NATIONAL COMMEMORATION TO MARK MERCHANT NAVY DAY

SUNDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2017

HALL OF MEMORIES
PUKEAHU NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL PARK
WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND
Front cover: Detail from D-Day commemorative poster. Three of the original American Liberty ships were meant to take part in the 50th anniversary of the 1944 D-Day Landing in Normandy, but US Coast Guard concerns over the ships’ safety meant only one, the Jeremiah O’Brien, was allowed to make the trans-Atlantic passage.
FLAG PARADE

Red Ensign of the New Zealand Merchant Navy

Royal New Zealand Navy

Royal New Zealand Army

Royal New Zealand Airforce

New Zealand Police

New Zealand Fire Service

New Zealand Nurses Organisation

Wellington Harbour Board

Mission to Seafarers

The Salvation Army, New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga Region

House flag; Richardson’s & Co

House flag; Union Steamship Company of New Zealand

The International Code flags Y.2.K. A message of peace, goodwill and good fortune
Merchant Navy Day commemorates the contribution of civilian merchant seafarers in wartime. The date, 3 September, marks the sinking of the first British merchant ship in 1939, just hours after the Second World War began.

Britain had adopted the symbolic term ‘Merchant Navy’ in the 1920s in recognition of the loss of 2500 British Empire ships and 15,000 seafarers during the First World War. So vital was its work that many people called it the ‘fourth service’.

New Zealand seafarers contributed strongly to our First World War effort. Quietly and competently, they kept the wheels of commerce moving, transporting troops across the world and crewing our hospital ships. Even when the British Admiralty took over the interisland ferry Wahine, many men remained aboard, some later signing up with the navy when the ship became a minelayer.

They were a diverse bunch. Military recruits and conscripts had to meet age restrictions but some seafarers were as young as 14 years old while others were in their 70s.

There was a cost to this, especially after Germany began waging unrestricted submarine warfare in the North Atlantic. Around 70 New Zealand seafarers died, 17 of them when the Union Steam Ship Company’s cadet ship Aparima was torpedoed in 1917.

They were not safe even in their own backyard. In 1917-18 the German raider Wolf and the mines it laid sank the Union Company’s Wairuna, the British freighter Port Kembla and the trans-Tasman liner Wimmera.

Defence Minister Sir James Allen later acknowledged the fact that the Union Company and its people ‘have played the game’.

A generation and another war later, New Zealand seafarers again served with distinction, sailing on local ships as well as in those of Allied nations. This was war on an even bigger scale. Almost 5000
Allied merchant ships were sunk, including many from the New Zealand–United Kingdom run. Around 60,000 Allied seafarers died.

War service took New Zealanders to nearly every ocean. As in the First World War, the Atlantic and Mediterranean were dangerous places. This time the truly unlucky endured the Arctic on the Russian convoy run, where the weather was also an unforgiving enemy.

Many experienced German U-boat attacks during the bitterly fought Battle of the Atlantic – which Churchill famously described as his greatest fear – and faced grave dangers sailing in convoys to the besieged island of Malta. Others crewed troopships and hospital ships during the massive seaborne invasions at Normandy and in the Mediterranean, where the famed trans-Tasman liner Awatea was lost in 1942.

At least 140 New Zealand merchant seafarers lost their lives. Most died while serving aboard British ships in the Atlantic, but some perished in locally owned vessels in coastal waters, the Tasman Sea and South Pacific. In this more global war a similar number of New Zealand seafarers were taken prisoner, most by German auxiliary cruisers or, in the case of the Hauraki, by the Japanese.

Today seafarers, including New Zealanders sailing under many flags, continue to keep the global economy flourishing. Ships have changed, as have trade patterns, but the sea remains our great highway. Even today more than 90 per cent of New Zealand’s international trade by volume comes and goes by sea.

For more information on the New Zealand Merchant Navy at war, see:

- www.NZHistory.net.nz/war/merchant-marine (First World War)
- www.NZHistory.net.nz/war/the-merchant-navy (Second World War)
ORDER OF SERVICE

THE ARRIVAL
The Honourable Mark Mitchell, Minister of Defence, is welcomed by Rear Admiral David Ledson ONZM (Rtd), Chair, National War Memorial Advisory Council, and Paul James, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry for Culture and Heritage

The Official Party moves up the steps to the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior

RESPECTS PAID AT THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN WARRIOR
The Remembrance bell is tolled as the Official Party pays respects at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior

KARANGA
Karanga is called by June Jackson MNZM, supported by Peter Jackson, Taranaki Whānui, as the Official Party proceeds up the steps and into the Foyer of the Hall of Memories

Presentations in the Foyer follow

PLEASE STAND

PROCESSIONAL
As the Remembrance bell is tolled seven times the Official Party processes into the Hall of Memories
ENTRY OF THE FLAG PARADE
The flag of the Merchant Navy, carried by Paul Hutchinson, Merchant Navy Association (Wellington Branch) Incorporated, is marched into the Hall of Memories
The flag of the Merchant Navy is placed in position
Flags of attending organisations are marched into the Hall of Memories

NATIONAL ANTHEM
The National Anthem of New Zealand is played on the St Lazarus Pipe Organ by Timothy Hurd QSM, National Carillonist
The singing is led by Anon Vocal Ensemble

PLEASE BE SEATED

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER
The Reverend Lance Lukin QHC, OStJ, JP
Chaplain to Mission to Seafarers

PROLOGUE
Rear Admiral David Ledson ONZM (Rtd)
Chair, National War Memorial Advisory Council
TSS Monowai, 1998. The Union Steamship Company’s TSS Monowai clearing Sydney Heads in a south-easterly blow with Howard Smith’s SS Cycle astern. The pilot steamer Captain Cook surges past in the foreground, rolling and yawing in the following seas.
FIRST READING
The Honourable Mark Mitchell
Minister of Defence

Pat O’Shea describes the sinking of the famous New Zealand liner-turned-troopship Awatea in the Mediterranean, November 1942

VOCAL ITEM
Anon Vocal Ensemble sings, Pokarekare Ana – Traditional
Arranged by Sheena Phillips

SECOND READING
Grant Robertson
Opposition representative

Dan Bashall reflects on the war at sea

THIRD READING
Captain Tony Date
Merchant Navy Association

Lionel Hodgson recalls the sinking of the SS Remuera off Scotland in 1940


CALL TO WORSHIP
PLEASE STAND

The Reverend Lance Lukin offers a prayer and then leads guests in reciting The Lord’s Prayer
THE SAILORS HYMN

Eternal Father, Strong to Save, led by Anon Vocal Ensemble

Eternal Father, strong to save 
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave 
Who bidd’st the mighty ocean deep 
Its own appointed limits keep 
Oh hear us when we cry to Thee 
For those in peril on the sea

O Christ! Whose voice the waters heard 
And hushed their raging at Thy word 
Who walked’st on the foaming deep 
And calm amidst its rage didst sleep 
Oh hear us when we cry to Thee 
For those in peril on the sea

Most Holy Spirit! Who didst brood 
Upon the chaos dark and rude 
And bid its angry tumult cease 
And give, for wild confusion, peace 
Oh hear us when we cry to Thee 
For those in peril on the sea

O Trinity of love and power 
Our brethren shield in danger’s hour 
From rock and tempest, fire and foe 
Protect them wheresoe’er they go 
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee 
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea

PLEASE BE SEATED
LAYING OF WREATHS

Wreaths are laid by the following:

The Honourable Mark Mitchell
on behalf of the Government and People of New Zealand

Her Excellency Ms Ntombizodwa Lallie
on behalf of the Diplomatic Corps

Grant Robertson
on behalf of the Opposition

Councillor Simon Woolf
on behalf of the City of Wellington

Rear Admiral John Martin ONZM
Chief of Navy
on behalf of the New Zealand Defence Force

Jim Woods (and Grandson)
on behalf of the Merchant Navy Association

Derek Whitwam
on behalf of the Russian Convoy Club of New Zealand

Clive Glover
on behalf of the New Zealand Shipping Federation

Captain Eric Good RNZN (Rtd)
on behalf of the New Zealand Company of Master Mariners

Helen McAra
on behalf of the Merchant Service Guild

John Fraser
on behalf of the Aviation and Marine Engineers Association

Joe Fleetwood
on behalf of the Maritime Union of New Zealand
Trevor Appleton
on behalf of the Royal New Zealand Naval Association

Air Commodore Terence Gardiner MNZM (Rtd)
on behalf of the Royal New Zealand Air Force Association

Robin Wynne-Williams RN, JP, QSM
on behalf of New Zealand National Nurses Organisation

Bob Hill
on behalf of the Royal New Zealand Returned and Services’ Association

Andrew Tang
Scots College
together with

Victoria Barraud
Heretaunga College
representing the youth of New Zealand

During the wreath laying Anon Vocal Ensemble will sing from the foyer

PLEASE STAND
The following are the initial 10 names on the Roll of Honour of seafarers who died during the Second World War as a result of service on New Zealand merchant ships, and New Zealanders known to have lost their lives while sailing under the flags of other countries. The Roll of Honour currently contains 157 names. Four on the roll, including the first, Aherne, were Australians, but they are included because they were serving on New Zealand vessels at the time of their death or capture.

**Aherne, William Robert Michael (Beau)**, Age 38, Assistant Steward, Hauraki, 12 September 1944, Japanese captivity Singapore

**Allen, Walter Baden**, Age 40, Chief Steward, Kavak, 2 December 1940, North Atlantic by U-101

**Annetts, Gilbert Charles**, Age 40, 5th Engineer, Waimarama, 13 August 1942, Mediterranean by air attack

**Baines, William Peter**, Age 44, Steward, Waimarama, 13 August 1942, Mediterranean by air attack

**Balfour, Eric**, Age 17, Trimmer, Fort Mumford, 20 March 1943, Indian Ocean I-27 (Japanese submarine)

**Beattie, Andrew Bernard**, Age 19, Ordinary Seaman, Fort Mumford, 20 March 1943, Indian Ocean I-27 (Japanese submarine)


**Beighton, John Nathaniel**, Age 63, Master, Har Zion, 31 August 1940, North Atlantic U-38

**Bernard, Paul E**, Age 59, Fireman/Trimmer, Sulaco, 19 October 1940, North Atlantic U-124

**Bick, C**, Age 40, Fireman, Hertford, 29 March 1942, North Atlantic U-571
THE COMMEMORATION

THE LAST POST
The Bugler sounds “The Last Post”. All uniformed personnel salute.

The Merchant Navy and New Zealand flags are lowered to half mast on the Forecourt.

A LIBERTY SHIP RUNNING BEFORE HEAVY FOLLOWING SEAS AND SNOW SQUALLS, NORTH ATLANTIC, WINTER 1944–45 AS SEEN FROM THE DECK OF RMS QUEEN ELIZABETH.
THE ODE

Warrant Officer Te Kani Te Wiata
Royal New Zealand Navy

Kāore ō rātou rua kōiwi
he moana tuarangaranga kē
Kāore he putiputi i ō rātou māhunga
He takere waikura tō rātou tohu whakamaharatanga
E takoto pū ana i te uma o Tangaroa

E kore rātou e kaumātuatia
Pēnei i a tātou e mahue nei
E kore hoki rātou e ngoikore| 
Ahakoa pēhea i ngā āhuatanga o te wā
I te hekenga atu o te rā
Tae noa ki te aranga mai i te ata
Kia maumahara tonu tātou ki a rātou

Response: Ka maumahara tonu tātou ki a rātou

Paul Baggott
Merchant Navy Association

They have no grave but the cruel sea
No flowers lay at their head
A rusting hulk is their tombstone
Afast on the ocean bed

They shall grow not 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

Response: We will remember them

ONE MINUTE’S SILENCE IS OBSERVED
**ROUSE**
The Bugler sounds “Rouse”

Flags are returned to full mast on the Forecourt

**THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL**
The Reverend Lance Lukin

**THE FLAG OF THE MERCHANT NAVY ASSOCIATION MARCHES OUT**
The Merchant Navy flag is marched out of the Hall of Memories and moves to the foot of the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior

**RECESSIONAL**
Led by the Chaplain, the Official Party processes out of the Hall of Memories

In the Foyer the Honourable Mark Mitchell, Opposition representative, Merchant Navy Association and Russian Convoy Club representatives are invited to sign the Visitors’ Book

Members of Anon Vocal Ensemble, Taranaki Whānui and the Youth representatives are introduced to the Official Party

**FLORAL TRIBUTES**
The Official Party is invited to place ferns or poppies on the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior
THE DEPARTURE

Members of the Official Party are invited to proceed, accompanied by invited guests, to the Home Shores Café where light refreshments will be served.

Members of the Official party are formally farewelled on departure.

Flag Party is dismissed.
MSC KIWI' making good a message of peace and goodwill
This National Commemorative Service was arranged by the Visits and Ceremonial Office, Department of Internal Affairs, in partnership with the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, the New Zealand Defence Force, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Protocol Division), and the Royal New Zealand Returned and Services’ Association