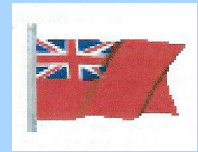




Merchant Navy Association (Wales) Newsletter



*Happy New Year Shipmates.
Best wishes and plain sailing to you
and yours for 2014*



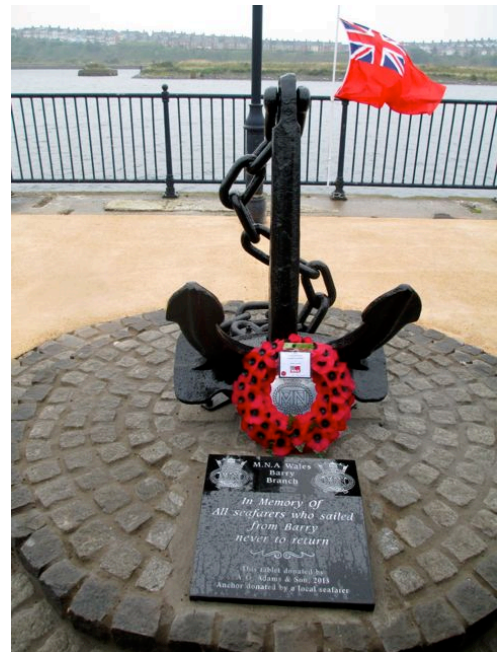
Field of Remembrance - Cardiff Castle

We enjoyed the Battle of the Atlantic and Armed Forces Day celebrations in the sunshine and warmth but November brought with it the cold and rain. The Field of Remembrance was particularly wet but Harry, with Tony Meade carrying the Standard, somehow managed to carry out their duties without coming down with pneumonia. Thankfully our Remembrance Service at the Memorial was conducted under the canopy of the Senedd Building which afforded some protection to a very good turnout. Some members attended the Tower Hill Service in London where our Standard, carried by John Mumford, lead the parade along with the National Standard carried by our old friend Wings Barry. We also supported our Barry, Newport and Swansea shipmates at their Services of Remembrance, and the Seafarers Service at Llandaff Cathedral in October.

It was another busy year, especially for our Standard Bearers, Tony Meade and John Mumford, with the usual Services and Parades and sadly some funerals of eight members who Crossed the Bar during 2013. Well done to them both, and thank you all for your support.

SEAFARERS MEMORIAL ANCHOR - BARRY WATERFRONT

The unveiling and dedication of the Seafarers Memorial Anchor at the Waterfront, Barry took place on a wet and windy Saturday 28th September 2013. Although the weather was poor the service of dedication was very well attended. The Memorial was unveiled by the Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, Councillor Margaret Wilkinson, and the dedication by Rev Ballantyne. The Memorial is in memory of all seafarers who sailed from Barry never to return. The erection of this Memorial is down to the hard work and perseverance of Jim Greenway and his shipmates at Barry. Well done.



Queen awards new medal for the Merchant Navy

On Merchant Navy Day, 3rd September 2013, Mr Stephen Hammond MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport, announced that Her Majesty The Queen has graciously awarded a medal for the Merchant Navy. It is understood that these medals will be awarded annually both in the New Year's Honours' and Queen's Birthday Honours' lists and **granted an Order of Wear**.

The Merchant Navy Welfare Board (MNWB) has, for three years acted as administrator for the Merchant Navy Medal Committee, which is currently an industry based award and thus has **no "Order of Wear"**. Captain Matthew Easton, Chairman of that committee said in response to the announcement:

"There has long been an acknowledgment amongst the maritime community that the importance of the Merchant Navy has not been recognised at a national level.

We are hugely honoured that Her Majesty the Queen has granted the Merchant Navy its own national award and in doing so reinforcing the importance of the Merchant Navy in the lives of all us, not just in the past but going forward as well.

The Merchant Navy Medal Committee, which has overseen the industry sponsored Merchant Navy Medal since its inception in 2005 have been involved in this process and welcome today's announcement. We look forward to working with the National Honours Committee and Department of Transport in suggesting the criteria for the new Honour."

Once more details are known these will be added to the MNWB's,
Merchant Navy Medal and MNA (Wales) websites.

FIRST TRIP - HORACE FARNHAM



Horace joined the Merchant Navy Catering School in October 1944 at the age of 16, and after training joined his first ship the Anglo American Oil Company S.S. Tamaha, on 4th December 1944 as Catering Boy. This is his story of that trip.

On 15th January 1945 whilst in Barry Roads the Tamaha grounded off Sully Island at 0735 hours. The weather was hazy, visibility poor. At 0820 vessel floated off and we proceeded to anchorage. Upon inspection no damage visible in main tanks, fore peak full of water at the time. It was found to be running down slowly with minor damage in the peak.



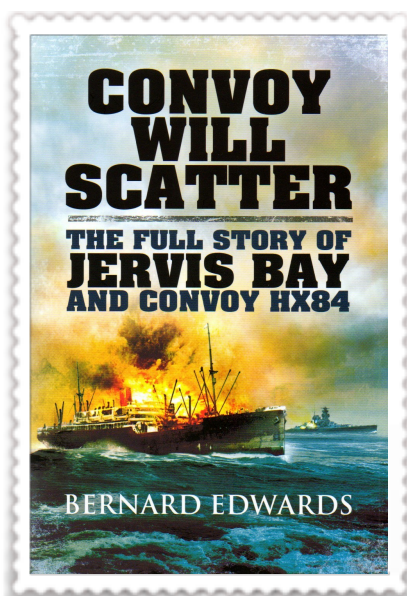
On 14th March 1945 at 0800 whilst proceeding to the petroleum pier at Antwerp in hazy weather, berth was observed to be occupied by another vessel which was casting off. In order to give her room to swing out we kept close to the quayside and stranded. There was a light S.W. breeze, bottom sand and mud. At 1300 two tugs, aft and forward, attempted to float stern, two stern tugs could not keep the starboard quarter up to the tide and we fouled a barge Nanomotor 4 which was moored alongside quay damaging her wheelhouse. At 1425 all clear proceeded to swing vessel. At 1450 moored alongside petroleum pier.

On 2nd April 1945 whilst at sea in convoy the vessel speed was observed to have slackened at the same time the propellor was churning up sand. It was assumed that she had touched bottom. The next ship astern also reported touching bottom at the same time. Soundings taken of all available spaces and no apparent leaks.

On 12th April 1945 at 0505 hove up anchor and proceeded to Brest Harbour. At 0542 engines on slow and pilot advising struck submerged wreck in entrance on port side. Leaking oil from 5, 6 and 7 main tanks. Flood tide outside entrance, accident due to absences of tugs and ebb tide.

I paid off the Tamaha in May 1945 after a very eventful first trip.

Horace Farnham



NEW BOOK by Captain Bernard Edwards

On 5th November 1940, the eastbound convoy HX84 of 37 merchant ships, escorted by the armed cruiser HMS Jarvis Bay, was attacked in mid-Atlantic by the German pocket battleship Admiral Scheer. The legendary act of gallantry by the Jervis Bay, commanded by Captain Edward Fogarty Fegen is well known. This superbly researched book reveals two other inspiring acts of courage and sacrifice. The first by the Canadian Pacific cargo liner Beaverford commanded by Captain Hugh Pettigrew, and the second by the Swedish freighter Stureholm commanded by Captain Olander. Until now the history books have only mentioned the Beaverford and the Stureholm in passing. This book by one of our leading naval historians (and member of MNA (Wales)) puts that record straight.

CROSSED THE BAR

The following members have crossed the bar since the July Newsletter:

Mr R. Pearson of Barry - July 2013.



*Mr Bryan Hammett of Cardiff, age 79
August 2013*



*Mr. Tom Ahmun of Cardiff, Age 87
September 2013*

Their sailing hath ended

Dates for your Diary

Regular meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month at the Canton Liberal Club, Cowbridge Road East, Cardiff, commencing at 14.30.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 14th May 2014 at the Canton Liberal Club, 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 23rd April, 3 weeks prior to the AGM.

Our Annual Service down Cardiff Bay is scheduled to take place on Saturday 24th May 2014, 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, via email (if you are on line) and via our web site www.mnawales.org.uk

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Membership Secretary reminds all members that subscriptions for the year 2013/2014 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.

Unfortunately age is catching up with some of our members and some are not in the best of health. I am aware that Alf Thomas, Malcolm Mort, Colstan Hicks and John Mumford are currently not well and we wish them a speedy recovery.

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