



# Merchant Navy Association (Wales) Newsletter



*Happy New Year Shipmates.  
Best wishes and plain sailing to you  
and yours for 2016*

Merchant Navy Day has been celebrated on the 3rd September since 2000. Last year (2015) Seafarers UK, supported by the National Merchant Navy Association, campaigned for the Red Ensign to be flown on public buildings and land mark flagstaffs across the U.K. A number of Welsh Councils supported this campaign including Cardiff and Caerphilly. We were invited to the Flag Raising at Cardiff Castle where our Chairman Harry Parry had the honour of raising the flag over the battlements. Dave Richards carried our Standard. Tony Meade and John Evans represented us at the Caerphilly Council Flag Raising at Ystrad Mynach where our Standard was carried by our colleague James Attenborough of the RNA. The Red Ensign was also flown from the flagstaffs of the Senedd at Cardiff Bay.



Our Service down the Bay in November marked the end of an era it being the last time that Canon Graham Francis would officiate. He will be retiring before our service in May. Father Graham joined us in 2002 and officiated at almost all our services ( I can think of only one he missed) numbering 26 over that period - in all weathers - sunshine in May and wind and rain in November (thank goodness for the Senedd canopy). The announcement was made at the end of the service and Harry made a presentation to him as a token of our appreciation. We wish him well for a long, happy and healthy retirement. He will be missed.



## ARMED FORCES DAY - 2016

This popular annual event, which for the past 10 years has been held in Cardiff city centre, will be held in Caerphilly county borough on Saturday 25th June 2016.



The drum head service will be held against the backdrop of Caerphilly Castle and an events area will set up on Owain Glydwr Playing Fields on Crescent Road, Caerphilly. Further details will be provided as they become available.

### 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.

The Holocaust Memorial Day will be held at 1100 on Wednesday 27 January 2016 at

Llandaff Cathedral, Cardiff

**Our Annual General Meeting** will be held on Wednesday 11th May 2016 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 20th April, 3 weeks prior to the AGM.

You will be notified of other events as dates and times become available. Notification will be provided at our regular meetings, via email (if you are on line) and via our web site [www.mnawales.org.uk](http://www.mnawales.org.uk)

**PLEASE NOTE: SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2015 ARE NOW DUE.**

## SWANSEA M.N.A. WAR MEMORIAL

*(Extract from South Wales Evening Post by Chris Peregrine)*



*Public recognition has been given at last to 126 people who lost their lives serving their country at sea.*

*The missing names of those who fell have been added to the Swansea Merchant Navy Association memorial at SA1. They include 75 local seamen from World War One, two of which were aboard RMS Lusitania which was torpedoed by a German U-boat in 1915 and sank.*

*Another 126 names have been added on to the Merchant Navy Memorial at SA1 in Swansea, accessible via a mobile phone able to use a free QR-code scanner.*

*The Merchant Navy Association (Wales) has teamed up with information project HistoryPoints to make the names and personal details of thousands of merchant seamen who died in wartime available to the public on smartphones and tablet computers at memorials.*

*Smartphone and tablet owners need only a free QR-code scanner to access the information.*

*The additions to the Swansea memorial were made possible after dogged research by two stalwarts of the branch.*

*"Following on from the fantastic work done by the late Marjorie Thompson-Jones and her husband David in researching the names of casualties prior to the opening of the memorial in 2005, it has now been possible to add another 126 names, including 75 local seamen lost in World War One, two of these aboard the Lusitania," said branch vice chairman Ron Tovey.*

*"These additional names are available via a QR plaque at the SA1 memorial or at the HistoryPoints website. I would also like to thank Byron Jones, of MNA Wales, along with HistoryPoints for making this possible."*

*Byron Jones, secretary of the MNA (Wales), said: "We are delighted that this modern technology is allowing us to explain the sacrifice made by seamen in both wars to a new audience."*

*The Merchant Navy, known as the Mercantile Marine in the First World War, played a crucial role in both wars by keeping Britain and its allies supplied with food and materials, and by transporting soldiers to theatres of war and taking the sick and wounded home.*

*Just to remind you these QR plaques are also available at our memorials in Cardiff Bay and Barry.*

## NEW MERCHANT NAVY MEDAL FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE



Statement from: Department of Transport and Maritime and Coastguard Agency and Robert Goodwill MP, dated 23rd November 2015.

Back in 2011 the Merchant Navy Medal Fund Committee began a campaign for a medal that is granted a place in the order of wear.

Two years ago, Her Majesty the Queen approved a recommendation to introduce such a medal - a state award with a place in the order of wear, and earlier this year, the Royal Warrant was signed.

Throughout this period, the Merchant Navy Medal Fund Committee worked closely with the Department for Transport and although it has taken some time to get to this point; these things are never as straightforward as they appear.

I am delighted to announce today that from 2016 we will have a new state award for a Merchant Navy Medal for Meritorious Service with a place in the order of wear. The first awards will be announced on Merchant Navy Day – 3rd September 2016.

May I take this opportunity to thank the Merchant Navy Medal Fund Committee for the work they have done in recognising the outstanding service of those who have been awarded Merchant Navy Medals over the past 10 years. Nominations for the first awards of the new Medal for Meritorious Service will open today.

Eligibility for the Medal is limited to those who have served, or are serving, in the Merchant Navy or Fishing Fleets of the U.K., Isle of Man and the Channel Islands who have shown devotion to duty and exemplary service which has been of particular value and has constituted an outstanding example to others. Recipients of the Medal will normally be required to have completed 20 year's good conduct and exemplary service, although in exceptional circumstance the period of service may be less.

Enquiries relating to the Medal should be made to: Maritime Training, Department for Transport, Zone 2/33, Great Minster House, 33, Horseferry Road, LONDON SW1P 4DR

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