

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

19 June 20 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Howick RSA

10 July 20 – Navy Club Lunch – Remuera Club

17 July 20 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at New Lynn RSA

22 July 20 – Navy Club – Bus trip to Wellsford

Hi Folks

DEATH NOTICE

It is with great sadness that I have to advise that Jim Paltridge, (CPOWEF L100313 Rtd), passed away at about 2030 today.

I will advise further details when they are known.

NAMING OF POAL ELECTRIC TUG

Ports of Auckland is getting the world's first full-size electric ship-handling tug. This is a proud moment for Auckland and New Zealand in the fight against global warming, so they've asked Kiwis to help name it. In stage one, Aucklanders were asked for name ideas and over 3000 people gave their suggestions. Now, in stage three, Ports of Auckland has narrowed down to just four names – and the public gets to choose the winner: Ārahi – meaning to lead, escort, conduct, drive E.T. – short for 'Electric Tug' Hiko - meaning electrical, power, electronic, electric, lightning Sparky – diminutive of 'spark', slang for an electrician, related to electricity, but also sparking change "We are stoked with the response," said port communications manager Matt Ball. "We were hoping to get a thousand entries, so over three times that number is brilliant.

RESERVIST MOBILISED

Faced with an aircraft and submarine maintenance backlog at its four public shipyards, the US Navy is mobilizing 1,629 reservists to the yards starting in July. The reservists are all part of the Navy's Surge Maintenance, or SurgeMain, program. Established in 2005, SurgeMain has 2,200 enlisted reserve sailors and 240 reserve officers across 75 units and was created to augment the Navy's organic civilian shipyard workforce in times of need. SurgeMain Sailors have technical and trade backgrounds that allow them to have an immediate impact at the shipyards. (Source : Marinelog)

SHIP OF THE WEEK – HMNZS NGAPONA

The name NGAPONA is taken from a Maori proverb relating to the three peaks of Rangitoto, a prominent island in Auckland's Hauraki Gulf. The ship's badge denotes the Kaka, a native bird that was originally found on Rangitoto.

Ship's Motto: 'We serve together'

The location of the Auckland Volunteer Reserve Division HMNZS Ngapona, originally at St Mary's Bay, is due to the efforts of one man, Charles Palmer, the father of the Naval Volunteer Reserves in New Zealand. On 17 November 1924 Commander Middleton was appointed as Commander of the RNVR [NZ] base in Auckland. In February 1925 additional officers were appointed and recruitment begun for ratings using the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron headquarters. Many of the first recruits were members of the RNZYS or other Auckland boating/sailing clubs. Recruitment for the NZ Division of the Royal Navy based at the Naval Base at Devonport was a struggle contrasted with the rapid growth of the Auckland Reserve Division.

In May 1925 the first parade for the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve [New Zealand] was held in Shed 14 [the potato storage shed] on the Central Wharf [now the Captain Cook wharf]. The first official duty was to form part of the Honour Guard for the United States Navy Battle Squadron that was due to visit Auckland in August 1925. The Devonport Naval Base provided two cutters for boat drill. The sailing and pulling training was carried out from the Admiralty Steps in downtown Auckland while the general seamanship training was carried out in the wharf building.

In 1926 the now gazetted Lieutenant-Commander Charles Palmer secured the Navy League's headquarters in Simich's Building [what is now the Downtown carpark] as a base for the newly formed unit parades. Due to the size, the 120 men of the unit were split into two 60-men parades held on separate nights during the week. This set up would continue until the new headquarters building was opened at St Mary's Bay. Annual parades would be held over at the Devonport Naval Base.

On Saturday 1 June 1929 the new headquarters was opened by the Governor-General Sir Charles Fergusson and the men of the Auckland Division RNVR [NZ Division] marched in and paraded. By the 1930's the base was a centre of a thriving social and sporting life for the reservists and home to varied training activities.

By 1960 the buildings were refurbished as part of the move with the motorway. In 1960 a new flagpole was raised on the grass plot. At this time there was lots of effort put in by the personnel to return Ngapona to a Naval Establishment.[24] In April 1961, during the visit of Governor General Viscount Cobham, after the boisterous dinner in the mess, officers decided to fire a 21 gun salute in the early morning at 0245 hours. This naturally upset the civilian neighbours in the bluff above the base and they complained most vigorously.

Into the 1990s Ngapona was still used but the RNZN was aware that it had a limited time to relocate the Auckland Division. In 2007 the RNZN ordered that the St Mary's Bay site be closed down and Ngapona was relocated to HMNZS Philomel to a building named for Charles Palmer.

The propeller that was mounted in front of the St Mary's Bay building was from the WW2 minesweeper HMNZS Hinau recovered by reservists in 1987 to be used as a memorial to the minesweeper and men of the reserve.



ML HMNZS NGAPONA (Q1194 –P3561)

On 8 November 1957, the ML HMNZS Ngapona (P3561) ran into the reef off the southern tip of Rangipukea southwest of Coromandel. It was floated off two days later by Manawanui, after additional equipment had been brought to the scene by HMNZS Stawell and RFA Arataki, and beached in Te Kouma Harbour for temporary patching. Strops were placed under the vessel, catamarans and A-class buoys secured alongside, and the ML again floated off, where it rode with three feet of freeboard. Stawell delayed the tow back to Auckland because of bad weather, but attempted to return before the seas had moderated completely, and the ML received further considerable damage from the auxiliary floatation gear breaking loose while under tow. When slipped and examined, it was declared a complete write off, and it was broken up and burnt. A Board of Enquiry found the Commanding Officer, Commander Hilliard, negligent in failing to properly fix his vessel in the vicinity of known dangers, and he was awarded the Naval Board's extreme displeasure. In 1947, approval was given for the provision of Harbour Defence Motor Launches (HDML) to the four units of the RNZNV. The purpose was for training and to have, if required, a fully commissioned and armed Naval patrol vessel. These were released from the War Assets Realisation Board. It was intended to arm them with machine guns, an Oerlikon gun, and depth charges. The government instructed that they would not be armed although the HDML attached to Ngapona had an Oerlikon fitted which was used for live firing exercises in the Hauraki Gulf.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Tasnim News Agency has announced on May 28, 2020, that the Iranian Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy took delivery of 112 fast attack boats during a ceremony that was held in the southern Iranian port city of Bandar Abbas. The 112 fast attack boats delivered to the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy included Zolfaqar speedboats as well as Heidar-class and Meead-class boats. The Navy of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) consists of 20,000 sailors and 1,500 ships and fast attack boats used to perform Iranian maritime operations in the Persian Gulf.

The Zolfaqar is a light fast attack boat produced locally in Iran. It is able to reach a maximum speed of 70 knots. The boat is fitted with twin-tube launchers for the Nasr-1 cruise missiles. The Nasr-1 is an Iranian unlicensed copy of the Chinese C-704 short-range anti-ship cruise missile. According to its export catalogue, it can destroy 1,500-tonne targets such as small frigates. Nasr-1 missile can be launched from both inland bases and offshore military vessels, and is being modified to be fired from helicopters and submarines. For its self-protection, a DShKM 12.7mm heavy machine gun can be mounted at the front and the rear of the deck.

The Heidar-class is a light patrol boat with a marine-grade aluminium body. The boat is able to avoid sinking even at a high rolling angle of 180 degrees and is used for search and rescue, as well as marine patrol missions.

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Regards

Jerry Payne

Editor

HMNZS Ngapona Assn

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