



The Convoy Cup story

The Convoy Cup Foundation is a joint effort established by the Dartmouth Yacht Club, The Royal Norwegian Consulate, and the Camp Norway Foundation in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Their aim is to honour, through yachting events, the seagoing wartime service of convoy veterans.

The yacht race Convoy Cup is a joint venture between Norway and Canada, in honour of the many thousand seamen who served in the allied convoy duty during World War II.

The Norwegian Consul in Halifax, Steinar Engeset, arranged the first Convoy Cup in 2002 in the waters off Halifax, Canada. This is where the allied convoys used to gather before starting the dangerous voyages across the Atlantic Ocean. When the war ended, more than 300 convoys had sailed off from Halifax.

In 2003, Risør Convoy Cup took on as organizers of the Cup. The following years, Halifax and Risør have alternated as organizers.

When Consul Engeset visited Skudeneshavn Sjømannsforening in 2005, the decision was made for Skudeneshavn Sjømannsforening, Skudefestivalen and Karmøy Seilforening to work together to arrange a special Convoy Cup in the waters off Skudeneshavn. It comes natural that this region of the Norwegian coast takes on the responsibility for a yacht race of this kind, especially in view of the fact that more than hundred war participants from the merchant marine and the Navy came from Skudeneshavn and the adjacent district.

Most of the marine war veterans have passed away, but Convoy Cup will honour both them and those who are still with us.

The 2nd World War started September 3rd 1939, barely 25 years after the 1st World War. Two weeks later, Halifax, Nova Scotia was ready to take its place in the history. Protected by the dark, 18 merchant ships and 4 war ships stole out of Halifax harbour. To honour the war sailors, Canada has declared September 3rd a special memorial day for the marine war veterans.

The following five and a half years, the Halifax Harbours Bedford Basin became the gathering area for convoys that sailed with vital supplies for Great Britain. Merchant ships from many countries, loaded with arms and other war material, left Halifax twice a week, bound for Great Britain, across the dangerous North Atlantic.

Convoy Cup has started a new tradition that will give a deeper meaning to our historical waters.