

Convoy Cup 2009

The Convoy Cup is an annual race across the Norwegian sea from Norway to Scotland to celebrate the incredible work done during World War 11 by the seamen who protected the convoy ships which were taking provisions and other necessities across to occupied Norway.

In previous years the race has ended at one of the towns on the Moray coast but this year they decided to come to Orkney - and they enjoyed themselves so much they intend returning next year!

They tied up in Kirkwall early in the week commencing July 6th. The Orkney Sailing Club looked after them splendidly and at the prize-giving on Wednesday evening a wonderful time was had by all. They had asked specifically to be taken to the graves of the young Norwegian sailors buried in St Olav cemetery. They knew about them as we in ONFA honour them every 17th May. Several members of the ONFA committee were therefore present at the prizegiving in the Girnol.

On the Thursday morning we assembled at Kirkwall pierhead and, having divided the group among two minibuses and two private cars, we headed off for the cemetery. We had a short prayer, then a Norwegian poem followed by the Laurence Binyon poem "For the Fallen". A yachtsman read another Norwegian poem and we sang "Ja, vi elsker dette landet" (the Norwegian national anthem). There was a quiet ceremonial laying of a wreath and then Kenny McGregor played a lament.



Wreath laid at Royal Oak Memorial, Scapa

room where the tables were laid out for us. I am not sure of the total number but places had been laid for thirty-four and most were filled. We helped ourselves to an excellent selection of simple sandwiches (which were delicious) and then we were served tattie and leek soup. We had some fun with the lads, teaching them to say "tatties" properly. We finished with good strong coffee which was much appreciated by the yachtsmen. Their spokesman gave a short speech of thanks and presented ONFA with some booklets and leaflets. He made sure also that there were enough lapel pins for the ONFA committee - these are small replicas of the Convoy Cup motif with the banner saying in English "Honouring those who served"

The lads were partly eager to go forth and explore Kirkwall and partly unwilling for the 'party' to end as they were thoroughly enjoying themselves. The weather forecast was such that most of them were heading back home that afternoon.

I, for one, am looking forward to meeting them again.

DM Anderson

For more information about the Convoy Cup you can find it at

www.convoycup.no



Piper Kenny McGregor and others at St Olav's.

We all piled into our vehicles again and set off for the Royal Oak Memorial where again a wreath was laid and we spent some thoughtful moments. Then it was back to the transport and we drove down to the 'Shore', filing through to the dining

New ONFA website can be found at
www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/ONFA

Ishbel and Colin are updating it meantime so if you have any photos, articles etc that we could use please get in touch