



The National Commemoration for Merchant Navy Day

**PUKEAHU NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL PARK
3 SEPTEMBER 2022**

International Maritime Signal Flags

Signal flags are used to communicate messages between ships while maintaining radio silence.



I have struck a mine



I have sprung a leak



You should stop immediately. Do not scuttle. Do not lower boats. Do not use the wireless. If you disobey I will open fire on you.



I am on fire



I am sinking



Queen Mary 2 offers a message of peace and goodwill.



I cannot save my vessel



I wish you peace, much goodwill and good fortune

The Merchant Navy at war

Merchant Navy Day commemorates the contribution of civilian merchant seafarers in wartime. The date, 3 September, marks the sinking of a British merchant ship just hours after the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939.

The work of merchant seafarers in wartime was so vital that many people called them the 'fourth service'. Its personnel were a diverse group: some seafarers were as young as 14 years old; others were in their 70s.

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.

That death toll included at least 70 New Zealanders, 17 of whom were lost when the Union Steam Ship Company's cadet ship *Aparima* was torpedoed in the Atlantic in 1917. But local waters were not immune to enemy action: in 1917-18 the German raider *Wolf* and the mines it laid around New Zealand sank the *Wairuna*, *Port Kembla* and *Wimmera*.

A generation and another war later, New Zealand seafarers again served with distinction, sailing on local ships as well as in those of many Allied nations. In this even more global conflict almost 5000 Allied merchant ships were sunk, and around 60,000 seafarers died.

War service took New Zealanders to nearly every ocean, with the North Atlantic and Mediterranean being particularly dangerous places. Some endured the Russian convoy run in the Arctic, where the weather was also an unforgiving enemy.

New Zealanders crewed troopships and hospital ships during Allied seaborne invasions: the famed trans-Tasman liner *Awatea* was sunk after landing troops in Algeria in 1942, while the New Zealand ships *Monowai* and *Aorangi* supported the Normandy landings in June 1944.

More than 140 New Zealand merchant seafarers died between 1939 and 1945, most while sailing on British ships in the Atlantic, although some were lost while serving aboard locally owned vessels in the Tasman Sea and South Pacific. A similar number were taken prisoner by German and Japanese forces. In July 1942 – 80 years ago this year – the *Hauraki* and its 55-man crew were captured by the Japanese in the Indian Ocean; five died in captivity.

Today seafarers, including New Zealanders sailing under many flags, continue to keep the global economy moving, even amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Ships have changed, as have trade patterns, but the sea remains our great highway.

Cover image: Captain G B Morgan (centre left) of the TSS *Awatea*, surrounded by some of his crew, thanking Captain Hettema of the Dutch vessel that evacuated them from the Mediterranean after the New Zealand liner was sunk during Operation Torch, November 1942. Photograph by Lieutenant L Pelman. Image courtesy of Imperial War Museum, Ref: A 13023

Order of Ceremony

KARANGA

Pekaira Rei, Taranaki Whānui

NATIONAL ANTHEM OF NEW ZEALAND

Anon Vocal Ensemble Trio

OPENING KARAKIA

Peter Jackson, Taranaki Whānui

COMMEMORATIVE ADDRESS

The Honourable Meka Whaitiri,
Minister for Veterans

PRAYER FOR PEACE

The Reverend Chap1 (Col) Lance Lukin (Rtd) OSTJ, JP, QHC,
Chaplain to Mission to Seafarers

LAYING OF WREATHS

Anon Vocal Ensemble Trio,
sings *Eternal Father, strong to save*
(The Sailors' hymn)

The Honourable Meka Whaitiri,
Minister for Veterans
on behalf of the Government and People
of New Zealand

Captain (Rtd) Lewis Robinson QSM,
President of the New Zealand Merchant
Navy Association
on behalf of the New Zealand Merchant
Navy Association

and

Captain (Rtd) John Mansell,
on behalf of the New Zealand Company of
Master Mariners

and

Derek Whitwam,
President of the Arctic Convoy Club
on behalf of the Arctic Convoy Club of
New Zealand

His Excellency Ahmad Salem Alwehaib
Dean of the Diplomatic Corps
on behalf of the Diplomatic Corps

Simon O'Connor MP,
on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition

Rear Admiral David Proctor,
Chief of Navy
on behalf of the Chief of Defence Force

Colonel (Rtd) Roger Howard,
on behalf of the Royal New Zealand
Returned and Services' Association

Petty Officer Cadet Sacha Piper,
TS Amokura Navy Cadets
on behalf of the Youth of New Zealand

ROLL OF HONOUR

Merv Martin,
New Zealand Merchant Navy Association

THE COMMEMORATION

THE ODE IN TE REO MĀORI

Warrant Officer Nathan Tamihana,
RNZN

THE ODE IN ENGLISH

Paul Baggott,
Vice President of the New Zealand Merchant
Navy Association

LAST POST

Uniformed personnel salute

The New Zealand Merchant Navy and
New Zealand flags are lowered to half-mast

ONE MINUTE OF SILENCE

ROUSE

The New Zealand Merchant Navy and
New Zealand flags are raised to full-mast

CLOSING KARAKIA

Peter Jackson, Taranaki Whānui

Roll of Honour

The following names are from 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.

GILES, HERBERT HENRY

Age 56, chief engineer, 04/06/1942,
Iron Crown, Tasman Sea

GLENIE, WILLIAM

Age 31, fireman, 20/03/1943,
Fort Mumford, Indian Ocean

GODFREY, JOHN LEE

Age 45, chief engineer, 23/07/1942,
Garmula, Central Atlantic

GOODE, JOHN ALEXANDER

Age 28, seaman, 18/10/1940,
Fiscus, North Atlantic

GORMAN, EDWARD ALLAN

Age 19, seaman, 06/10/1940,
British General, North Atlantic

GRUNDY, THOMAS

Age 43, master, 15/07/1942,
Empire Attendant, North Atlantic

HALLETT, ERNEST WALTER

Age 60, wiper, 05/12/1940,
Nimbin, Tasman Sea

HAMERTON, CLAUDE STANLEY

Age 49, chief engineer, 11/10/1940,
Port Gisborne, North Atlantic

HAYWARD, IAN CYRIL (served as Bell)

Age 22, assistant steward, 20/03/1943,
Fort Mumford, Indian Ocean

HENLEY, MORRIS WILLIAM BARTLETT

Age 27, 3rd engineer, 18/11/1942,
Tower Grange, Central Atlantic

Flags

RED ENSIGN



New Zealand Merchant Navy

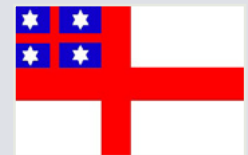
HOUSE FLAGS



Union Steamship Company
of New Zealand



Blue Star Line



Shaw Savill and
Albion



New Zealand Shipping
Company



Port Line



Anchor Line

ORGANISATIONS THAT SERVED SEAFARERS DURING TIMES OF CONFLICT



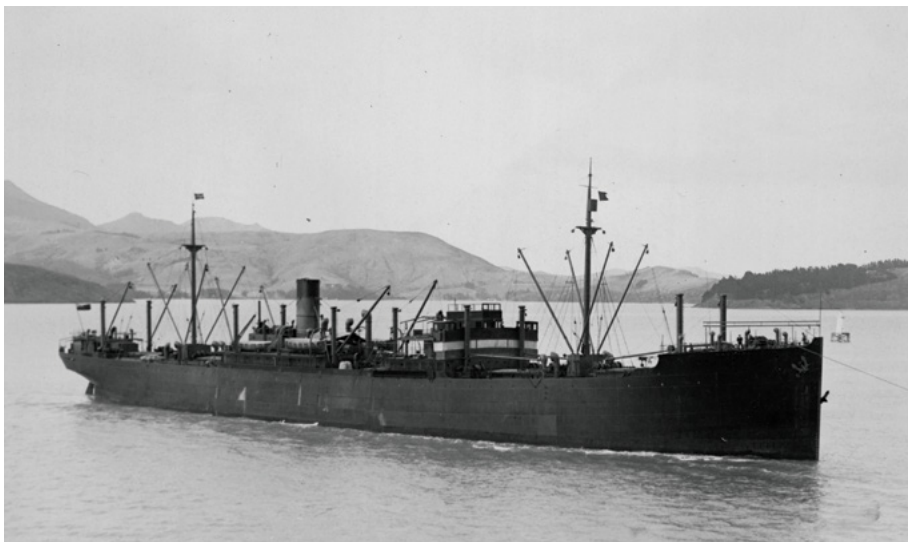
Mission to Seafarers



Wellington Harbour
Board



Arctic Convoy PQ18, attacked by Junkers 88 and Heinkel 111 torpedo bombers, 13th September 1942. Oil painting by John Hamilton. Image courtesy of Imperial War Museum, Ref: Art.IWM ART LD 7421



MV Hauraki, which was captured in the Indian Ocean and 55 crew taken prisoner by the Japanese on 12 July 1942. Photograph by Douglas Jones, circa 1930s/1940s. Image courtesy of Alexander Turnbull Library, Ref: PAColl-7985-27



Crew of MV Hauraki and other prisoners of war photographed at Ohasi, Japan, 28 August 1945. Image courtesy of Australian War Memorial, Ref: PO2087.001

Read their names at [NZHistory.govt.nz/media/photo/crew-merchant-ship-hauraki](https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/crew-merchant-ship-hauraki)



This National Commemorative Service was arranged by the Visits and Ceremonial Office, Te Tari Taiwhenua Department of Internal Affairs, in partnership with Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage, Manatū Aorere Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Te Ope Kātua o Aotearoa the New Zealand Defence Force and the New Zealand Merchant Navy Association.

