



**Merchant Navy Day**  
Sunday 3rd September 2006  
**Merchant Navy Day Memorial Service Tower Hill London**

*"The thirty two thousand of the Merchant Navy and fishing fleets are honoured on the walls of this garden. They gave their lives for their country and have no grave but the sea."*

**Why is Merchant Navy Day the 3rd September?**

This was the outbreak of war, and it was on this date in 1939, that the first loss to our Merchant Fleet was incurred, when the Liner the S. S. Athenia of the (Anchor Donaldson Line ) was attacked by U.30. 200 miles off the Hebrides, with the loss of 93 passengers and 19 crew.

The Merchant Navy Memorial at Tower Hill records the names of 32,000 seafarers of the Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleets who died in both World Wars and have no known grave but the sea. In the Second World War the Merchant Navy had a higher ratio of casualties than any of the armed services. The total sacrifice during the 20th century is known to be over 46,000 men and women. The [Merchant Navy Association](#) are the lead organisers and sponsors of the Tower Hill Service on the nearest Sunday to Merchant Navy Day every year.

**LOCATION**

Merchant Navy Memorial  
Trinity Square Gardens  
Tower Hill  
London  
EC3N

Nearest Tube Station: Tower Hill

From the Vice Chairman MNA: A band of HM Royal Marines will lead the parade of Merchant Navy Standards and Standards of other Associations, followed by serving and retired Merchant Seafarers with other Organisations, leaving Mark Lane (Great Tower Street) for Trinity Square Gardens at 12.30 hours. The First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Jonathan Band KCB ADC will take the salute upon arrival of the Parade in Trinity Square Gardens. The multi-faith Commemorative Service and wreath-laying will be held at the Merchant Navy Memorial.

We anticipate that Trinity Gardens at Tower Hill will be opened to the public at about 11:30 hrs after the police have swept the area. Those wishing to march should assemble in Mark Lane, off Great Tower Street, at 12:00 hrs. The parade will 'march off' at 12:30 hrs, arriving at the gardens 5 minutes later. Those not marching are asked to assemble in the garden before the parade enters for the salute given by The First Sea Lord Admiral Sir Jonathan Band KCB ADC, and Commodore Bob Thornton. Please note that only infirm Merchant Navy personnel and parading marchers are allowed into the lower garden prior to and during the service.

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