Navy fraternity were also present to receive their badges. It is hoped that further presentations will be organised in the future. Congratulations to all who received their badges.

It was another busy year for our Standard Bearers, Tony Meade and John Mumford with the usual Services and Parades and sadly some funerals for those Merchant Navy seafarers, some ex-members some not, who Crossed the Bar during 2012. Well done to them both, and thank you for your support.

Dates for your Diary

Regular meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month at the R.A.F.A. Club, Ely, Cardiff, commencing at 14.30.

On **Monday 28th January 2013** the National Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration will be held at 1.00 p.m. at City Hall Cardiff.

Our **Annual General Meeting** will be held on Wednesday 8th May 2013 at the R.A.F.A. Club, Ely, Cardiff, commencing at 14.30. This is an opportunity for those wishing to serve on the Committee, to put their names forward. Nominations should reach the Secretary on or before the 17th April, 3 weeks prior to the AGM.

Our **Annual Service** down Cardiff Bay is scheduled to take place on Saturday 18th May 2013, commencing at 11.00.

You will be notified of other events as dates and times become available. Notification will be provide at our regular meetings, and via our web site www.mnawales.org.uk

Arctic Convoy Medal



On Wednesday 19th December 2012 veterans of the Arctic Convoys were finally recognised, 67 years after the end of World War Two, when the Prime Minister announced in the House of Commons that an Arctic Star medal will be awarded. More details will come from the MoD in the new year, including how veterans can apply.

The Arctic convoys supplied Russia with vital fuel, food and munitions. More than 3,000 seamen were killed during 78 convoys that delivered 4 million tons of cargo. Eight-five merchant ships and 16 Royal Navy vessels were destroyed. It is thought 66,500 men sailed on the convoys, but only 200 are alive today. The award is overdue and many brave men have not lived to see it.

The Year of the Convoy - 2013



2013 has been designated The Year of the Convoy and commemorates the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic. A National event has been arranged in Liverpool. The event is timed to coincide with the late May Bank Holiday 24-27 May 2013 and includes: visiting ships being open to the Public, a charity Royal Marine Band Concert at the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall on Saturday 25 May, a Service of Remembrance at Liverpool Anglican Cathedral followed by a March/Fly Past on Sunday 26 May and a themed period event at St George's Hall, Liverpool on Monday 27 May, again with music from the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines. In addition to Royal Navy warships, vessels from the USA, Canada, Germany and Russia are anticipated and the First Sea Lord will be the senior host for Heads of Foreign Navies, Maritime Associations and relevant Trade Associations.

The National MNA are also working towards a programme of events for London and there is a programme in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, and a special Arctic Convoy event at Loch Ewe.

I will provide you with further information on all of these events as it becomes available. If anyone is interested in attending any of the events in Liverpool please let me know as soon as possible via telephone 01443 815013 or email byron@blackranger.plus.com

In addition, a set of Merchant Navy stamps to commemorate the Battle of the Atlantic are due to be issued on 19th September 2013. The designs have yet to be decided. The National MNA has worked with our own Keith Greenway of Barry Branch to bring about this achievement. Keith has worked and lobbied for over three years to get the stamps and all his work has produced a very successful outcome. Well done Keith.



CROSSED THE BAR

The following Member crossed the bar since the last Newsletter.

Mr. Tom Williams of Aberbargoed - June 2012

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Membership Secretary reminds all members that subscriptions for the year 2012/2013 are now due. The annual subscription is **£10.00**. In accordance with our Articles of Association, any member who is three years in arrears, may be removed from the membership list.

Please advise the Secretary of any sickness or bereavement which may come to your notice.

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

I have compiled a record of Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleet seafarers from Wales who died during World War Two. On checking war memorials and local Rolls of Honour I found many were just a list of names and little other information. I felt that each of these seafarers needed to have their story told for the benefit of their families, and as information for researchers and historians in the future.

My record is classed as a Book of Remembrance rather than a Roll of Honour so that all those who died in the service of their country, either as a result of enemy action, or by other causes such as a marine loss (shipwrecked), are remembered. I have listed over 3700 seafarers in an A4 book of over 700 pages with details of the casualty, the ship sailed in, and the circumstances of their death.

My aim is to have copies of the book located in various seafaring locations throughout Wales so that the information is available to the general public. The National Museum of Wales in Cardiff and the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth have expressed an interest in obtaining a copy as have the Records Offices in Anglesey and Pembroke. The book will be distributed during 2013 - The Year of the Convoy.