

## THE INTERNATIONAL MEMORIAL FOR THE BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC



*Submitted by BOAM chairman Vice-Admiral Mike Gretton, whose father Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Gretton served during the battle as an Atlantic Escort Group commander during the battle.*

The name “Battle of the Atlantic” was coined by Winston Churchill in February 1941. It has been called the “longest, largest, and most complex” naval battle in history. The campaign started immediately after the European war began, during the so-called “Phoney War”, and lasted six years, until the German Surrender in May 1945. It involved thousands of ships in more than 100 convoy battles and perhaps 1,000 single-ship encounters, in a theatre covering thousands of square miles of ocean. The situation changed constantly, with one side or the other gaining advantage, as participating countries surrendered, joined, and even changed sides in the war, and as new weapons, tactics, counter-measures, and equipment were developed by both sides. The Allies gradually gained the upper hand, overcoming German surface raiders by the end of 1942 and defeating the U-boats by mid-1943, though losses due to U-boats continued until war’s end. Despite the importance of the Battle the campaign does not have an overall memorial in the UK.

It is planned that the bravery and dedication of all participants will be commemorated in the city which was at the heart of the effort in the United Kingdom – Liverpool. The command headquarters of the campaign was in Liverpool, and many of the warships and merchant vessels were based there.

A site for the memorial has been selected close to the Pier Head and Canada Boulevard, the Merseyside Maritime Museum, and the Albert Dock and sculptor Paul Day has been commissioned to develop the design to reflect a Liberty ship, and friezes to tell the story of the campaign.

The initial costing estimate for this project is in the order of £2.5M. The long term plan is of an unveiling date in 2019.

*For further information: [www.battleoftheatlantic.org](http://www.battleoftheatlantic.org)*