

Ronald S Wylie  
18<sup>th</sup> March 1921 – 4<sup>th</sup> February 2023  
Member of the League



Ron Wylie will be long remembered for his establishment of a Merchant Navy Committee in 2002 to work for the recognition of Merchant Navy Day. His efforts were finally rewarded with the declaration of 3<sup>rd</sup> September as Merchant Navy Day by Governor General Michael Jefferies under Government legislation on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2008.

The first Merchant Navy Commemoration was held at the Mosman War Memorial on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2009 with the attendance of NSW Governor Dame Marie Bashir. The commemoration continues to be held at Mosman every 3<sup>rd</sup> of September.

Ron was born at Paddington Woman's Hospital to Ann & Alfred Wylie in 1921 and growing up around Mosman attending Mosman Public School and Neutral Bay Intermediate High School where he passed his Intermediate Certificate in 1936. He was also active in the cubs, First Port Jackson Sea Scouts and Mosman Rowing Club.

In 1937 Ron was accepted as Deck Apprentice with Burns Philp & Co, on MV Merkur commencing four years training. He was to spend the next 30 years in the company's employ on their passenger and cargo vessels.

During the period 1939- 1945 he saw service on MV Neptuna Dec 1939, (sank in the Japanese attack on Darwin February 19<sup>th</sup> 1942), SS Montoro, SS Mangola and SS Marella.

During the war Ron served in various theatres engaged in the evacuation of civilians ahead of the advancing Japanese forces and later transporting troops and supplies to the front lines.

By 1945 Ron was sailing as Second Mate with Burns Philp and in November of that year the company requested that he come ashore and work as Foreman Stevedore overseeing the loading and discharge of the company's vessels in Sydney. He eventually returned to sea as Second Mate in 1968 on the company's vessels.

At the end of his career he retired to his home in Mosman.

Ron's memories of his childhood can be found in Mosman Memories on the net under recollections of a young lad.

Thanks for the assistance of Geoff Wall of the Merchant Navy Association.

