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The important role played by the Merchant Navy during the First and Second World Wars will be recognised in Peterborough.

Members of the public are invited to attend a ceremony to mark Merchant Navy Day and pay tribute to the sacrifices of seafarers.

The Red Ensign, the Merchant Navy's official flag, will be raised near the War Memorial in Bridge Street, Peterborough, at 10am on Monday 3 September.

Merchant Navy Day is the annual celebration of the British Merchant Navy, with the memorial service held for seafarers who died at sea in the First and Second World Wars.

Such was the sacrifice of the Merchant Service during the First World War that King George V decreed in 1928 that they should be known as the 'Merchant Navy'.

By the end of the Second World War more than 4,700 British ships had been sunk and more than 35,000 Merchant Seamen had lost their lives.

Peterborough City Council is supporting the event which is promoted nationally by Seafarers UK, a charity that helps people in the maritime community.

The ceremony, which starts at 9.55am, will be led by the Mayor of Peterborough, Councillor Chris Ash alongside The Reverend Canon Ian Black from Peterborough Cathedral.

The Mayor said: "Merchant Navy Day is such an important event and I hope many people will attend this ceremony.

"It is vital that people don't forget the sacrifices made for them by previous generations and this ceremony will publicly recognise the work, loyalty and dedication to duty of the men and women who serve in the British Merchant Navy."