



The Arctic Convoy Club of New Zealand

Newsletter
November/December 2023

Dear shipmates, families and friends

Armistice Day commemorated in Wellington



An Act of Remembrance to mark Armistice Day 2023 was held at Pukeahu National War Memorial Park on Saturday 11 November at 11am. The wreath laying ceremony took place at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior.

"We remember the sacrifice of those who lost their lives in the First World War," said Governor-General Dame Cindy Kiro.

Laulu Mac Leauanae, Secretary for Culture and Heritage said, "Each year on 11 November we come together at Pukeahu National War Memorial Park to commemorate the signing of the Armistice in 1918".

"11 November is an opportunity to reflect and honour those who have died in all conflicts, not only those during the First World War".

Veterans' Affairs Minister Meka Whaitiri said in her commemorative address "We are reminded that peace is a fragile thing, when conflict, discrimination and the terrors of war dominate daily for many around the globe."

An estimated 16,000 New Zealand soldiers were killed and 40,000 more injured during combat in Europe during the four-year war – a higher casualty rate per capita than any other country involved.

Whaitiri, National MP Tim van de Molen, Chief of Defence Air Marshal Kevin Short, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Ahmad Salem Alwehaib, RSA national president Sir Wayne Shelford, and VC winner Willie Apiata laid wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior.

Whaitiri also said in her speech that although the number of veterans of all wars grow fewer with time, their mana "endures and passes through the generations."

Armistice Day was also commemorated in Christchurch. The Memorial Gates of Lancaster Park were rededicated after having been damaged in the 2011 earthquakes.

Russian Arctic Convoy Museum Tripadvisor® 2023 Travelers' Choice® Award Winners!

The Russian Arctic Convoy Museum at Wester Ross, Aultbea on the shores of Loch Ewe, Scotland has been recognised by Tripadvisor as a 2023 Travelers' Choice award winner.

The coveted award celebrates businesses that have consistently received great traveller reviews on Tripadvisor over the last 12 months, placing these winners among the 10% of all listings on Tripadvisor globally.

"We are delighted to receive this award, which reflects the quality of the exhibits in the museum and, more importantly, the work of the museum staff and volunteers who make a visit to the museum a memorable occasion. The comments in our visitor book bear testimony to this." – Francis Russell, RACP Chairman.



"Congratulations to the 2023 Tripadvisor Travelers' Choice winners," said John Boris, Chief Growth Officer at Tripadvisor.

"The travel resurgence we've seen throughout the past year has even further heightened the competition.

"Earning a Travelers' Choice Award demonstrates that you have provided great experiences to those who matter most: your guests. With changing expectations, continued labour shortages, and rising costs, this is no easy feat, and I am continually impressed with the hospitality industry's resilience and ability to adapt.

"Cheers to another successful year!"

Refer: <https://racmp.co.uk/>

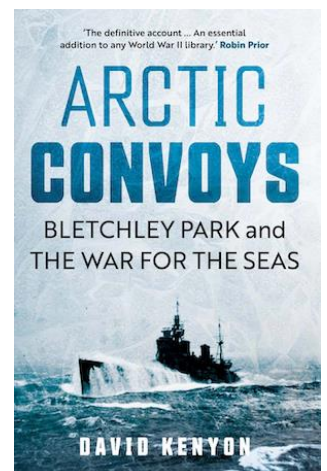
Book discusses Bletchley Park's role in the Arctic Convoys

An incisive account of the Arctic convoys, and the essential role Bletchley Park and Special Intelligence played in Allied success, has recently been published.

Between 1941 and 1945, more than eight hundred shiploads of supplies were delivered to the Soviet Union protected by allied naval forces.

Each journey was a battle against the elements, with turbulent seas, extreme cold, and the constant dread of torpedoes.

These Arctic convoys have been said to be as defenceless vessels at the mercy of deadly U-boats - but was this really the case?



David Kenyon explores the story of the war in the Arctic, revealing that the contest was more evenly balanced than previously thought.

Battles included major ship engagements, aircraft carriers, and combat between surface ships. Amid this wide range of forces, Bletchley Park's Naval Section played a decisive role in Arctic operations, with both sides relying heavily on Signals Intelligence to intercept and break each other's codes.

Kenyon presents a vivid picture of the Arctic theatre of war, unearthing the full-scale campaign for naval supremacy in northern waters.

David Kenyon is a research historian at Bletchley Park. He has worked on numerous historical television and film projects, including acting as historical advisor to *Warhorse* in 2010. His books include *Bletchley Park and D-Day* and *Horsemen in No Man's Land*.

<https://yalebooks.co.uk/book/9780300269444/arctic-convoys/>

Arctic Convoy Vodka



The Royal Naval Association (RNA) in the UK has created *Arctic Convoy Vodka*, adding to the already available "1921 Reserve" Navy Strength Gin.

Arctic Convoy Vodka is a small batch Vodka (40% proof) made in conjunction with the Handmade Gin Company for the Royal Naval Reserve Officers' Club, Liverpool (the Sea Urchins) to commemorate the sailing of the first convoy from Liverpool to Archangelsk in August 1941. (Operation Dervish).

It sells in the UK for £33 and the RNA receives 10% for each bottle sold, so apart from drinking a smooth Vodka there's a little help for the Association!

BBC seeks contact with WW2 veterans

Ahead of the 80th anniversary of the end of World War Two, in 2025, the BBC is trying to gather as many first-hand accounts from surviving veterans as possible, to preserve them for future generations.

Working with a number of partners, including the Normandy Memorial Trust and the Royal British Legion, the BBC has already spoken to many men and women who served during the War - You can watch their testimonies on the "[We Were There](#)" page.

If you have story to share, or know someone who does, please use the form below to tell us a little bit more. Some of the stories collected will be shared with our partners and all will be used on BBC News platforms.

Do you or does someone you know have memories of World War Two? Please share these experiences by emailing haveyoursay@bbc.co.uk

Please include a contact number if you are willing to speak to a BBC journalist. You can also get in touch in the following ways:

WhatsApp: +44 7756 165803

Tweet: @BBC_HaveYourSay

[Upload pictures or video](#)

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Colin Christensen laid to rest



Our long time member Colin Christensen (HMS Zealous) and his wife Christine were laid to rest on Friday 29 September 2023.

Their ashes were interred together at Kelvin Grove cemetery in Palmerston North attended by local family members and those visiting from Australia.

In the picture at left, our Associate member Stephen Christensen, Colin's son, is on the right.



Up Spirits!



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