



# Merchant Navy 'Sea of Remembrance'



*2007 Reflections*

mna





## Merchant Navy Day Service

2nd September 2007

**Each September the Merchant Navy Day Service takes place at Trinity Gardens, London, in memory of Merchant Seafarers who died in World Wars I and II and in conflicts up to the present day.**

On 2nd September 2007 the Sailors' Society joined with the Merchant Navy Association to further recognise seafarers, past and present, by giving relatives and friends the opportunity to plant Red Ensign Flags with their own messages of commemoration and appreciation.

*...And, so the Sea of Remembrance was born.*



*‘They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old.  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn,  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them’*

*‘When you go home, tell them of us, and say,  
For your tomorrow we gave our today.’*

This booklet recalls in pictures and messages some of the scenes from the Merchant Navy Day Commemorative Service 2007. These messages need no further explanation; their true impact lies in the simplicity of the heartfelt words written by those whose souls have been touched by the heroic actions taken by these brave men and women.



## To all Merchant seamen on North Atlantic convoys WWII

"Whilst you chugged along at 9 knots, so vulnerable, we, on destroyers, raced around at 20 knots doing our best to protect you. With grateful thanks for your bravery."

### George Carnell

"It was fun working with you!"

### To all seafarers

"Admire you all very much, remember what you did for us all in World Wars I and II."



### All that serve at sea

"Wishing all seafarers safe voyages and speedy returns to their families and loved ones.  
Simon Holford."

### Capt Edward Coles (RD, RNR)

"May your humanity and kindness always be an example to me.  
From his son."



### To all seafarers

"May God bless you all and keep you safe."

### AB Robert Lewis Rolands (22) Ex 'Prince of Wales Sea Training School' c 1934

"In memory of all hands (62) on board MS Nottingham\*, sunk by U-74, one week into her maiden voyage, 07-11-1941. No survivors. Alan E Phipps AB, MNA Member 183, Prince of Wales Training School 1949."

\*Federal Steam Navigation Co Ltd 1950-1955

### Leslie Mitchell

"Remembering a dear husband and father, forever in our thoughts."



### Harry Goldsworthy

"Because of you, everyday was special My love always."

### To all seafarers

"The little ships have been needed, yesterday, today and tomorrow.  
My blessings and prayers to all of them that serve in these ships and especially those that work endlessly for our society, on sea and land. God Bless."



### **This is an act of Remembrance**

This is a day of pride.  
We are proud to remember those who gave their lives for their country and their cause.

### **This is a day of thanksgiving**

We belong to a maritime nation and so we thank God for the men and women of the Merchant Navy and all those who sail the oceans in time of peace and war bringing prosperity and providing protection for our nation.

### **This is a day of Solemnity**

We remember those whose lives were changed forever as the result of their injuries and who today still bear the scars of war. We thank you for families and friends and organisations all dedicated to their care.

*Especially we mourn the sacrifice of those merchant seafarers who put their lives at risk and died serving their country, its sovereign people and in times of war.*

*We ask for God's blessing upon their families and all who mourn their passing.*

Photographs:  
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## No-one in particular

"Just all who suffered or were lost in War  
defending all of us also all those still on seas."

### Joseph Dempsey

"To the father I never got to  
know who went down on the  
Prince of Wales, died fighting for  
his country, so we would be safe.  
Your loving daughter."



### Benjamin Melvin Crocker

"Still love you and miss you so much, even  
if it is 35 years since you died. You have a  
grandson called Ben born this year.  
Gwyneth Marillyn Crocker, your wife."

### Derek Norris

"You may have been the worst  
cook, but you will always be the  
best brother. Rest in peace Del."



### To them all

"For the courage, for the sacrifice,  
for the ones that paid with their  
lives, they had the hearts of lions  
and we won't forget them."

### Cecil Raymond Barnicoat

"Always in our thoughts."

### To seafarers, their grave the sea, forever remembered

"Let us not forget those seafarers that drifted in an open boat scanning the  
expanse of the Ocean, hopes held high, then shattered. Their prayers went  
unanswered. The telegram to relatives 'Missing believed drowned'. A stark  
message to those who carried the burden of a loved one, many still do."

### Gordon Rowlands

"Deep in our hearts we will never  
forget the young lives given to us."





**To all who work at sea:**

"Your work is admired and appreciated."

**Bob Kenny**

"Thank you all for keeping us going in our darkest hours (1939-1946 and onwards)!"

**All members of the service past and present**

"Thank you for your efforts & dedication to duty throughout the years."



**John Gray (BEM)**

"48 years at sea in two wars and in peace. For all who do business in great waters. Our grateful thanks."



**Benjamin James Webster**

"Loving memories of a very special man who served in the merchant navy in World War II. From his daughter and all his remaining family.

Thank you for the privilege of allowing us to take part in this ceremony.

There were gales in the English Channel and conditions at sea were dangerous as plans to evacuate Dunkirk were about to be implemented.

As the evacuation commenced with many little ships, a miracle happened, the gales ceased and the sea became calm.

We honour all our sailors, may they know the miracle of God's love and peace and may God Bless them and keep them as they leave our shores, and bring them safely home again."

**Captain Frederick Proestlymn**

"My grandfather served in two world wars he was torpedoed three times in World War I and sailed on a Russian convoy in World War II."



**Capt John 'Jack' Breaks MN (1853-1910)**

"In loving memory of my great-grandfather who was a brave seafarer of the late Victorian and Edwardian era."

**To all merchant seafarers!**

"Without your service the Nation in both War and Peace this country and its people could not have the freedom and standard of life we enjoy - THANK YOU."

**Roy William Coward**

"Love you, miss you, admire you and so, so proud of you, no-one will ever know how strong and brave you were."

**To all Merchant Seafarers**

" Grateful thanks for all your great work."



Please contact us if you would like to find out more:

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