

## Medals Presented in Scotland

Irish Wartime Merchant Marine Medals were presented overseas for the first time this year when two medals were presented in Scotland. The first ceremony took place during the 1999 Tall Ships Race in Greenock on Saturday, July 31<sup>st</sup>., when Captain Simon Aldetson of S.T.V. *'Asgard II'*, on behalf of the Minister for the Marine, Dr. Michael Woods, T.D., presented a Medal and Certificate to Mrs. Margaret Kerr of Lochranza, Isle of Arran; she received these as a niece of Captain Neil Hendry, Master of the *'St. Fintan'*, sunk with all hands by German aircraft on 22<sup>nd</sup>. March 1941. Captain Hendry had served on the vessel since her completion at Troon in Ayrshire in 1921.

The second ceremony took place in Stornaway on the Isle of Lewis, when Ireland's first Consul-General to Scotland presented a Medal and Certificate to Mrs. Jean Morrison who is the closest relative of Alexander MacLeod who was killed aboard the Dublin Trawler *'Leukos'* together with all his shipmates when she was sunk by a single shell from the German Submarine U-38 off Tory Island on March 9<sup>th</sup> 1940.

The relatives of two other Scottish Seamen are still being sought by the Irish Government. They are of Mr. James Howat of Craigilea, Paisley, Renfrewshire who was Chief Engineer on the *'St. Fintan'*, referred to earlier, and a young Radio Officer, Robert J. Crichton from Wellington Street, Edinburgh who was killed aboard the s.s. *'Irish Pine'* when she was torpedoed in the North Atlantic in November 1942.

These presentation ceremonies were as a result of the tireless work carried out by Mr. Peter Mulvany of Clontarf, Dublin. It is hoped that next year it may be possible to make presentations in Fleetwood, Lancashire, to relatives of the fishermen lost on the *'Leukos'*.

## Wartime Medals

The fourth ceremony to honour the Merchant Seamen who served aboard Irish Vessels, 1939-1945, and for the relatives of those lost during World War II took place in Dublin Castle on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup>. November 1999. Dr. Michael Woods, Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources presented 20 Medals and Certificates.