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Holy Rood
Merchant Navy Memorial

11.3.57

Holy Rood Merchant Navy memorial will be unveiled in April

PROVISIONAL arrangements have been made for the dedication of the Holy Rood Merchant Navy Memorial. It will take place at noon on April 10.

The church is to be established as a memorial and shrine in memory of members of the British Mercantile Marine who lost their lives during the last war.

The proposed order of ceremony has been approved by the Bishop of Southampton (the Rt. Rev. K. E. N. Lamplugh) and, in addition to the Bishop, the Vicar of St. Michael's (the Rev. K. W. H. Felstead), and the Chaplain to the Missions to Seamen (Canon J. W. Clift) will take part in the service.

Two hymns will be sung: "O God, our help in ages past" and "Eternal Father, strong to save."

During the service, Capt. Sir C. Ivan Thompson will unveil the memorial plaque which, up to that moment, will be covered by the Red Ensign.

THE UNVEILING

Sir Ivan will read an address in exhortation of the merchant seamen and will then unveil the plaque. This will be followed by the sounding of the Last Post.

The Bishop of Southampton will then dedicate the memorial, followed by Reveille and the Blessing, pronounced by the Bishop, and the singing of the National Anthem.

Music will be played by the Southampton Police Band and the bugle calls will be sounded by Cadet B. R. K. Nicholl, of TS "Mercury."

Although the cadets of the "Mercury" will be on leave on April 10, the Captain Superintendent of the Training School (Cmdr. M. S. Bradby) has arranged, with the agreement of Cadet Nicholl—who lives at Christchurch—to come to Southampton for this purpose.

It is intended that cadets of the School of Navigation, Warsash, will form a guard of honour on the pavement outside the main entrance of the memorial.

RESERVED SPACE

Space will be reserved for members of the Council inside the memorial—the mayoral party will be robed—and there will be limited accommodation for other people inside with first priority going to widows and close relatives of those of the Merchant Navy who have lost their lives at sea.

The whole of the ceremony, with a short account of the events leading up to the work of preservation of the remains of Holy Rood Church as a memorial and also of the history of the church, will be set out in a brochure which is now being printed.