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IN MEMORIAM

Over 24,000 men of the Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleets who lost their lives in the Second World War are named on the new memorial unveiled by the Queen on Tower Hill. The Duke of Gloucester and the Mayor of Stepney greet Her Majesty.

In the sunken garden before the memorial itself, the Queen inspects a guard of honour drawn from the ranks of Britain's merchant fleets. After the inspection the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh are conducted to the platform where the Duke of Gloucester as President of the Imperial War Graves Commission addresses the Queen.

The flags drop away, revealing the panels of names. There are twice as many as on the First World War memorial, not far away; for in 1939-45, our merchant sailors bore a far greater proportion of the Commonwealth's losses than ever before. The Queen lays her wreath before this beautiful memorial which expresses the nation's gratitude to the men who kept open the life-lines of war, and who gave their lives in doing it - the men who have no graves but the sea.

In the English Channel off Newhaven, the R.A.F. remembers a service to which thousands now living owe their survival - the men of Air-Sea Rescue.

A wreath dedicated "To those who gave their lives in saving others" is dropped in the sea, while R.A.F. Fighter Command Chaplain D.M. Rowlands conducts a memorial service. Two minutes' silence ends a simple but moving tribute.

At Customs House, London the wartime dead of the Customs and Excise Service are commemorated. High Civil Service officials and Lord Waverley are present at the unveiling by Chancellor of the Exchequer Mr. R.A. Butler of the service's war memorial.

The names of 275 members of H.M. Customs and Excise who have given their lives are inscribed in this book - a large sacrifice from a small but honourable service.