

Merchant Navy Association (Wales)

Newsletter



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2017

Wednesday, July 12th

Regular meeting at Canton Liberal Club, Cardiff at 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday, August 9th

Regular meeting at Canton Liberal Club, Cardiff at 2.30 p.m.

Friday 1st September

Flag raising , Mansion House, Cardiff.

Sunday September 3rd

Merchant Navy Day.

Wednesday, September 13th

Regular meeting at Canton Liberal Club, Cardiff at 2.30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 19th.

Seafarers Awareness Event, Senedd 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 and our web site.

The Légion d'honneur

The Légion d'honneur was established in 1802 by Napoléon Bonaparte. It is France's highest distinction and is awarded in recognition of both military and civilian merit.



French President Francois Hollande announced on the 70th anniversary of D-Day in June 2014 that all British veterans involved in France's liberation during WW2 would get the honour. I am delighted to report that our President, Commodore Oliver Lindsay has received this prestigious award.

The liberation of France commenced at daybreak on the 6th June 1944 when an armada of warships and merchantmen arrived off the beaches of Normandy. One of the ships involved was the Reardon Smith ship M. V. Houston City (designated MT86) carrying a young apprentice named Oliver Lindsay. The Houston City, under the command of Captain Blake Carnaffan, had sailed from the Thames Estuary on the late evening of the 5th June having loaded military equipment and 600 troops at Tilbury, for the Juno Beach Head arriving there at sunset of the 6th June. On completion of disembarking troops and discharge of her military cargo at the Beach Head she embarked walking wounded for repatriation. She performed 6 round trips to the Beach Head from the Thames, loading and embarking troops at either Tilbury or Royal Docks. Having completed his apprenticeship Oliver left the Houston City at Tilbury at the end of July 1944 on her return from the 6th trip to the Beach Heads.



Adapted from an article in the Reardon Smith Seafarers Newsletter SHIPMATES dated June 2004 written by Oliver.

P.S. WAVERLEY

On the 5th September 2016, members of the Barry Branch, accompanied by Mr T. Sylvester of the



Paddle Steamer Preservation Society, spent a very pleasant afternoon onboard PS Waverley on a short voyage in the Bristol Channel departing from Penarth. Whilst onboard they met the Captain Ross Cochrane and presented him with a Merchant Navy Plaque. They also met the actors Timothy West and Prunella Scales who are members of the Paddle Steamer Preservation Society and were onboard filming for their TV programme Great Canal Journeys.

The current PS Waverley was built in 1946 and is owned by the Paddle Steamer Preservation Society. In 1907 another paddle steamer PS Barry was built for the Barry Railway Company as a pleasure steamer carrying passengers to various ports in the Bristol Channel. She later transferred to the Campbell Fleet. She served with distinction in the Gallipoli campaign during World War One. After the war she was reconditioned and renamed Waverley in 1926. She saw service as a minesweeper during World War Two as HMS Snaefell and was bombed and sunk off the north east coast of England in 1941.

If you have any comments, articles, stories or photographs you want printed in the Newsletter and Web site please send them to:

Byron Jones, 20 Beech Drive, Hengoed, CF82 7JP

Or e-mail them to

byron@blackranger.plus.com

Please keep your entries short if you can. Photographs and articles will be returned if accompanied by a S.A.E. (or at monthly meeting)

ARMED FORCES DAY - CAERPHILLY 24 JUNE 2017

The main event was held in Caerphilly and was preceded by the Flag Raising ceremony at Caerphilly Castle on Monday 19th. Our two Standards were there carried by Tony Meade and David Richards.



backed up by Byron Jones. As you can see they accounted for 50% of the total standards in attendance. A very poor turnout.

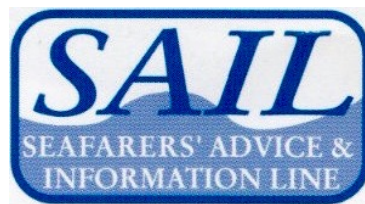
For the first time in a number of years there was no MN display stand in the main event arena on the Saturday so we were all able to take part in the march and drum head service. This included Dave Richards, who later carried our Standard at the Sunset Service, Des Farnham, Tony Meade and Byron Jones. All went well until we settled down after the march for the start of the drum head service, when Tony Meade took turn for the worse and had to have treatment. Luckily we were seated at the time. Fortunately Tony soon recovered but had to leave early. The salute was taken by the First Sea Lord Admiral Sir Phillip Jones accompanied by Commodore Jamie Miller who is the Senior Naval Officer for Wales and the west of England. Whilst making my rounds of the event site later, I heard that Commodore Miller is due to retire in August. Commodore Miller has supported us well over the years and attended some of our services down the Bay. I'm sure you will all join me in wishing him a long and happy retirement. From comments received during my rounds, we were obviously missed in the main event arena and maybe we should reconsider having a display. But we need your support in order to do so.



REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

We recently had a request via The Royal British Legion and the Royal Naval Association Cardiff asking if we could assist them in arranging a visit to an ex- Merchant Navy seafarer (it was originally thought that he was ex- Royal Navy) who is undergoing palliative care in the Cardiff area. The Secretary arranged to visit the gentleman and spent nearly an hour with him and his partner “swinging the lantern” about life at sea.

The family seems to have everything in hand but there may be some out there who are finding life very difficult and don't know which way to turn. A good start would be to contact



They provide a service for seafarers and their families which is free, fast and confidential. Contact details are as follows:

TELEPHONE: 08457 413 318
Open 10.00 to 4.00 p.m. Monday - Friday
OR
email: admin@sailine.org.uk

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Membership Secretary reminds all members that subscriptions for the year 2017/2018 are now due. The annual subscription is £10.00. Please advise the Secretary (01443 815013) of any sickness or bereavement which may come to your notice.