



THE WATCH ASHORE

31 October 2015

PLEASE ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATION TO:-

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Dear, Sheryll,

As National Chairman of the Watch Ashore and resident in Torpoint I am writing to ask for your continued support with the recent Seafarers UK #redensign campaign. Mike Pearn our Mayor was fully supportive of this campaign and held a short service to raise the red ensign in Torpoint as did Saltash officials.

The Mayor of Plymouth attended the Merchant Navy Day service on the Barbican also where I understand there were at least 7 red ensigns flying! Nationally more than 200 local authorities, ports and shipping companies supported Seafarers UK's campaign so a good start for 2015.

As you are well aware both the MN and Fishing Fleets made many sacrifices during both World Wars where at least 35,000 British Merchant Navy seafarers were killed in World War 2. Merchant Navy Day was instituted in 2000 with its aim of improving awareness of the UK reliance on the sea. The Merchant Navy are still at sea around the clock and around the world 95% of volume and some 75% by value of UK trade is carried by sea.

I understand that a motion has been put forward in Scotland as follows -

Motion S4M-13942: Dave Thompson, Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, Scottish National Party, Date Lodged: 13/08/2015

That the Parliament is aware of Merchant Navy Day, which will take place on 3 September 2015; acknowledges the campaign by Seafarers UK to celebrate the day by flying the Red Ensign, the Merchant Navy's official flag; notes calls for MSPs to remember the sacrifices, salute the courage and support the future of the Merchant Navy; celebrates the time of John Thompson, father of Dave Thompson MSP, in the Merchant Navy during the Second World War as a ship's baker, circumnavigating the globe, taking part in Atlantic convoys, being torpedoed in the Mediterranean but surviving throughout the entire war; understands that northern men, in particular, were much sought after in the Merchant fleet due to their seafaring traditions; recognises Scotland's ancient seafaring and trading tradition, and appreciates what it considers the great work that the men and women of the Merchant Navy still do all around the world.

I hope that with your help as all Party Parliamentary Fisheries Group representative, we can continue to raise awareness in the English Parliament of the Red Ensign Campaign as they are endeavouring to do in Scotland.

Yours sincerely,
Chris Rankin

Sent by e mail

AN ASSOCIATION OF WIVES, MOTHERS AND WIDOWS OF MERCHANT NAVY SEAFARERS AND OTHERS, TO FURTHER PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE BRITISH MERCHANT NAVY AND PROMOTE FRIENDSHIP AND SOCIAL CONTACT

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