



Barry Branch

## **200 wooden crosses**

**The Merchant Navy Association (Wales), Barry Branch, were delighted to have had the presence of Wings Barry, carrying the Merchant Navy Associations' National Standard, amongst the Standard Bearers and the Standards presented at this years Annual Seafarers' Service, which was held at The Barry Memorial Hall on Saturday, 15th September 2006.**

**Following the service that again saw Revd. Malcom Davies O.st.John officiating as Honorary Chaplain to the Barry Branch, members on behalf of the Branch laid down 200 wooden crosses at the Seafarers' monument. The Stone memorial incorporates the names of Barry and Vale merchant seamen who have given their lives at sea during the two world wars.**

**The 200 wooden crosses were scribed with the names of ships that bore losses from the local area, during the war years 1914 – 1918 and 1939 – 1945. These reflecting the very heavy loss of life in relation to the locality. It should be noted that 270 merchant seamen from the Barry area died during the 1914-18 conflict and, in the Second World War, the figure was 637 men and boys, including some on their first voyage.**

**Barry suffered most, with the highest number of casualties from the United Kingdom of merchant seamen lost at sea. The odds stacked against any merchant seamen were tremendous and are unequalled in the history of the sea. During these conflicts, no ship left port undermanned and few ships, ready for sea, were ever seriously delayed for lack of a full crew.**

**Tribute crosses were laid for Merchant Ships SS. Daybreak, Tregenna and Dudley Rose by Doreen Greenway, on behalf of Jim Greenway and family.**

**On next Remembrance Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2007, the revised version of Fred Hortop's Role Of Honour will be presented to the Chairman of Barry Branch MN Association (WALES). The leather bound volume will be placed in a cabinet in the Hall of Memory with a copy of Fred Hortop's work in a drawer below. We will always be eternally grateful to Fred Hortop for the tremendous effort that he made in compiling this remarkable record of human sacrifice of men and boys lives.**

**We also extend to Mr. Gareth Howe, Chairman of the Barry Remembers Appeal, our sincere thanks for his magnificent effort in ensuring that the Roll of Honour has been reproduced in its updated form. Finally we appeal to all those who appreciate the part played by the merchant service in our darkest hours to support this years remembrance service in the Barry Memorial Hall.**

**The Merchant Navy Association of Wales, Barry Branch, wishes to thank all that both attended and supported Saturdays Service and extends grateful thanks to our benefactors, both the Barry Town Council and the Vale of Glamorgan County Council, the Royal British Legion, Penarth Branch and to organist, Ben Snowdon. Sincere thanks to Dedworth Print, Berkshire for their continued assistance and support.**

**Anyone interested in joining the Barry Branch of the Merchant Navy Association, or in helping our cause, can contact the Chairman, Jim Greenway.**

**[mnawalesbarrybranch@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:mnawalesbarrybranch@tiscali.co.uk)**

**KG**

**Re: Jim Luen**

**Many thanks for this very moving and informative piece headed "200 wooden crosses.**

**My mum's cousin Jennifer Reynolds forwarded it to me and made mention of Jim Luen. He was my grandfather who was drowned when my mum was only 11 years old. We have always thought of him and the dreadful ordeal he, and so many others at sea, had to endure in the 2 World Wars.**

**My mum gave me a small wooden cross which someone gave her and it stands by my bed every night where I can look or hold it and it makes me feel nearer to her. She lives in South Africa now and I live in Ireland. Now my grandfather will have to be included in that cross. Thank you for that.**

**Wishing you all the best**

**Lorraine Howard daughter of Mary Luen who was daughter of Jim Luen who was drowned in 1939.**

**The town of Barry exists because of coal.**

**Most of its people today are descended from men who enabled Barry to become the largest coal exporting coal port in the world - the men who worked on the docks, the coal-tips and the men who manned the ships which took Welsh coal to the four corners of the World.**

**Many are descended from men who were lost at sea in World War II. They must be - the town of Barry lost a greater proportion of men at sea than any other British port.**

**From two short streets, Queen Street and Prince's Street, 76 men were lost - one from every third house.**

**I am not originally from Barry. I sailed out of Liverpool during the War, a town that honours its Merchant Navy men. Through the work of Fred Hortop, I have come to realise the details of the sacrifices made by the seamen of Barry.**

**The Annual Seafarers Service was held on Saturday, September 15, and, sadly, once again, the Barry public neglected to support its seamen. There were more people at the Merchant Navy Memorial from other towns than there were from Barry.**

**They say that every third ship that sailed from Barry during World War II was sunk. On Saturday we had small crosses, each inscribed with the name of one of the Barry ships on which men were lost.**

**We were hoping to give them to people who could spare a moment and place them around the Memorial. There were only a handful - and they were people not from the town. After the short wreath-laying service was over, the Mayor of Llantwit Major and the Mayor of the Vale and the Barry Town Mayor, together with their consorts, decided to help place the crosses.**

**It made them a little late for the Service at the Memorial Hall - but their caring attitude was moving and wonderful to see. Perhaps, at next year's Service, the ordinary people of Barry could spare the time to remember their heritage.**

**Because behind each ship's name, there lies a story of courage and sacrifice. Perhaps, next year, the children of Barry could take part.**

**David Simpson  
High Street Barry.**

**Look David up or contact at:**

**[www.barrymerchantseamen.org.uk](http://www.barrymerchantseamen.org.uk)  
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