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Jack Trevor Murn

Jack Trevor Murn, who died on 18 March 2011 aged 89 years, in May 1957 became the first Merchant Navy person to be admitted to membership of the United Service Institution of New South Wales. At the time, membership was only open to officers of Her Majesty's naval, military and air forces, so a special dispensation was required to enable this to occur.

Jack had earlier survived the sinking by torpedo of the E & A Line vessel *Nellore* on 29 June 1944 eight days out of Bombay bound for Australia, and had spent ten days in a lifeboat before rescue. He was then transferred to the Australian Hospital Ship *Manunda* as 2nd Radio Officer where he became a close ship mate of current Institute councillor, Keith Pryor. Together they sailed in that ship for about two years.

Subsequently, Jack went to work for the Government Insurance Office of New South Wales (now GIO NSW) where he reached executive status, and the Chief Executive of GIO at that time, who was a member of the Institution, introduced him and arranged his membership.

Jack was a prolific reader and made great use of the Institute's Library. He became friendly with and greatly admired the late Mrs Ursula Davidson, OAM, the Institute's then librarian. More recently he has been a donor to the Institute's Library Fund.

Keith Pryor

Keith Pryor (on the left) and Jack Murn on board the Australian Hospital Ship *Manunda circa* 1944 [Photo: Keith Pryor]