



The Arctic Convoy Club of New Zealand

Newsletter
July - August 2022

Dear shipmates, families and friends

National Commemoration ANZAC Day 2022

The National Commemoration for ANZAC Day 2022 was held at Pukeahu War Memorial Park, Wellington at 11:00am on Monday 25 April 2022. The event was officiated by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Dame Cindy Kiro on behalf of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.



President of The Arctic Convoy Club of New Zealand, Derek Whitam, lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior.



Wreaths laid at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior.



The Last Post, RNZAF Band



The congregation gathered during the National Commemoration service at Pukeahu Park, Wellington.

Service held at Arctic Convoy Memorial, Loch Ewe, Scotland

A memorial service was held at Cove, Loch Ewe, Scotland marking the 77th anniversary of VE Day on Sunday 8 May 2022. Sea Cadets from Inverness paraded the Scottish RCC banner this year and the Naval Attaché for the Royal New Zealand Navy, Commander Tony Masters laid a wreath. About 80 persons attended and were invited back to the RACP Exhibition Centre in Aultbea for tea and cakes.



Permanent Arctic Convoy display opens in Liverpool

On 22 February, Western Approaches HQ Museum in Liverpool unveiled a new permanent display to commemorate 80 years since the arduous Arctic Convoys, when sailors made the treacherous journey from Liverpool to Russia in a move that helped defeat the Nazis during WWII.

An international memorandum of understanding has been signed between the Western Approaches HQ Museum, a secret underground WWII bunker based in the city centre, and the Northern Maritime Museum in Arkhangelsk, Russia.



The exhibition by Big Heritage, located in the original convoy plotting room, where the Arctic Convoys were plotted from, aims to build deeper links between the two cities and highlight cultural links between the UK and Russia.

The Arctic Convoys were a main theatre of the war at sea during WWII. They played a crucial role in providing strategic supplies to the Eastern Front between 1941 to 1945, significantly contributing to Allies' victory over Nazi Germany.

It was an operation of an unprecedented scale, with more than 40 countries and representatives of a dozen fleets taking part. The Arctic Convoys remain an enduring symbol of shared history, heroic cooperation and peoples' sacrifice in the joint fight for life and freedom.

As part of 'Operation Dervish', the Arctic Convoys first left Liverpool in August 1941, loaded with military supplies to support Soviet efforts in fighting Nazi Germany. The ships undertook what was described by Winston Churchill as "the worst journey in the world" across freezing Arctic seas patrolled by German U-Boats, surface ships and aircraft before arriving in the ports of Murmansk and Arkhangelsk in the North of Russia.

Dean Paton, Founder and Director of education and heritage specialists Big Heritage, Western Approach's parent organisation, said: "The Arctic Convoys were led by men showing some exceptional bravery. After departing from Liverpool, the sailors faced incredibly arduous conditions, so we hope this permanent exhibition will honour and pay tribute to their heroism and sacrifice.

"Not only that, but this group of sailors showed the huge depth of support the city has always had for the Armed Forces.

The Arctic Convoys saw 1,400 merchant ships make the journey between 1941 and 1945, carrying 4 million tons of supplies for use by Soviet forces fighting on the Eastern Front. They faced perils such as Nazi sea and air power, horrific weather and weeks of darkness. 3,000 people, 85 merchant vessels and 16 Royal Navy were lost.

At the exhibition launch, there will be speeches from Evgeny Tenetov, director of the Northern Maritime Museum in Arkhangelsk; Christian Duncumb, Cultural Counsellor at the British Embassy in

Moscow; as well as an appearance from local Arctic Convoy veterans.

Mr Duncumb said: "This treacherous journey, and the courage of the men who made it, made an immense contribution to our efforts in ending WWII and achieving peace.

"It is hugely respected in Russia and I hope this collaborative exhibition will raise further awareness of the bravery shown. There is little doubt these men played a huge role in the shared history and efforts of the UK and Russia, and the ultimate Allied victory over Nazi Germany."

This programme aims to connect people, museums and universities to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the first Arctic Convoy to Russia which sailed from Liverpool to Arkhangelsk in 1941. It aims to build deeper links between the two cities and highlight the historical connections of Russia and the UK. The programme involves creating artistic collaborations and longer term links between the museums of Northern Russia and the UK, as well as organising student exchanges between higher education institutions in Liverpool and Arkhangelsk.



Army soldiers can't comprehend the 6-foot social distancing requirement.

But everyone in the navy can fathom it!



**Thursday 25 August 2022
@ Lower Hutt RSA**

**Thursday 24 November 2022
@ TBA**

Further details will be advised as they come to hand

2022

Up Spirits!



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