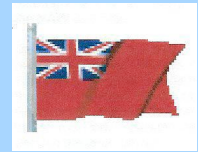


Merchant Navy Association (Wales) Newsletter



THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC 70TH ANNIVERSARY



Our service on 18th May was dedicated to the Commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic. Invitations extended beyond local dignitaries and maritime representatives to cover all those who participated in what was the longest battle of the Second World War. There was an extremely good turn out as the photo above shows - the first time we have had a "full house" of wreaths on the memorial. Seventeen standards were on parade with representatives from as far afield as North Somerset and Swansea. The NAW gave us free use of the Pierhead building for refreshments, which were provided by Cardiff Council. Many thanks to all who supported the event.

Members were also invited to attend the Commemorative Choral Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral, London on the 8th May and our President and Chairman were invited to the Mansion House for light refreshments following the service.

I was also able to attend the celebrations held at Liverpool on the 25th May which rounded off a busy and moving month of celebrations and remembrance.

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.

Saturday 14th July 2013 - Sea Sunday at Cardiff Bay. Further details as they become available.

Sunday 1st September 2013 - Swansea Service at SA1 Memorial at 1130.

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

Armed Forces Day - Cardiff

Armed Forces Day 2013 was held on Saturday 29th May at Coopers Field, Cardiff. In recognition of the Year of the Convoy and the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic our (MN) standard lead the parade of Veterans and, for what I believe is the first time ever, was presented at the Drumhead Service. Unfortunately Tony Meade was unable to attend due to ill health so John Mumford stepped in at the last minute and did a fine job. We had our



own "stall" at the event and were privileged to be visited by the Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan Dr. Peter Beck and his wife Lyn, the First Sea Lord Admiral Sir George Zambellas, Commodore Jamie Miller, Naval Regional Commander (Wales and Western England) and the new Lord Mayor of Cardiff, amongst others. Went the day well.



Arctic Star/Ushakov Medal



Arctic Star

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. On Tuesday 19th March 2013, two of our members, Oliver Lindsay and Con Connelly, were invited to 10, Downing Street to receive the medals from the Prime Minister. If there are other veterans who qualify and have not received their medals please let me know.

It has also been decided to accept the award of the Ushakov Medal issued by The Russian Government to the veterans of the Arctic Convoys. On the 16th June the British Prime Minister and Russian President Vladimir Putin presented a number of veterans with the medal at a special ceremony at Downing Street.

All British veterans that played a role in the World War Two Arctic Convoys are eligible to receive the Ushakov Medal. For those who have sadly passed away, the Medals will be made available to widows or their next of kin, although there may be a delay in this, given that priority is given to existing Veterans.

Please note that the medal is only available to those that took part in missions to the Soviet Union – those who's missions went to other destinations such as Iceland are unfortunately not eligible.

We are still awaiting confirmation of the exact process by which applications can be made and will update this page when we have these details. The decision to award the Ushakov Medal rests with the Russian Authorities, not the British Government.



When writing to the Russian Embassy (address below) regarding eligibility it is vital to provide information such as the dates of service and names of ships to make assessment easier.

Embassy of the Russian federation, 6-7 Kensington Palace Gardens, London, W8 4QP

CROSSED THE BAR

The following members have crossed the bar since the last Newsletter

Capt. D.E.B Butcher of Llanelly, Nov 2012

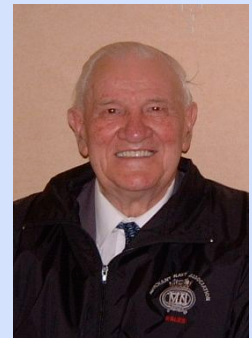
Mr. Fred W, Berriman of Cardiff, age 84. Nov 2012

Mr D. Owen of Barry

Mr. Norman Jenkins of Cardiff age 90. Jan 2013



Mr. John Priddle of Cardiff age 81. Feb 2013



Mr. William Dollah of Cardiff, age 89. Apr 2013

Mr. E. Driscoll of Cardiff, age 87. Apr 2013

Mr. A.R. Hellyar, of Cardiff age 89. Apr 2013

Their sailing hath ended

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.

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