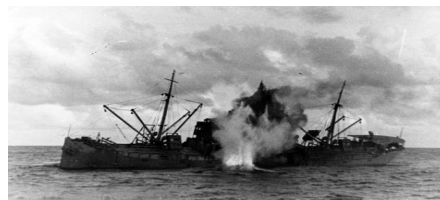


Battle of Atlantic 70th Anniversary Newsletter



Issue 1- December 2012



Battle of the Atlantic 70th Anniversary

The Battle of the Atlantic was the longest continuous military campaign of World War II and resulted in the loss of some 30-40,000 Merchant Navy personnel and around 5000 ships. The turning point in the campaign for the Allies was May 1943 when German submarine losses became unsustainable. To mark the 70th anniversary of this historic event, the Royal Navy, supported by representatives from the Merchant Navy and other maritime organisations, is holding a series of events across the UK during May 2013.

The main focus of activity will be Liverpool, although there will be a number of events elsewhere, including London and Londonderry. This Newsletter aims to give a feel for what is being planned and an opportunity to be involved.

"More than any other campaign in our nation's history, the Battle of the Atlantic reminds us of our enduring dependency on the sea for our survival. The sacrifices made by courageous seafarers from both sides of the Atlantic, to feed and fuel our island nation, are remembered with pride and gratitude"

**Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope GCB OBE ADC –
First Sea Lord**

"The Battle of the Atlantic was the dominating factor all through the war. Never for one moment could we forget that everything happening elsewhere, on land, at sea, or in the air, depended ultimately on its outcome, and amid all other cares we viewed its changing fortunes day by day with hope or apprehension"

Winston Churchill

Outline of Planned Events in 2013 for BoA70 London

- RN warship visits.
- 8 May - BoA70 Themed Evensong - St Paul's Cathedral.
- 9 May - BoA70 Charity Fundraising Dinner onboard RN warship.
- 10 May - Memorial Service at Merchant Navy Memorial in Trinity Square Gardens.

Londonderry

- 10 May - Royal Navy Association BoA70 reception.
- 11 May - Unveiling statue of the 'International Sailor'.
- 12 May - Parade and wreath laying.

Liverpool

- RN and international warship visits.
- 24 May - BoA70 Reception in RN warship.
- 25 May - Charity Royal Marine Band Concert.
- 26 May - Service of Commemoration – Liverpool Anglican Cathedral followed by parade and fly past by current and historic aircraft.
- 27 May - Ships open to visitors.

Battle of the Atlantic History

After the fall of Europe the main supply route for the continued prosecution of the war was between the United States/Canada and the UK via the North Atlantic. Ultimately, it was the success in the protection of this vital sea corridor by the defeat of the German surface and U-boat threat that enabled the massive logistic build up that led to success in North Africa, at D-Day and then through to the fall of Germany.

Relevance for Today

With so much of the UK's daily requirements for resources and energy reliant on the sea as a highway for trade, the lessons from 70 years ago demonstrate the UK's continued dependence on maritime trade and the security provided by the Royal Navy for its economic prosperity.

BoA70 Newsletter

This Newsletter is provided by Flag Officer Regional Forces' BoA70 Programme Office and is intended to inform the UK's maritime community and veterans of the campaign about the plans to mark this anniversary in 2013.

One of the most important aspects of the commemorations is to include as many BoA veterans as possible in some of the events across the country. Please feel free to forward this newsletter on to others who may be interested in BoA70 and also to contact the BoA70 Programme Office with details of any organisations that may inadvertently have been excluded from this distribution.

Your comments and any details of other interested parties and organisations can be sent to the BoA70 Programme Office at:

nrcee-BOA70@mod.uk

BoA70 Programme Office
Naval Regional Commander Eastern England
HMS PRESIDENT
72 St Katharine's Way
London E1W 1UQ

Get Involved

Any veterans who wish to attend the Evensong Service at St Paul's Cathedral on 8 May 13 should contact the BoA70 Programme Office. Those wishing to attend the Service of Commemoration in Liverpool on 26 May 13 should contact the Naval Regional Commander Northern England on 0151 707 3402. In the meantime, the official website for BoA70 activity can be found at

www.royalnavy.mod.uk/Battle-of-the-Atlantic

This site has been established to provide information on events. It also offers links to other useful websites regarding BoA70. It will also serve as a 'living memorial', using photographs, stories, video and film footage from the battle in order to provide a glimpse into the past.

If you are able and willing to provide any material, please contact the BoA70 website team at:

royalnavyatlantic@gmail.com.



A nation *still* dependent on the sea...