Captain Michael Mortimer
June 10, 1927 – October 11, 1920

Michael was born in Surrey, England, the youngest of two children, moving to Devon and then at age 13 to the Bournemouth/Poole area until leaving for Australia in 1983.

He attended the Southampton Nautical College during 1943/44 and in May '44 signed his indentures with the Royal Mail Lines, a company which in one form or another, he continued with until retiring in 1982.

His training at Southampton coincided with the enormous military build-up in preparation for the D-Day landings which commenced on June 6, 1944.

In the same month, Michael embarked on his first overseas voyage in a navel convoy across the Atlantic to New York to obtain supplies and equipment for delivery back to England.

His second voyage over a period of nine months during 1944/45 took him to South Africa, the east coast of Africa, India, Fremantle, Australia and Sri Lanka.

Over the years he quickly advanced his marine qualifications and in 1950 was appointed first mate.

He found time between voyages and study to marry Betty on November 11, 1950. He and Betty had eight children. Judging from various telegrams, he was absent for most of the births.

In 1954, he obtained his Certificate of Competency as a 'Master of a Foreign Going Steamship'.

Sadly, in 1980, Betty passed away from cancer.

In 1982 he took some long service leave and caught up with a lady whom he had previously met whilst she was teaching English in Buenos Aires. They were married in Australia in February 1982, before returning to England. The same year, Michael retired and he and Gay returned to Australia to reside in Coogee, NSW.

Sadly, Gay passed away also from cancer, in 1998.

During retirement, Michael obtained qualifications in oxyacetylene and electric arc welding, woodwork and tapestry.

The wording which Michael requested for his internment includes two references –
Firstly, the words 'Per Mare Ubique'. (Everywhere by sea). The Latin motto for the Royal Mail Lines. Secondly, the words 'Crossed the Bar'.