





WARNING ORDER

HMNZS OLPHERT 90TH ANNIVERSARY 9-11 MARCH 2018

HMNZS OLPHERT is planning to celebrate its 90th Anniversary over the weekend of the 9th – 11th March 2018 and welcome all former RNZN, RNZNVR and Civilian Staff of HMNZS OLPHERT to join us.

We are looking for expressions of interest to attend this event.

A draft program has been devised and consists of:

- A Meet and Greet on the Friday evening at HMNZS OLPHERT,
 - A Dinner on the Saturday evening in Lower Hutt, and
- Church Service, BBQ and informal farewell on the Sunday at OLPHERT.

If you are interested in attending please email your contact details to:

OLPHERT.REUNION@NZDF.MIL.NZ by COB 30th July 2017.

NGAPONA EX MEMBERS ASSN – LONGCAST

8 July 17 – Ngapona Ex members Assn, Mid Year Dinner at Pt Chevalier RSA 1700

21 July 17 - Old Salts Lunch at Papatoetoe RSA

18 August 17 - Old Salts Lunch at Hobsonville RSA

15 September 17 - Old Salts Lunch at Birkenhead RSA

6 October 17 – RNZN Communicators 50th Anniversary, Navy Museum

20 October 17 – Trafalgar Day Lunch at Te Atatu RSA

20 October 17 - Old Salts Lunch at New Lynn RSA

17 November 17 - Old Salts Lunch at Titirangi RSA

15 December 17 - Old Salts Lunch at Orakei RSA

Hi Folks

DEATH NOTICE

It is with sadness that I advise that John Cronhelm passed away on June 21, 2017. John served at HMNZS Ngapona from 1958 to 1967 (100262) and was a founding member of HMNZS Ngapona Ex Members Assn.

A service will be held at Romaleigh, 31 Ocean View Road, Northcote, Auckland on Wednesday 28 June at 1430.

HNNZS NGAPONA

Ngapona Senior Rates Mess held their Mess Dinner last Saturday. It was a most enjoyable evening and it is good to maintain contact with Ngapona's serving members. The Guest Speaker was Professor Steven Hoadley and Cdr Jenny Hoadley (past CO) also gave an address on the future of the Reserves.

HMNZS Ngapona will hold a Change of Command Ceremony on Friday 30 June. Lt Cdr Gerard McGrath will relinquish his command of HMNZS Ngapona to Lt Cdr James Burt.

NGAPONA EX MEMBERS ASSN - MID YEAR FUNCTION

The Association is holding an informal dinner at the Pt Chevalier RSA on 8 July, 1900 for 1930.

Members, parnters and friends are invited to join us for dinner.

Please email Jill - jillt.nz49@gmail.com before 6 July so we can advise the caterer of numbers attending.

NZ WHITE ENSIGN

20 June 1968 Royal Assent for the White NZ Ensign was granted to the RNZN – replaced the cross of St George with the four stars of the Southern Cross.

HMNZS OLPHERT 90th CELEBRATIONS - WARNING ORDER

HMNZS OLPHERT is planning to celebrate its 90th Anniversary over the weekend of the 9th – 11th March 2018 and welcome all former RNZN, RNZNVR and Civilian Staff of HMNZS OLPHERT to join them. (See attached flyer)

RNZN COMMUNICATORS 50th ANNIVERSARY

A registration form can be obtained from the Comms website.

Now that the Jack Donnelly story has finished I have decided to run a series of articles on NZ Chief of Naval Staff/Chief of Navy. I thoght a good starting point would be 1941 when the RNZN came into being. On researching information for this series I was most surprised at the distinguished naval career of many of the men that held this position. Our first CNS is certainly no exception.

COMMODORE W.E.PARRY, CB. RN – CNS SEP 1941 – JUN 1942

Royal New Zealand Navy - Chief of Naval Staff & First Naval Member **COMMODORE Royal New Zealand Navy - Chief of Naval Staff & First Naval Member**

Captain Edward Parry, Commanding Officer of HMS ACHILLES during the Battle of the River Plate, was no stranger to war. He had joined the Royal Navy in 1905 at the tender age of 12 and served at sea throughout World War I.

After the war, between 1917 and 1929, he specialised as a Torpedo Officer in various posts including HMS VERNON, the Torpedo School at Portsmouth; the Atlantic Fleet and HMS DOLPHIN, the Submarine Depot ship. He had spent around 30 years of his career focused on the torpedo and submarine aspects of naval warfare when there was an elemental change in 1932 as he was posted to the aircraft carrier HMS EAGLE as the Executive Officer—as a fairly senior Commander. Parry must have performed pretty well because he left EAGLE having been promoted to Captain at the age of 41. In early 1936 he assumed command of the Royal Navy's Anti-Submarine School at HMS OSPREY and after 15 months at OSPREY, he spent most of 1938 undergoing higher Defence training at the Imperial Defence College.

A well rounded officer

Consequently, he was what could be considered a “well-rounded” officer when he took command of HMS ACHILLES in January 1939 before the outbreak of war some nine months later in September. He brought with him his four years of World War I service and a good mix of operational experience in a variety of maritime dimensions, two of which were directly related to decisive areas in the coming war—the U-Boat threat and the threat and exploitation of air power. It can be assumed, too, that his torpedo specialty and his most recent postings had given him some familiarity with the importance of technology to the development and evolution of military capabilities. When CAPT Parry assumed command of ACHILLES the ship had just completed an extensive refit. So, two months later when it left the United Kingdom to sail back to New Zealand it was, presumably, in a good material condition. Morale would have been high as the large number of New Zealand sailors among the crew were on their way home. However, war with Germany was inexorably drawing closer and on 29 August 1939 CAPT Parry was ordered to sail ACHILLES to her assigned war station with Royal Navy forces on the West Indies station.

Five hours after the Sailing Orders were received, ACHILLES slipped away from Devonport, Auckland, and sailed towards the ship's and crew's moment of drama and victory at sea—a moment of which CAPT Parry later said: “New Zealand has every reason to be proud of her seamen during their baptism of fire.”

The Battle of the River Plate probably presented CAPT Parry with his greatest challenge—and greatest success—at the tactical level. He was made a Companion of the Bath (CB) for his performance.

During the battle an 11-inch shell from the GRAF SPEE hit the water near ACHILLES' bridge. The resulting shrapnel seriously wounded two ratings and killed four others. CAPT Parry was hit in the legs and knocked out. Regaining consciousness he realised the guns were not being fired at the GRAF SPEE and using the voice pipe, he called the

gunnery officer, LT J E Washbourn, to rectify this. Washbourn had been hit in the head and was just coming to but quickly took action and soon the Director Tower was back in action with their guns focused on the GRAF SPEE.

Parry commented later on the GRAF SPEE's manoeuvrability: "She appeared to turn as quickly as a ship one-half her size and she made the fullest use of her mobility. On several occasions, when her situation was becoming unhealthy, she turned 180 degrees away, using smoke to cover her turn."

Parry was proud of his seamen and RADM Henry Harwood (Commander of the three-ship fleet that engaged GRAF SPEE), concurred, writing to the New Zealand Naval Board: "The ACHILLES was handled perfectly by her captain and fought magnificently by her captain, officers and ship's company." By all accounts the ACHILLES was a happy ship, CAPT Parry later wrote. He was obviously enjoying his time in ACHILLES. However, less than three months after the ship returned to New Zealand he was to be required to step up and perform at the operational and strategic levels.

Chief of Naval Staff

On 1 May 1940 CAPT Parry was made a Commodore 2nd Class and posted as the First Naval Member of the New Zealand Naval Board, Chief of Naval Staff, Commodore Commanding New Zealand Squadron and Commanding Officer HMS ACHILLES. This wide range of tasks would have been a heavy load in peace time—it is hard to imagine their weight during war. Parry, however, was clearly determined to make things work and was clear that it was the strategic role that was the most important; although there are indications that he would have preferred to remain at sea.

In September 1940 he sensibly recommended to the Government that combining the Chief of Naval Staff and New Zealand Squadron command responsibilities be separated and that the Chief of Naval Staff should be based in Wellington. The Government agreed and on 15 October CDRE Parry left ACHILLES with, I am sure, a heavy heart. However, he quickly set about organising the Naval Staff to meet the demands of the war, clearly drawing on his experience in the United Kingdom and his education at the Defence College.

When he took up the appointment of CNS he found Navy Office ill-prepared to cope with many urgent problems... By the time Japan entered the war... he had organised an adequate and balanced naval staff, as well as a sound recruiting and training scheme. His foresight in these and many other matters was confirmed by the march of events. When the time for his departure came, the Government was loath to lose him."

Nevertheless, on 16 June 1942, after more than two years as Chief of Naval Staff and having seen the birth of the RNZN, and, in the process, becoming its first Chief, CDRE Parry returned to Royal Navy service.

For almost all of 1943 he served in command of the battleship HMS RENOWN and, after promotion to Rear Admiral in January 1944, he was the "Naval Commander of Force L" for the Allied landings at Normandy.

Post WWII

At the conclusion of the war RADM Parry was appointed Chief of Staff (Post-Hostilities) to the British Naval Commander in-Chief, headquartered in London, and then as the Deputy Head of Naval Division, Control Commission for Germany, based in Berlin.

In July 1946 he took up duties as Director of Naval Intelligence. After almost two years in the post, and by then a Vice Admiral, Parry moved on to his final Naval posting—in India as the Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Indian Navy, a post which was so reminiscent of his New Zealand service. This must have delivered him one of the most nostalgic moments of his long and distinguished career because, here, he encountered the ACHILLES again, recommissioned in 1948 with the Indian Navy as DELHI. In January 1950 India became a republic and, so, RADM Parry had the unique privilege of becoming not only the first Chief of Naval Staff of one Navy, but the first Commander-in-Chief of another, as the Royal Indian Navy then became the Indian Navy. Leaving India in 1951, he was promoted to Admiral, and with a knighthood from the 1950 New Year's List, becoming Admiral Sir Edward Parry, Knight Commander of the Bath (KCB). He died in London on 21 August 1972 aged 79.

Born – 8 Apr 1893, London, England

Died – 21 Aug 1972 (79), London, England

Ranks

15 May 1910 – Mid

15 Sep 1912 – A/SLt

15 May 1913 – SLt

15 Jun 1914 – Lt

15 Jun 1922 – LtCdr

30 Jun 1927 – Cdr

31 Dec 1934 – Capt

1 May 1940 - Commodore

8 Jan 1944 – Rear Admiral

1 Jan 1948 – Vice Admiral

1 May 1951 – Admiral

Decorations

23 Dec 1939 – CB

2 Jan 1950 - KCB

The attached photo shows Captain W.E. Parry as he dresses his leg wounds on the bridge of HMS *Achilles* following the Battle of the River Plate. Behind him is the navigating officer, Lieutenant G.G. Cowburn.

Take care

Jerry Payne

021 486 013

President

Ngapona Ex Members Assn

"There are good ships, and there are wood ships, the ships that sail the sea."

"But the best ships are friendships, and may they always be."