

Irish Merchant Seamens National Memorial Dublin: Name Error:

In 2014 a UK relative of the SS Ardmore crew submitted concerns to the President of Ireland that the name of his relative lost on the SS Ardmore in 1940 was not included on the roll of honour of the Irish Merchant Seamens Memorial located on City Quay Dublin. This query was eventually routed to me for explanation. In case that query may come up again:



For the record:

Following the April 1998 SS Ardmore Commemorative Mass held in Cork, one reviewed ALL medal files relevant to the Emergency held by the Mercantile Marine office in Eden Quay, Dublin. Errors re some classes of Medal awards were discovered and corrected by the Department. However, the name error on the Memorial in City Quay was never corrected. Even though people including Captain Frank Forde author of the Long Watch were advised and despite pointing out the error, the Long Watch re-published circa 2001/2002 again included the wrong name in the Ardmore crew list. One subsequently got onto the publishers and nothing ever happened. Unfortunately the error in name on the National Seamen's Memorial has to date not been corrected. Indeed, it may not be possible as ownership of the memorial is also an issue. However attached pdf http://www.irishseamensrelativesassociation.com/SS_Ardmore_Crew_1940_The_History.pdf which was deleted from the website some years ago may give some insight into the how and the when, regarding the error on the memorial and the background re the SS Ardmore project.

Peter Mulvany BCL, HDip Arts Admin
<http://www.irishseamensrelativesassociation.com>

Extract from the Records of "Irish seamen's Association"

Mr A Murphy a Fireman aged 56 years from Main Street, Passage West in Cork was not a member of the crew of the SS Ardmore when she sailed for Fishguard on Monday 11th of November 1940. His name has erroneously been included in some bibliography and on the National Seamen's Memorial located at City Quay, Dublin. There were no survivors from the SS Ardmore sunk on the 12th of November 1940. In deference to the crews lost on Irish vessels relatives are entitled to an expectation of authenticity when information is being published. The publicity surrounding the medal presentation in Cork in April 1998 prompted a complaint from the Dalgarno family that they had not been included in the ceremony. Just to clarify: "We Did Not Know" about Joseph Dalgarno, as we had relied on Frank Fordes Book "The Long Watch" for corroboration of the crew lists. This query prompted a full search of all the Department of Marine files relevant to awards of service medals to seamen lost on Irish vessels during the Emergency years. Following this review, some classes of medals had been found to have been issued in error and as far as possible those families affected were contacted and the position rectified. However the error of the names on the memorial has never been rectified even though those concerned were advised of the error. In 1999 the correct names were included on the SS Ardmore Memorial plaque on the Penrose Quay Cork which was the families response. The plaque in Cork was funded by the Dept of Marine