

***The Waters Hear* by Ali Harwood**

The Waters Hear is a painting exhibition of ships built at Cammell Laird which served in the Battle of the Atlantic. It is part of a collection commissioned in 2020 by the Birkenhead company for their Battle of the Atlantic Memorial Room. Between 1939 and 1945, thousands of vessels were built or repaired on Merseyside, including HMS Prince of Wales, HMS Rodney and RMS Mauretania.

The Battle of the Atlantic was a long and complex naval battle involving both the military and the Merchant Navy. Liverpool's ships and merchant seamen played a crucial part in ensuring Britain's survival, alongside her dock labourers, shipbuilders and ship repairers.

Most British and Allied ships crossing the Atlantic were organised into convoys. In February 1941, Western Approaches Command was moved to Liverpool, the country's main convoy port.

After the German invasion of Russia in June 1941, convoys to northern ports in the Soviet Union became crucial for both Britain and Russia. HMS Inglefield, HMS Kite and HMS Douglas were all involved in these important operations.

On a sailor's grave, there are no roses. This is according to a German folk song sung during the war. However, as intimated by William Whiting in his hymn associated with seafarers, the waters hear.
And we remember.

Thank you to Cammell Laird for your loan to Liverpool Parish Church.