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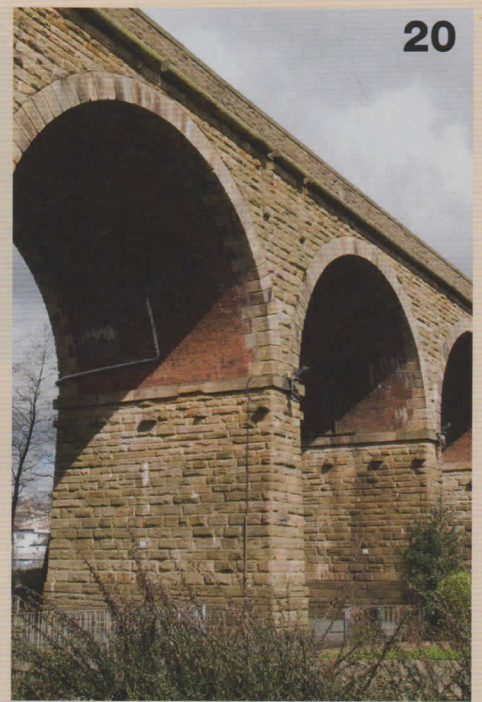
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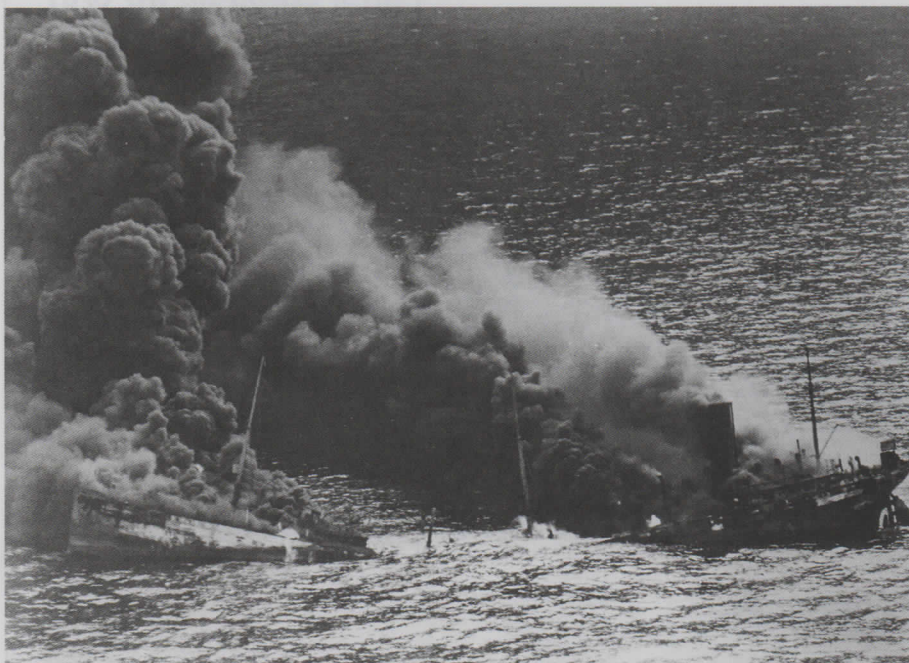
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The Battle of the Atlantic – a national memorial in Liverpool?

by Andrew Harris



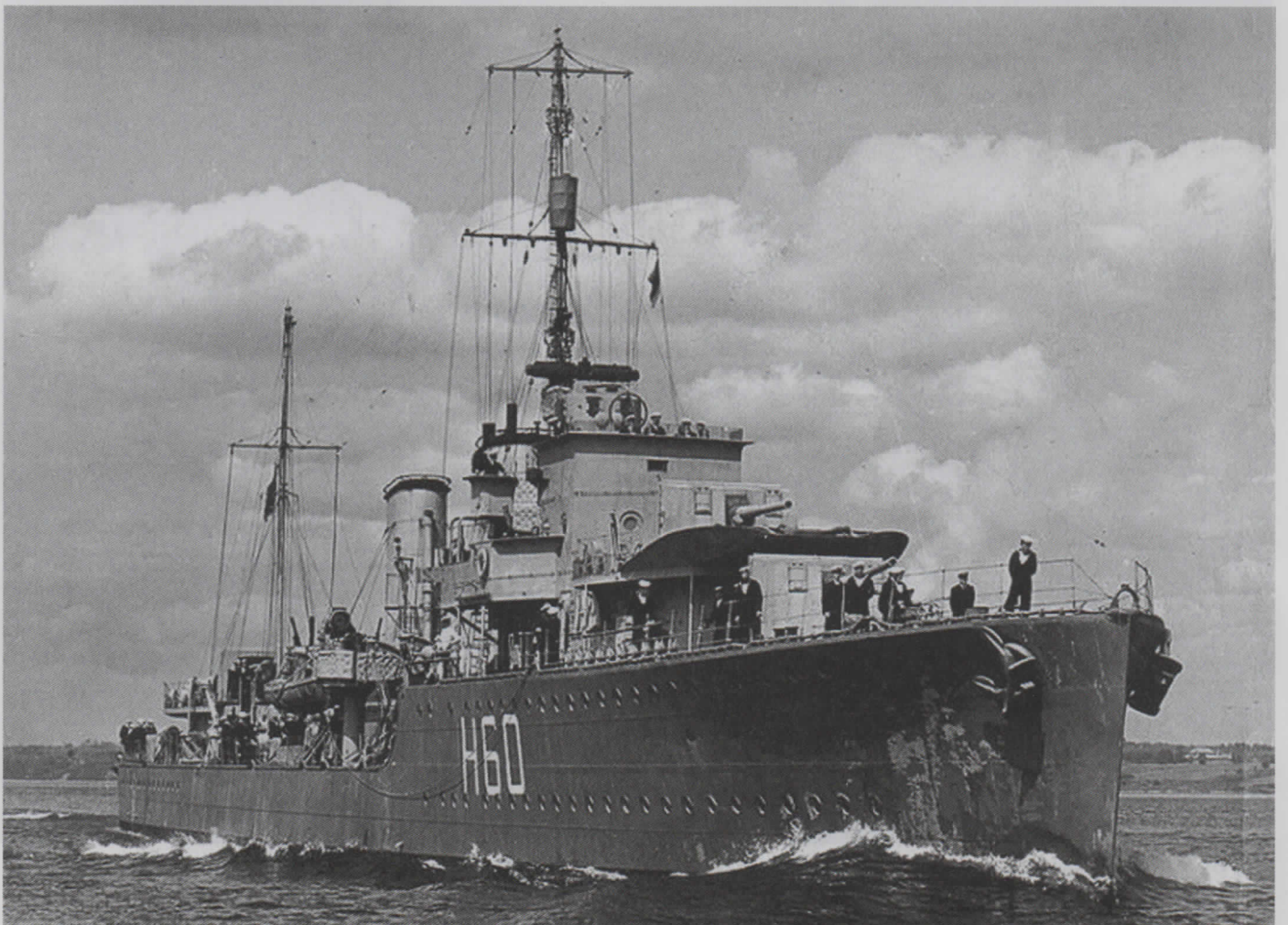
The Battle of the Atlantic was the only campaign which lasted 68 long months from the beginning to the end of World War 2. By the middle of 1943 the allies were winning but – although the fog of war precludes exact numbers - the battle ultimately

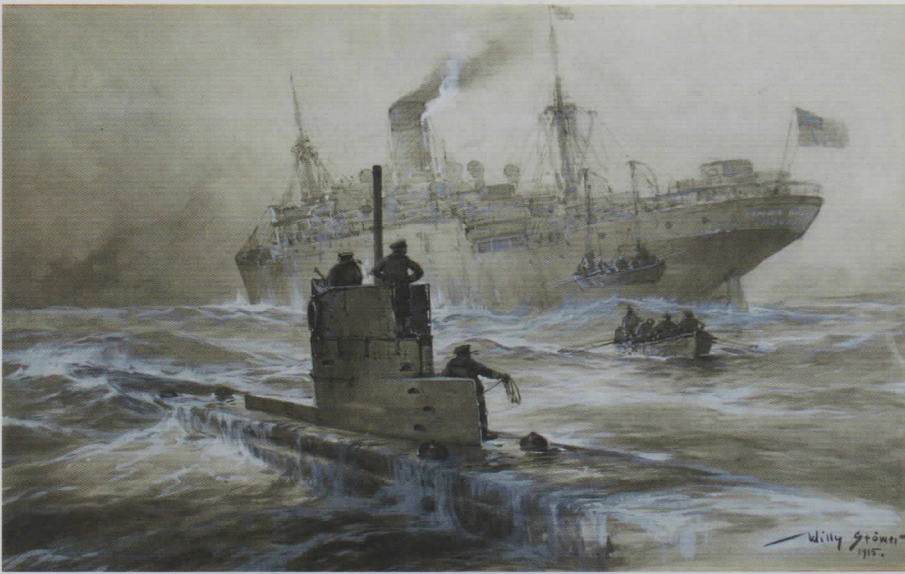
cost the lives of 100,000 men who crewed warships, merchantmen, aircraft and submarines plus the men, women and children who perished in stricken passenger ships. It was vital to Britain's survival and success. Winston Churchill said "*The Battle of the Atlantic*

was the dominating factor all through the war. Never for one moment could we forget that everything happening elsewhere, on land at sea or in the air depended ultimately on its outcome." The Battle of Britain and the Bomber Command campaign were no less heroic but they have national memorials. It is a shocking fact that, despite its importance and the loss of life which resulted, there is no national memorial to the Battle of the Atlantic. The need is to remedy this injustice and achieve a permanent memorial to all those who died before we lose the remaining survivors. In a spirit of reconciliation the international memorial will commemorate the loss of life by all combatant countries.

There is also a need to remind and educate later generations about the sacrifice of all those who fought the Battle of the Atlantic in the hope that the human race can avoid such conflicts in the future.

The original plan was to buy back the wartime Black Swan sloop HMS Whimbrel from Egypt but the deal fell through. The better alternative of an easily accessed, maintained and durable





prayer “They shall grow not old as (those) that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning We will remember them.” It is hoped to achieve this much-needed memorial in 2020.

The delivery vehicle for this project is the Battle of the Atlantic Memorial Project – a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee number 5291474 which is registered charity number 1109312. The charity is controlled by a Board of 11 Trustees chaired by Vice-Admiral Michael Gretton CB CVO MA FNI Ret'd and comprises four retired RN Commodores or Captains and the Merseyside chairman of the Merchant Navy Association plus experts in regeneration, charity law and museums. The Trustees include the son of the (then) Commander Peter Gretton and grandson of Captain Johnny Walker who both pioneered tactics for fighting U Boats in World War 2. Full information about the charity and its progress can be found at www.battleoftheatlantic.org

memorial on land has been adopted. As virtually all convoys originated and arrived on the Mersey – and the Derby House HQ of Western Approaches Command which masterminded the battle was nearby – the memorial will be on the Liverpool waterfront near the world-famous Albert Dock and the

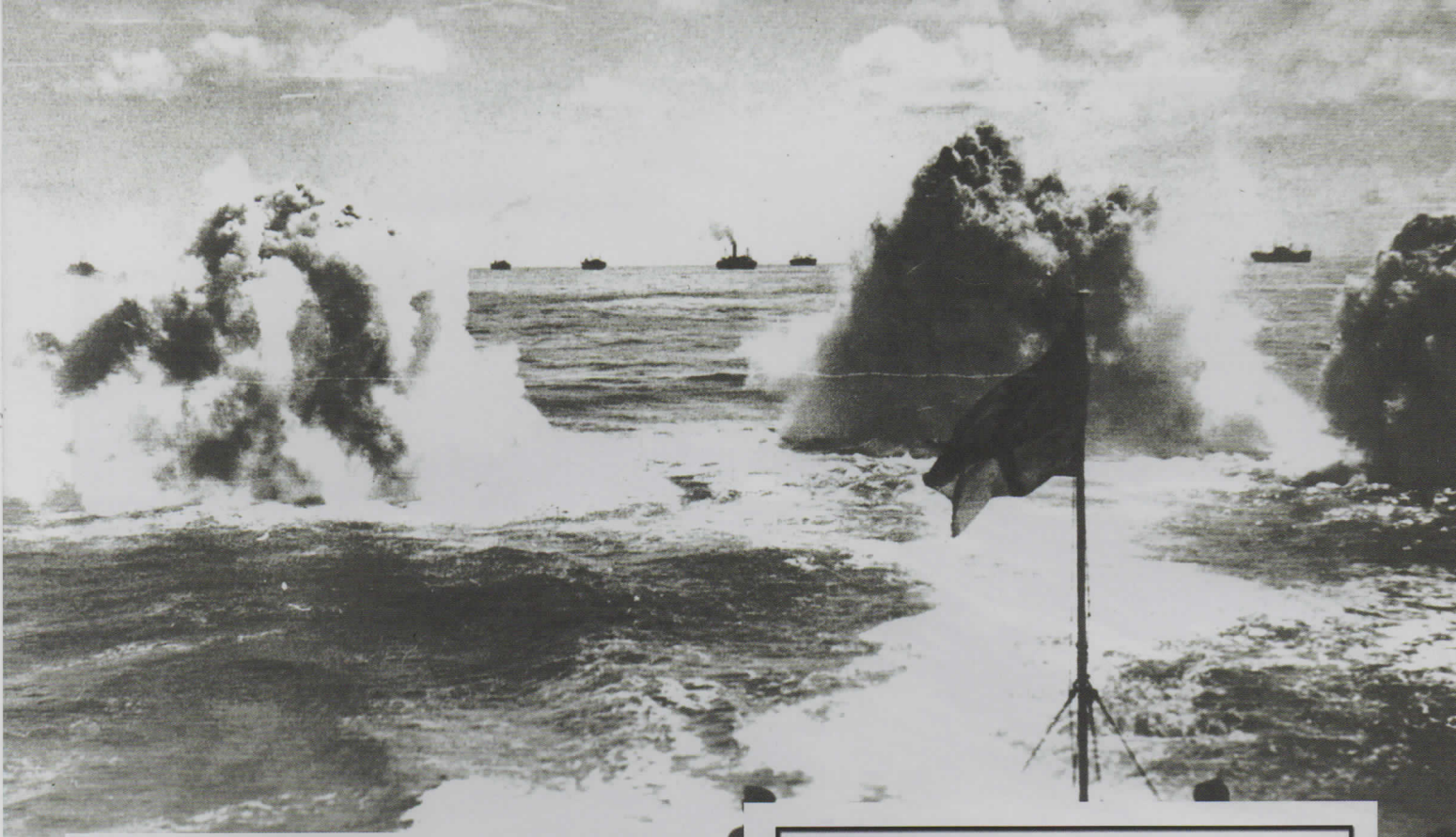
Museum of Liverpool. This location will enable people to visit with ease and assemble in safety to remember and pay tribute to all those who lost their lives or survived. It will be a fitting memorial to the bravery and sacrifice of so many who may otherwise be forgotten. It will give meaning to Laurence Binyon's



The Plot Room in the HQ of Western Approaches Command as it was in World War 2. This picture by kind permission of the photographer Mark Carline and Big Heritage as custodian of the Museum.



The fortunes of the convoys changed with better air cover.



WANT TO KNOW MORE?

- See our Oct 2016 article about the Royal Navy in the North West. It's under Published Articles at www.andrewharris.co.uk
- Visit the preserved Western Approaches HQ in Rumford Street L2 8SZ. Entry £10.50 with concessions for the old, young, students & families. Open 10-5 daily except Wednesdays. More details at www.liverpoolwarmuseum.co.uk or 0151 227 2008.
- Visit the Merseyside Maritime Museum which features the Battle of the Atlantic. It is at Liverpool's Albert Dock. Entry is free and it's open 10-5 daily. For more information go to www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk
- Google 'Battle of the Atlantic' for a choice of additional sources.
- Read 'The Battle of the Atlantic - How the allies won the war' by Jonathan Dimbleby. Available from all good bookshops price £8.99. It was first published in 2015 and is recommended.



The site for the proposed memorial at the Liverpool Waterfront which saw convoys depart and return

After a tender selection process in 2017 the architects Donald Insall Associates were selected to complete the memorial when fundraising permits. The firm are based in Chester and London and will be supported by a sculptor to be appointed. Impressive examples of their work include the Battle of Britain Memorial on London's Embankment and the Iraq and Afghanistan Memorial in the Victoria Embankment Gardens also in London.

Contributions towards the cost of £2.5 million are invited. Small donations of £5-100 are disproportionately important and helpful as they demonstrate support for the project. Such support will enable the charity to apply for major grants from the national lottery and/or other sources. Larger donations will reduce the size of grants needed and evidence large-scale support so everything helps.

If you would like to donate and make this project possible please visit www.battleoftheatlantic.org which offers you the choice of donating via The Big Give or directly by using your debit or credit card. If your Trust or Company is prepared to consider a larger grant please contact the charity on info@battleoftheatlantic.org or by calling +44 (0)1243 545939 or write to The Battle of the Atlantic Memorial Project, Bayley's Barn, Norton Lane, Norton, Chichester, West Sussex PO20 3NH. The charity will be pleased to supply you with more

detailed information in the form of a Business Plan tailored to your interest.

On behalf of all those who died in or survived the Battle of the Atlantic and their families and friends the appeal charity and your columnist thank you for whatever you are able and willing to donate.

Andrew Harris – www.andrewharris.co.uk – supports the Battle of the Atlantic Memorial Project which he is assisting with fundraising. He gratefully acknowledges the help provided by various Royal Navy and Royal Air Force sources and Bridge Graphics of Southport in the preparation of this article. The historic images cannot be attributed but are used in support of charitable objectives. This article is dedicated to those of all nations who served in the Battle of the Atlantic and their surviving families and descendants.

