

POTENTIAL EVENTS for 2024

Glenlee sailing ship and
the Transport Museum
in Glasgow

Maid of the Loch at
Balloch, Loch Lomond
Maid of the Forth,
South Queensferry,
with options for the 3
Bridges tour, Jazz/Folk
evening, or landing on
Inchcolm Island

Scottish Maritime
Museum at Irvine

Union Canal boat trip
from Linlithgow.
Options for a 2 ½ hour
trip, or at certain
weekends, a trip to the
Falkirk Wheel.

A visit to Loch Katrine
to see the Sir Walter
Scott steam vessel.

Scottish Fisheries
Museum at Anstruther

Suggestions are always
welcome for new
potential visits.

At the AGM it was also
mooted that there
could/should be a
consideration to go
further afield to visit
other maritime venues.

Galley Radio

Merchant Navy Association – Edinburgh & Forth Branch

Spring 2024



Welcome to the third issue of **Galley Radio**, where we cover some of the events that have happened during the Spring session..

As always, we still need assistance with providing material for the bulletins and look to our members to offer stories, ditties, anecdotes, or any up and coming news and events for including in the newsletter.

ANZAC DAY 25th April 2024

The National Day of Remembrance in Australia and New Zealand that broadly commemorates all Australians & New Zealanders who served and died in all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations and the contribution and suffering of all those who served. Originally devised to honour the Australia & New Zealand Army Core (ANZAC) who served in the Gallipoli campaign during the First World War 1914 – 1918, where 60,000 Australians and 18,000 New Zealanders lost their lives

The first ANZAC Day was commemorated in 1916 in Sydney, but it wasn't until 1922 that ANZAC Day was uniformly recognised across all the Australian states.

During the campaign, the Merchant Navy were heavily involved in ferrying troops to Gallipoli, in many cases landing the troops on the beach at ANZAC Cove in the ships' lifeboats, manned by merchant seamen, who also came under fire from the Turkish guns. Evacuation of the sick and wounded was also carried out using ships' lifeboats, with merchant seamen manning the oars, to hospital ships waiting offshore. Later, the retreat from Gallipoli saw the troops being transported to Alexandria, Lemnos and Cyprus by Merchant Navy vessels.



Attending the commemorative service at Edinburgh Castle on the day was our very own Ned Kelly (Chairperson) and Mike Ashworth.

One of the traditions of ANZAC Day is the "Gunfire breakfast", coffee laced with rum, which occurs after the dawn ceremonies, said to recall the "breakfast" taken by the soldiers before facing battle.

DAY OF THE SEAFARER 25th JUNE 2024

The Day of the Seafarer is an annual celebration organised by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) to recognise the contribution that seafarers make to our everyday lives. The role of the seafarer often goes under-appreciated within the maritime industry and the general public. Seafarers are and always have been an essential component in world trade, keeping the economy moving and delivering the goods and fuels we use every day. The Day of the Seafarer was first held in 2010 following publication of a revised set of international laws (MLC), which were agreed to ensure that all seafarers receive the same levels of training, general welfare and safety standards. Our colleagues in the Glasgow MNA branch are using the Armed Forces Day on June 29th as a means of celebrating the Day of the Seafarer in George Square in Glasgow. They are looking to make the general public become more aware of the role that seafarers play in their lives and why they are fundamental in determining the prosperity of the worldwide economy. Anyone interested in attending would be more than welcomed by our colleagues from Glasgow.

MERCHANT NAVY DAY CEREMONY 18th MAY 2024

The Millport branch of the Royal British Legion of Scotland held a service on the Isle of Cumbrae, with a short service at the Cairn Memorial on the west side of the island. Built in 2005, it comprises of a path, memorial garden, memorial and metal artwork. The fantastic setting overlooks the River Clyde, with a backdrop of the Isle of Bute and the peaks on the Isle of Arran in the background. It is dedicated to those from the services, including the Merchant Navy, who lost their lives, but have no known grave.



A short service was performed by the Reverend Canon Alec Boyd and accompanied by the Isle of Cumbrae RBLs Pipe Band. On the return to Millport, the pipe band held another parade at the War Memorial, which was appreciated by the many holidaymakers present at the time.



Our thanks to the Rev. Canon Alec Boyd and to the hospitality of both Sandy Fleming, Chairman of the Millport Branch of the RBLs and to our colleagues from the Glasgow MNA, who also attended.

SUMMER LUNCH

Anyone interested in meeting for a lunch event on Thursday, June 20th 2024 at Howies Restaurant in Waterloo Place, Edinburgh

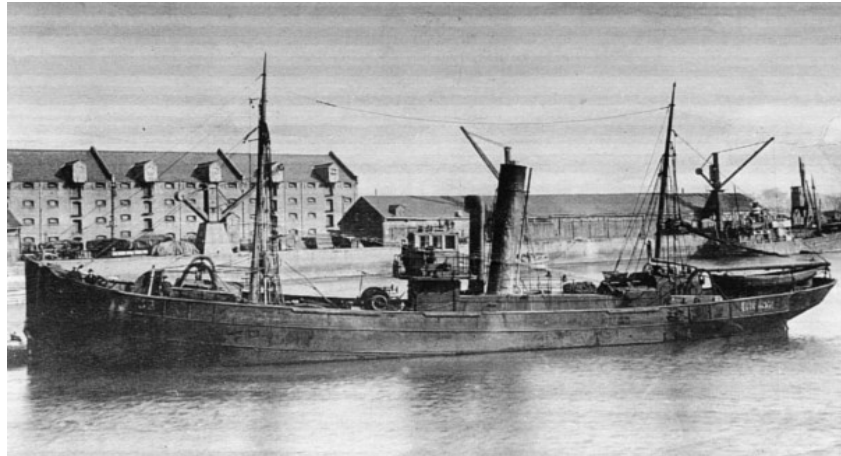
2 course £17.95
3 course £21.95

Menu can be seen on their website but will post a link on WhatsApp and on the Facebook page later

Let me know ASAP so I can get an idea of numbers.

A LUCKY SEA DOG

MFV Sceptre – A523 Fishing vessel sunk by U-39 in 5th May 1915.



Built by Halls in Aberdeen in 1902, 157 grt with a 3 cylinder 53rhp engine. Owner : A C Cameron of Dundee.

U-39 captained by Walter Forstmann He would finish the war having sunk nearly 400,000 tons of shipping and ranks as the second highest scoring submarine commander of all time. 149 vessel sunk, including HMS Niger, a minesweeper, 7 damaged and one, a Danish steamer called Olga, taken as a prize.

Fisherman David Smith would be celebrated as a hero of the animal world today. Back in 1915 however, his actions in saving a terrified dog from U-boat fire were all in a days work. David, of Broughty Ferry, near Dundee, intervened to stop the dog going down with the first Dundee vessel sunk in the First World War. He was one of the 10 crew on the Sceptre, the pride of the city's fishing fleet, which could steam at 10 knots. It was so swift it could outrun German submarines off the Angus coast, however, its luck ran out on 5th May 40 miles SE x S from Peterhead

At dawn, Captain Charles Lorimer heard a shot, took the trawl on board and made for a distant Norwegian steamer. Then through the morning gloom, a submarine appeared and hoisted the German flag. Captain Lorimer tried to steam away, but realised the U-boat was too close, so he stopped. The German commander ordered the captured crew in to a small boat and made sure they had enough provisions for the journey. When he realised they did not have a sail, the German told them to make for the Norwegian vessel which would take them to Norway.

It was clear the Germans would destroy the Sceptre, but when David heard the whimpering of the dog, he dashed back to the cabin and bundled it in to the boat. Six shots in six minutes sent the Sceptre to the bottom, while the Germans smoked on their vessel's deck, watching.

On board the Norwegian vessel, the Scots were greeted with coffee and cigarettes. The captain defied the Germans and landed the men in Peterhead. The crew arrived at the port later that day and were home with their families that night. Earlier that week, a U-boat had sunk nine Hull trawlers in similar circumstances. What seems remarkable now is that all the rescued men spoke highly of their treatment by the Germans. On each occasion, U-boat crews made sure the fishermen had a compass and food – sometimes even sharing their own rations.

Then, of course, they blasted the boats.

D DAY REMEMBRANCE SERVICE 29TH MAY 2024

Edinburgh Branch were invited to attend a D Day ceremony at the Scottish National War Memorial in Edinburgh Castle, conducted by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, commemorating the 80th year of the D Day landings back in 1944.



Attendees from Edinburgh & Forth Branch MNA included Donald Sargent, Mike Ashworth, Alon Palmer and Sandy Mitchell

CONTACT US

President:

Captain David Fleming-Millar

Branch Chair:

Ned Kelly

mna.edinburgh@gmail.com

Branch Treasurer:

Allan Dickson

Mnaedin.treasurer@gmail.com

Social Secretary:

Sandy Mitchell

mnedin.osec@gmail.com

Branch Secretary:

Donald Sargent

donmclsargent@hotmail.com



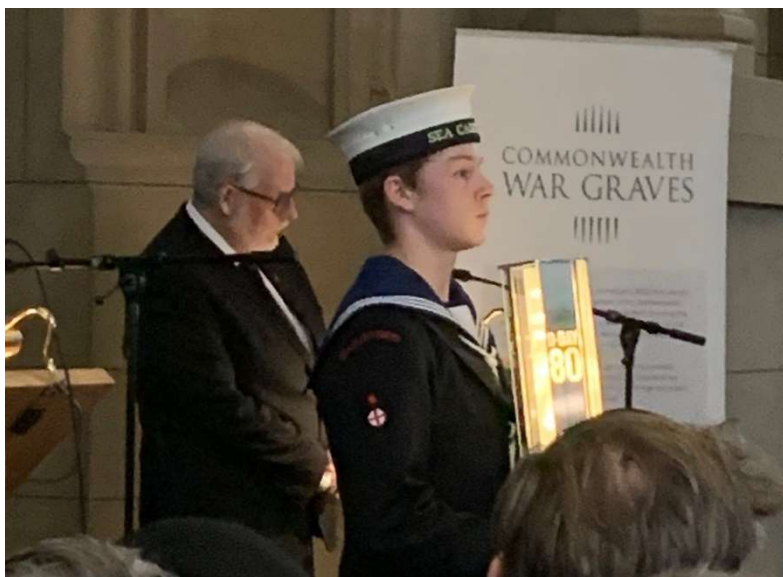
Merchant Navy Association
Edinburgh Branch

Editor : S. Mitchell

Operation Overlord was the largest, most complex operation devised by the Western Allies of the war. An enormous invasion force was assembled with over 150,000 servicemen, 11,000 aircraft and 7,000 ships, 864 of whom were merchant navy vessels, to assault five key beaches over a 50 mile section of the Normandy coast, namely Juno, Gold, Sword, Omaha and Utah.

The beaches were heavily fortified with obstacles such as wooden stakes, metal tripods and barbed wire. The terrain also worked against them, with some of the highest casualties at Omaha due to the high cliffs. It is estimated that there were over 10,250 casualties on D Day and of that number 4,440 were killed.

The Merchant Navy's role didn't end on D Day. A naval presence was maintained until the end of June, with merchant navy vessels continuing the huge logistical task of keeping the Allied armies supplied and reinforced continually until the end of the war. By the end of June 1944 Allied ships had landed 850,279 men, 148,803 vehicles and 570,505 tons of supplies. The sobering price for this success was 50 ships sunk and a further 110 damaged to varying degrees.



Here we see RN Sea Cadet Harry Flintoff with the commemorative torch and Jim Mackintosh, who read his poem, 'No Fuss of Them' during the service at the Scottish National War Memorial