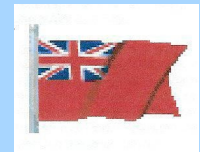




Merchant Navy Association (Wales)



ARMED FORCES DAY - BARRY ISLAND SATURDAY 9TH JUNE 2018

The National Armed Forces Day this year was held in Llandudno on the 30th June. The South Wales AFD Committee decided that since most resources would be directed to North Wales there would be no AFD event in South Wales. However, a number of local councils

decided to hold their own events. One of which was the Vale of Glamorgan Council who organised an event at Barry Island on Saturday 9th June. We attended to support Barry Branch. The location, just above the promenade, was ideal and the weather glorious. Mr Bryan Foley, who carries the Barry Branch Standard, arranged with The District Commissioner of Tir a Mor Scouts,



Chris Parsons, for the 5th Barry Scout Group, to provided us with a gazebo, table and chairs for use on the day and Father Mark Lawson-Jones of The Mission to Seafarers lent us their display boards, so we were able to have a display stand at the event. Tony and Byron set up the display ably assisted by a young Merchant Navy Officer Ross Cleland, in uniform, who spent the day with us and attracted a lot of attention. We even managed to get him to join the Association. Our Standard Bearer Dave Richards attended the parade and muster with Des Farnham, David Sheen and Joe Norton taking part in the march. Other members present included Peter Rees of Barry and Captain Dave Kettlely of Cardiff.



We received a goodly number of visitors to our display and many a lantern was swung with old and new friends. Whilst not perfect, as a first attempt the event was quite successful and it is understood that there are plans to make it an annual event.

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Welcome to this edition of the Newsletter.

This time I have included a quiz and all questions are based on the year 1944.

1. What was the name of the first computer?
2. Which European capital was liberated by the Allies?
3. Who wrote the musical "On the Town"?
4. What was De Valera's party in Eire?
5. What was the name of the world's largest warship, launched on 29th January?
6. Which country did Japan give up to the USA?

All answers can be found at the end of the Newsletter.

Tony Meade

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Barry Royal British Legion presents

A Festival of Remembrance

Memo Arts Centre
Saturday
22nd September 2018

Featuring:
The South Wales Police Band and
Corps of Drums
Barry Male Voice Choir
and a Drumhead
Remembrance Ceremony

Tickets £12
£10 concessions
Doors open from
6.15pm for a 7pm start

Book online:
www.memoartscentre.co.uk
Box Office: 01446 738622

ALL PROCEEDS TO THE
POPPY
APPEAL

MEMO
CANOLFAN Y CELFYDDYDAU
MEMO ARTS CENTRE

Thank you
KILWYDDERGIG, GWIRGWIS, A CHARDDOG YN NGHVD
1918 - 2018

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION

MEMO ARTS CENTRE, Gladstone Road, Barry, CF62 8NA Registered CO105291

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

Lord Mayor of Cardiff coffee morning at the Mansion House on Friday 6th July.

Lord Mayor of Cardiff charity cricket match at St Fagans Cricket Club on Thursday 26th July.

Unveiling of WW1 Commemorative Plaque at Newport Mission to Seafarers will take place on Sunday 22nd July 2018 at 1130.

Merchant Navy Day Service at Tower Hill on Sun 9th September at 1230.

Festival of Remembrance at Barry on 22nd September 2018 see flyer.

Our Service down the Bay is scheduled for Saturday 10th Nov 2018.

You will be notified of other events as dates and times become available. Notification will be provide at our regular meetings and via email and our web site below if you are on line. Those of you who can't make the meetings or are not on line and would like to be kept up to date, please contact the Secretary and he will make sure you are notified.

COFFIN SHIPS BY MALCOLM MORT

Having successfully completed the Advanced Marine Automation and Control training course at a Maritime Technical Training College, my Company decided to send me to the M.V. Chelsea Bridge, which was a 57,317 Gross tons bulk carrier, as the Electrical Officer. I joined the M.V. Chelsea Bridge at Port Talbot, at 10 am on the 4th May 1972 and introduced myself to the Chief Engineer and the Electrician who were wearing green PVC Tank suits and white safety helmets with miners' electric lamps fitted to them, together with a battery attached to a leather belt around the waist. The Chief Engineer smiled and said, "We have a special sport on this ship called, Duct Keel Diving." *A Duct Keel is an internal passage of watertight construction (two longitudinal girders spaced not more than 2.0 m apart) running same distance along the length of the ship, often from the forepeak to the forward machinery space bulkhead to accommodate cables and pipelines.* A "sport" I was to get to know quite well. Within a few minutes I had signed on as the Ships Electrician and then quickly introduced to the electrical layout before being handed my Green PVC Tank-suit and taken down the Duct Keel for a detailed introduction especially to the safety measures that must be carried out when working in the area. This was because two crew members went into the duct keel without previously running the ventilation fans and gas testing which resulted in them losing their lives.



At 10 a.m. the following day the Pilot came on board and with the Master and Chief Engineer being satisfied with everything, we sailed for Pepel in Sierra Leone at reduced speed to load iron ore for Japan. The vibration was very bad but it was something I would just have to learn to live with. Which left me wondering what it would be like with the main engine running at full speed? From Kobe it was back to Pepel to load iron ore for Port Talbot. The Chinese crew who were expecting to be relieved on arrival at Port Talbot and threatened to go on strike unless they were discharged at Pepel because they thought the ship was noisy, much vibration and jinxed. When at Pepel I had been down in the duct keel manually opening valves as the valve system had failed. On return to my cabin the Chief Steward who was very irate and complaining about how the crew were treated, met me. He started shouting and raised his arm to strike me so I grab hold of him and threw him out of my cabin and left him lying on the floor. A few minutes later the Master and Chief Engineer came to my cabin and asked me to join them at a crew meeting on deck. To my surprise the catering staff were at the meeting with knives, a machete, a hammer, chipping hammer. The Master asked me to publicly apologize to the crew for hitting the Chief Steward. This I did willingly and offered to shake his hand, which he rejected. It was then the second cook asked what was going to happen to me. The Master told them I was being sent home to face an inquiry. Two Engineers had to accompany me while I packed my bags and left the ship. Within 2 hours I was on-board a plane flying home. At a later date my sacking case was heard by a Merchant Navy Tribunal with the Merchant Navy and Airline Officers Association representing me and resulted in my acquittal. This incident did no damage to my career prospects because my next employer was P&O Bulk Shipping Division as an Electrical Officer on the SS Ardtaraig which was a very large 28,000 SHP Steam Turbine powered Super Tanker with an Unmanned Engine Room. But that is another story.

CROSSED THE BAR

Sadly the following Members have Crossed the Bar since the last Newsletter

Mrs Esme Henke of Penarth - December 2017 age 93

Mr. George Anastasi of Barry - February 2018 age 82

Mr. Norman Phillips of Cardiff - March 2018 age 91



Mr. David Cummins late of St Fagans - April 2018 age 76

Mr Alf Brody of Barry - May 2018

Mr Alex Peterson of Cardiff (Lapsed member) - May 2018



Tony Woodward of Cardiff, June 2018 age 88

We will Remember them.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Membership Secretary reminds all members that subscriptions for the year 2018/2019 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.

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER ANSWERS

1 Colossus 2. Rome 3. Leonard Bernstein 4. Fianna Fail 5. USS Missouri 6. New Guinea