

Melbourne Branch

The Log
The Monthly Newsletter of the Melbourne Branch of
The Company of Master Mariners of Australia Limited

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NEXT MEETING 26th June 2019

The Day of the Seafarer

Nigel Porteous and James McCully

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Victorian Regional Channels
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From the Branch Master

The 25th June was adopted as “The Day of the Seafarer” at the Manila Conference on the STCW Convention in 2010.

The day not only acknowledges the work of seafarers but also brings attention to the issues affecting their work and lives.

The resolution encourages Governments, shipping organisations, companies, shipowners and all other parties concerned to duly and appropriately promote the “Day of the Seafarer” and take action to celebrate it meaningfully.

It is recognised as an observance day by the United Nations.

For our 26th June meeting a representative from The Mission to Seafarers (Nigel Porteous) and Stella Maris (James McCully) will speak to us about their organisations work with seafarers.

Both these organisations play a vital role in providing practical and spiritual support for seafarers who can find themselves in difficult circumstances far from home.



Capt. Ian French

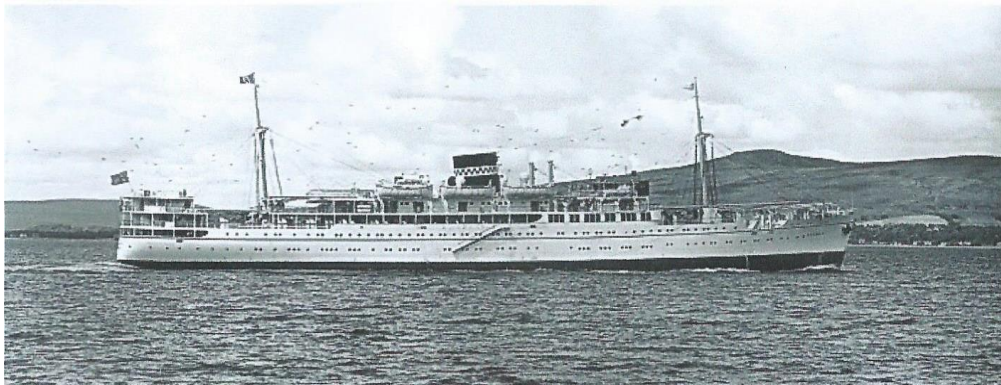


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75th Anniversary of D-Day

This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the D-Day landing in Normandy. While Australia did not have troops involved, thousands of Australian Airmen played a significant role in the operation. Another Australian connection with D-Day was the Burns Philp passenger ship *Bulolo* which was the headquarters ship for the landing on Gold Beach.



mv Bulolo 6267 GRT was built in 1938 by Barclay Curle and entered service with Burns Philp in the Australia/Papua New Guinea trade.

In 1939 the ship was requisitioned by the British Government and converted into an armed merchant cruiser. In this role *Bulolo* had main armament of 6 inch guns and 3 inch anti aircraft guns,

The ship operated in the Atlantic until 1942 when it was converted into a headquarters ship for amphibious landings. During the conversion much of her armament was removed and a comprehensive radio communication system was installed to allow communication with other ships, aircraft and troops ashore.



Bulolo as a Headquarters ship for amphibious landings

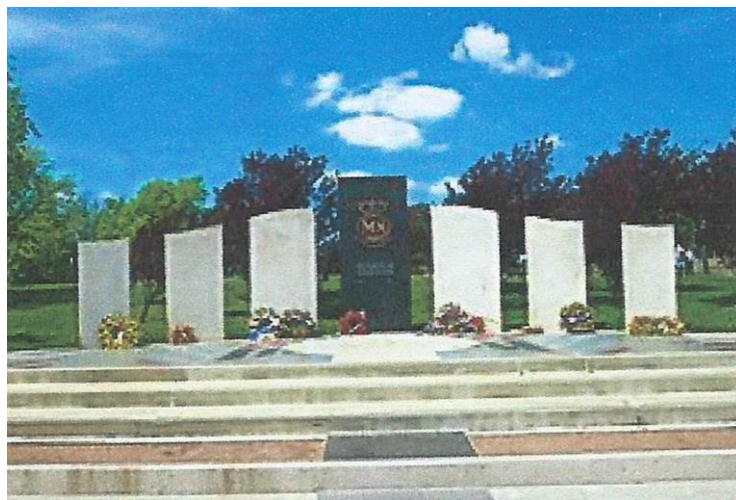
Bulolo was involved in the landings in North Africa, Sicily and Anzio and on D-Day was the command ship for the landing on Gold Beach.

Bulolo's next deployment was to SE Asia as a flagship and was in Singapore for the Japanese surrender.

After the war *Bulolo* was refitted by Barclay Curle and returned to Burns Philp in 1948. After 161 round voyages on the Australia /NewGuinea run the ship was scrapped at Kaohsiung in May 1968.



Merchant Navy War Memorial



The Merchant Navy Memorial Fund is upgrading the existing National Memorial in Kings Park on the shores of Lake Burley Giffen. The plan is to install two additional panels each side of the current Memorial and also for the first time have the names of those seafarers who lost their lives in WW1 and WW2 in Australian waters shown on the additional panels. The work will include improvements and a general upgrade of the Memorial. The National Capital Authority who own the land are contributing by installing wheelchair access and paths leading to the Memorial and more parking. The funds raising appeal has a target of \$200,000 and is approaching all sections of the Maritime Community to assist. The Melbourne Branch will be contributing to the COMMA donation. For information on how to donate go to www.mnwmf.com.au



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Britannia Maritime Aid



British based charity, Britannia Maritime Aid (BMA) has plans to build a specially designed vessel to deliver humanitarian aid and disaster relief with a dual role as a state of the art mobile training centre.

The ship will have accommodation and training facilities including full mission simulators for British and Commonwealth Merchant Navy Officer Cadets and rating apprentices.

The ship will have a medical centre, training and conference facilities, landing craft and aviation hanger and facilities. The plan is to initially base the ship in the Caribbean with a concentration on natural disaster relief. The intention is to have one artisan apprentice or trainee for every aid professional onboard learning the trades of mechanics, carpenters, electricians and plumbers.

The crew will lead development and infrastructure projects and provide skills training for local communities.

With an overall target of 50% of the ship's company to be in training BMA aims to provide an invaluable and unforgettable experience for tomorrows youth.



A unique ship design, specifically produced for BMA by Cammell Laird, the UK's busiest and most dynamic shipyard, in partnership with LeadShip, a ship design and consultancy company with a mission to provide bespoke solutions to the maritime industry.

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