

SERVICE OF DEDICATION

3 October 2021

National Memorial Arboretum



LISBON MARU

**In memory of 828 prisoners of war
taken captive at the Fall of Hong Kong
on 25 December 1941
who perished between 27 September and 5 October 1942
and over 200 more who died later in captivity**

Officiating Clergy:

The Reverend Canon Roger J Hall, MBE
*Deputy Priest in Ordinary to Her Majesty The Queen
HM Tower of London
Honorary Chaplain to The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment
and to The Queen's Regimental Association*

Assisted by

The Reverend David Conroy, QHC RN
*Principal Roman Catholic Chaplain and Vicar Episcopal, the
Royal Navy Honorary Chaplain to Her Majesty The Queen*

and

The Reverend Iain May, BSc MBA BD
Chaplain, The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) Association

Music before the service

<i>Nimrod; Enigma Variations</i>	<i>Elgar</i>
<i>Finlandia; 'Be still, my soul'</i>	<i>Sibelius</i>
<i>The Evening Hymn 'The day Thou gavest'</i>	<i>Ellerton</i>
<i>'Abide with me'</i>	<i>Lyte</i>
<i>'Hymn of the Lisbon Maru'</i>	<i>Parkinson</i>

**Music during the Laying of Wreaths by Families and Friends
after the Service**

<i>Panis Angelicus</i>	<i>Franck</i>
<i>Ave Verum Corpus</i>	<i>Elgar</i>

WELCOME

Christopher Allanson
Chairman, The Lisbon Maru Memorial Steering Committee

PRAYERS

The Reverend Canon Roger J Hall, MBE

O Almighty God, grant, we beseech thee,
that we who here do honour to the memory of
those who died in the service of their country
and of the Crown, may be so inspired by
the spirit of their love and fortitude that,
forgetting all selfish and unworthy motives,
we may live only to thy glory and to the service
of mankind through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

The Supreme Sacrifice

Words from a Poem by Sir John Stanhope Arkright

***O valiant hearts who to your glory came
Through dust of conflict and through battle flame;
Tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved,
Your memory hallowed in the land you loved.***

***Proudly you gathered, rank on rank to war
As who had heard God's message from afar;
All you had hoped for, all you had you gave,
To save mankind - yourselves you scorned to save.***

***Long years ago, as earth lay dark and still,
Rose a loud cry upon a lonely hill,
While in the frailty of our human clay,
Christ, our Redeemer, passed the self same way.***

***These were his servants, in his steps they trod,
Following through the death the martyred Son of God:
Victor, he rose: victorious too shall rise
They who have drunk his cup of sacrifice.***

***O risen Lord, O Shepherd of our dead,
Whose cross has bought them and whose staff has led,
In glorious hope their proud and sorrowing land
Commits her children to thy gracious hand.***

Gustav Holst

The Lord's Prayer

Readings

The Old Testament - A reading from the book of the Prophet Micah, Chapter 4, Verses 1-5

Major General DW Southall, CBE

Representing the President of The Corps of Royal Engineers Association

The New Testament - A reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew, Chapter 5, Verses 1-14

Major General D McDowall, CBE

Chairman, Royal Corps of Signals Association

INTRODUCTION TO THE UNVEILING

Major BK Finch, MCIL, late 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment

Translator (from Chinese): A Faithful Record of the "Lisbon Maru" Incident

THE INVOCATION

The Reverend Canon Roger J Hall, MBE

THE UNVEILING AND DEDICATION

Admiral of the Fleet the Lord Boyce, KG GCB OBE DL

Chief of the Defence Staff 2001-2003

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

Laying of Wreaths

Royal Navy and the Corps of Royal Marines Associations,
Royal Regiment of Artillery and the Corps of Royal Engineers Associations,
Royal Corps of Signals and The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) Associations,
The Queen's Regimental Association,
(on behalf of The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own)),
Royal Army Service Corps and Royal Army Medical Corps Associations,
Royal Army Dental Corps Association (on behalf of the Army Dental Corps),
The Royal Hong Kong Regiment Association
(on behalf of The Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps),
The Merchant Navy and the St John Ambulance.

The Exhortation

'For the Fallen'

Colonel AAA Beattie

President, The Queen's Regimental Association

They shall grow not old, as we 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.

Robert Laurence Binyon, CH

All: We will remember them.

Last Post: Buglers, Royal Marines
Regimental Lament: 'Lochaber No More': Pipers, The Royal Scots

Silence

Reveille: Buglers, Royal Marines

The Kohima Epitaph

Brigadier GE Lowder, MBE
President, The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) Association

***When you go home tell them of us and say,
For your tomorrow, we gave our today.***

PRAYERS

The Reverend David Conroy, QHC RN

Teach us good Lord to serve Thee as Thou deservest;
To give, and not to count the cost,
To fight, and not to heed the wounds,
To toil, and not to seek for rest,
To labour, and not to ask for any reward,
Save that of knowing that we do Thy will.

St. Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556)

The Naval Prayer

The Naval Hymn

***Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bade the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.***

***O Christ, whose voice the waters heard
And hushed their raging at Thy word,
Who walked upon the foaming deep,
And calm amidst its storm didst sleep:
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea.***

***Most Holy Spirit, who didst brood
Upon the waters dark and rude,
And bid its angry tumult cease,
And give, for wild confusion, peace:
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.***

***O Trinity of love and power,
Our brethren's shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them wheresoe'er they go;
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.***

Rev. William Whiting, (1825-1878)

THE COLLECT
of
The Royal Regiment of Artillery

Brigadier MN Pountain, CBE
Chairman, The Royal Regiment of Artillery Association

O Lord Jesus Christ, who dost everywhere lead Thy people in the way
of righteousness,
Vouchsafe so to lead the Royal Regiment of Artillery that wherever we serve,
On land or sea or in the air, we may win the glory of doing Thy will.

Amen

PRAYERS

The Reverend Iain May

Families and Friends invited to lay wreaths

The Blessing

The Reverend Canon Roger J Hall, MBE

May the road rise up to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face;
the rains fall soft upon your fields until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

The Introduction to the Unveiling,
delivered by Major BK Finch, was prepared in consultation with Tony Banham,
the author of *'The Sinking of the Lisbon Maru'*

Buglers provided by The Royal Marines
by kind permission of Captain M Weites RM,
Director of Music of the Band of HM Royal Marines Portsmouth (Royal Band)

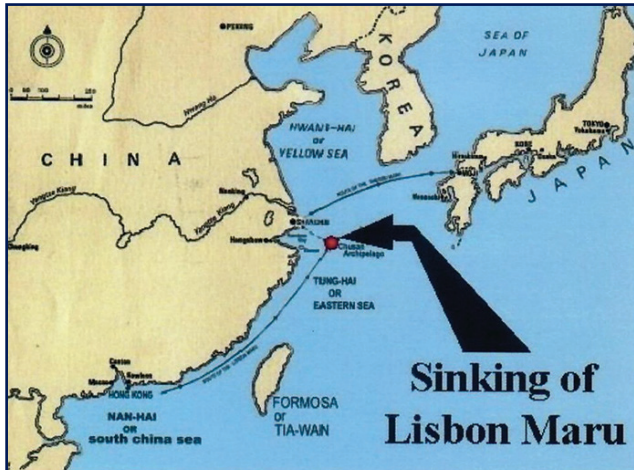
Ushers provided by The Household Division
by kind permission of Major General CJ Ghika, CBE
GOC London District and Major General Household Division

Pipers provided by The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) Association
by kind permission of Brigadier GE Lowder, MBE

The Band of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment
by kind permission of Lieutenant Colonel TJ Petransky

'The Hymn of the Lisbon Maru'
by kind permission of Ian Parkinson

The Sinking of the *Lisbon Maru*



On 27 September 1942 the *Lisbon Maru*, a Japanese armed freighter with Japanese troops on board, sailed from Hong Kong bound for Japan. It also carried 1,816 British prisoners of war held in atrocious conditions. Cramped, airless, and in unimaginable squalor they were incarcerated below deck in three cargo holds. The freighter bore no markings to indicate their presence.

On 1 October an American submarine, the USS *Grouper*, on patrol off the Zhoushan archipelago in the East China Sea, engaged the *Lisbon Maru* holding it below the waterline. Although initially taken under tow, the line snapped and the ship drifted and foundered. The Japanese evacuated their troops, battened down the hatches over the holds and left a guard force to prevent the prisoners from escaping. For 24 hours the prisoners were held in sub-human conditions in darkness with no food, water, fresh air or sanitation; and dysentery was rife.

There was a breakout before the ship sank the next day and many of the prisoners of war escaped from the two forward holds, some of whom were cut down by machine-gun fire. Most of those in the third hold, by then below the waterline, tragically drowned.

Those who did escape were shot at in the water as they attempted to swim to the shore; many were killed or wounded but local Chinese fishermen courageously rescued 384 of the survivors. Later, the Japanese recaptured all but three.

Of the original 1,816 men on board 828 died in this terrible atrocity and a further 200 or more succumbed from their sufferings within a few months.

Detail of the sinking of The Lisbon Maru, after a drawing by Lieutenant W.C. Johnson, US Navy from accounts of survivors when he was imprisoned with them in a prisoner of war camp in Japan.

Image, courtesy of the National Army Museum, London.