

Welsh Sailors of the Second World War

Author: Phil Carradice, Terry Breverton

Lecturer releases book on heroes

A LECTURER from the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff (UWIC) has released a book that focuses on the sailors that he believes won the Second World War.

Terry Breverton, a Lecturer in International Marketing at UWIC, launched 'Welsh Sailors of the Second World War' recently at the Vale of Glamorgan County Library in Barry. This was an apt location for the event as Barry lost a higher percentage of its population in the Merchant Navy than any other place in the UK.

The focus of the book is the Welsh sailors of the Merchant Navy in the Second World War. The book is a collection of first-hand accounts which document the horrendous circumstances and conditions that these brave people endured. Over 100 survivors and 20 to 30 relatives were interviewed for the book, making it the most comprehensive account of this subject area.

The book, which was co-authored by broadcaster Phil Carradice, has already had success being named as WH Smith's Welsh Book of the Month for May. This means that the book will be displayed in all branches of the store throughout Wales. This is not the first of Terry's books to receive such an accolade with five of his works being named the Welsh Books Council's Book of the Month.

Terry feels that it was crucial to get these accounts published before it was too late: "The Welsh men serving in the Merchant Navy are the unsung heroes of this war and it is about time that they got real recognition, they are the bravest people I have come across. The Merchant Navy won the war and Churchill understood this, his only real fear was losing the war at sea.

"For the Welsh people the Second World War had a devastating effect. Wherever you go in Wales you are a maximum of 50 miles from the sea therefore it follows that many men were sailors. When the ships left the port they took with them an entire chunk of the population of that area, one woman lost three sons at sea in this war.

"They were placed in a difficult position, if they weren't at sea they wouldn't earn any money but if they were at sea then there was always a chance they wouldn't come home. On top of all this their living conditions were disgusting, these people were forced to sleep on flea infested sacks of straw in damp ships that were not safe.

"The debt owed to these sailors is immense, I hope the book goes some way to showing what they sacrificed so that we could experience freedom today."

WALES BOOKS

Glyndwr Publishing

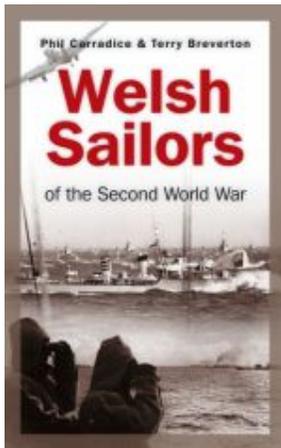
Welsh sailors of the Second World War

Phil Carradice and Terry Breverton

Cardiff lost over 100 ships: Barry lost more men at sea per capita than anywhere in Britain, and convoys for the longest and most important battle of the war – the battle of the Atlantic – met at Milford Haven. These are the first-hand accounts of the experience of Welsh men and women serving in the Merchant Navy, Royal navy, Fleet Air Arm, naval bases and dockyards. Without those who served at sea, freedom and democracy would have been exterminated. This is the debt owed by the present, and all future generations. Churchill's only real fear was losing the war at sea, and it was not only the longest battle of the war, but also one that was very nearly lost.

‘One can only wonder at the mystery of human courage, In the face of what must have seemed overwhelming odds against survival. For me the laconic acceptance of terrible injury and loss in some of these accounts is deeply moving. One example is enough: that of a sailor, barely eighteen years old, who climbed down the side of his ship to rescue a companion from the sea, only to find his friend although still alive, had lost both his legs and was unable to climb onto the side netting. Our young sailor had to let go his friend's hand and allow him to drift away to his inevitable death. An account worthy of the pen of Xenophon.’

WELSH BOOKS COUNCIL REVIEW.



To Celebrate World Book Day

BOOK LAUNCH AT THE NEW
VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNTY LIBRARY, BARRY

WELSH SAILORS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

FRIDAY 2nd MARCH 2007

Barry – Today 7th March 2007

Welsh sailors at war book has a special meaning for Barry

WHAT better way could there be for a double celebration of St David's Day and World Book Day than the launch of a new history book on Welsh Sailors of the Second World War? Last week, the co-authors, Phil Carradice and Terry Breverton, launched the book to 70 members of the Welsh public at the new county library in Barry. Some of the audience were ex-Navy or Merchant Navy, while others were relatives of those who served in the Second World War. "History is written by academics and it tends not to be the history of the people," said Mr Breverton. "Some of the heroes of this book are here tonight, and we've tried to tell their stories. The experiences that people went through serving at sea in the Second World War were often terrifying. "Some men wanted to blot it out, and put it down to experience. "If there is a theme to this book it is of selflessness. These men risked their lives to help each other and save their country." Phil Carradice added: "Without the sacrifices of these people we would not be here today — we should never forget their courage." The book, a prodigious work of research, is full of compelling first hand accounts of what the men from Wales experienced at sea during the war years. It covers every possible aspect of the war at sea — Royal Navy, Merchant Navy, the war around the Welsh Coast, major shipping losses, the Battle of the Atlantic, how Britain fought the U-boats, and much more. It is a book that will resonate more with people in Barry than perhaps any other place in Wales, because the town lost more men at sea per capita than anywhere else in Britain. Mr Carradice and Mr Breverton recall how a national newspaper 'Reynolds News' ran a headline in 1943 'Port that craves adventure'. The report read: Barry Dock, Wales' famous coal seaport, has lost more merchant seamen in the war than any other seaport of comparable size in Britain. When the war record of the Merchant Navy comes to be written, the seamen of Barry will feature prominently in it. There are few streets in the town and dock area which have not lost men at sea as a result of enemy action. Scores of Barry seamen have figured in dramatic front page stories of the seas since the war began. Several have spent 30, 40 and more days in open boats after the sinking of their vessels...Heavy losses of life and incredible hardships suffered by Barry men have not dismayed the youth of the port. They are still entering the MN as soon as they are old enough and can be absorbed by the service. One local woman who was delighted to attend the launch of the book was Rita Dunkley, the daughter of Reg Dunkley, who was the mayor of Barry from 1975 to 1976. "My father would have been 88 on March 3," said Rita. "He died in 1990, but I found notes that he had written about his experiences at sea. I typed them up and was happy to pass them on. "I'm thrilled that they are in the book, and there's a picture of my father on page 85." Welsh Sailors of the Second World War, published by Glyndwr Publishing at £13.99, is available locally at Dolphin Books, Kings Square, Barry. Do you or your family have an interesting story to tell in connection with Barry's seafaring past? If so, The GEM would like to hear from you. Although we have a huge interest in our local Maritime history, please contact the Gem direct. We would like to work in unison for histories sake and would love you to include us at:

<http://www.ss-tregenna.co.uk> hernamewas.ss@tiscali.co.uk

Permission will be sought from the publishers of this article, we hope that the "Gem" will allow us to continue using this copy on our tribute site, we can if necessary remove any material again if necessary.

Welsh Sailors of the Second World War

Author: Phil Carradice, Terry Breverton

Terry Breverton, Lecturer in International Marketing at UWIC

Phil Carradice, Broadcaster

CONTENTS

Introduction

The War at Sea

The War Around the Welsh Coast

The Sailors' Stories

Brief Letters

The Contribution of One Welsh Port to the Merchant Navy

List of Merchant Ships with Multiple Deaths of Barry Men

The Loss of the Anglo Saxon

The Log of the Anglo Saxon's Jolly Boat

The Loss of the Stornest

Captain Hugh Roberts OBE

The Loss of the Athellaird

The Loss of the Arhellknight

U 172 and a possible war crime

The Loss of Harsborough by Chris Burt

Vernon Upton GM

Log of the Start Point's Lifeboats

A Remarkable escape: The Story of Phillip

D. Thomas after the sinking of the St Elwyn

Captain W. A. Shute's report of the sinking of the Tunisia

The Story of the 7 Hortop Brothers at War

Welsh Merchant Ships Lost and damaged in World War II

The Atlantic Convoy System and U Boats

The Patrols and Sinking of the U 515

The Sinking of the Allende

"Heroes" and "Merchant Seamen"

Conclusion

Bibliography

Available at:

Dolphin Books

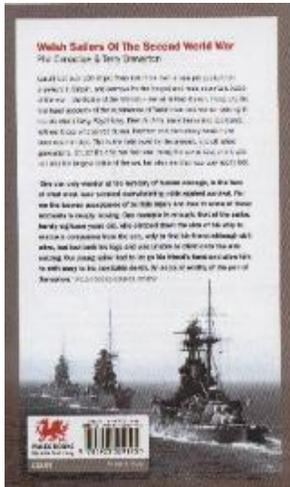
Holton Road

Barry

Vale of Glamorgan

South Wales

Welsh Sailors of the Second World War



For further information contact Kelly Harper, Communications Assistant:
Tel: 029 2041 6041
Email: kharp@uwic.ac.uk
Web: www.uwic.ac.uk

Glyndwr Publishing
5 Bessant Close
Cowbridge
Vale of Glamorgan
CF71 7HP

‘Bookport’ ‘Maritime Museum’

We at Her Name Was SS. fully support the idea of Barry being the world’s first ‘Book Port’. Barry should become an internationally known centre specialising in language books and maritime literature – with the aim of stimulating regeneration and tourism. Mr Terry Breverton, a publisher and member of the Book Port group, who lectures in marketing and international business management at UWIC Business School in Cardiff, is concerned that Barry might lose a major chance to boost itself internationally.

We also support the concept of a Maritime Museum in Barry with the possibility of a visitor centre, We applaud the work of both Mr. Breverton and Mr. Carradice. When we sought permission to both promote this work and use material in our tribute etc, we were pleased to receive a positive response, The intention is only to use any content in tribute, our intentions are honourable. The reply includes these words: “No problems with whatever you do - I'm not in writing/publishing for money - just to help Wales/Barry along in whatever way I can – cheers”. Terry Breverton. Sir we are in your debt and hope that all of Barry are behind you.

Permission to use material from Welsh Sailors of the Second World War sought and received by Her Name Was Tregenna Web Site, all rights and copyright reserved by the publishers.

**In support of Barry Business we recommend Dolphin Books, King Square, Barry Dock.
We further ask all Barrians and ex pats to support the Barry Remembers Appeal.**