

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

21 January 22 – Ngapona Assn Lunch at Titirangi RSA
31 January 22 – Auckland Anniversary Day
7 February 22 – Waitangi Day
18 February 22 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Swanson RSA
18 March 22 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Waiheke RSA

Hi Folks

NGAPONA ASSN LUNCH

Our first lunch for 2022 will be held at the Titirangi RSA on the 21st January. Plan to be there by 1200 for a few quiet ones before lunch
The RSA requires everyone to be fully vaxed and masks must be worn on entry.

LONG TOUR OF DUTY

On 5 January, the Royal Navy's warship HMS *Montrose* passed the 1,000-day milestone of keeping the Gulf sea lanes open and tackling drug smugglers. HMS *Montrose*, a Type 23 frigate, together with 200 sailors and Royal Marines, has been constantly present in the Middle East since 11 April 2019, working with other British and allied vessels to safeguard shipping, keep sea lanes open and stop trafficking, the Royal Navy said. Operating out of Bahrain, in her 1,000 days, the frigate has sailed 163,000 nautical miles, which is equal to more than 7.5 times around the globe, accompanied 112 vessels through the Strait of Hormuz and seized over 6,5 tons of illegal narcotics.



CHINA TAKES THE LEAD

China has taken the number-one spot in shipbuilding, overtaking South Korea for annual order volume by compensated gross tons (CGT), according to data released Sunday by Clarksons. Over the span of the year, China's shipbuilders raked in orders totalling about 22.8 million CGT, almost exactly 50 percent of the global total of 45.7 million. South Korean builders took in orders totalling 17.5 million CGT, or about 38 percent. China dominated in sales of new container ships, a segment which has taken off thanks to a surge in consumer goods cargo.

In the first 11 months of this year, a total of 1,561 new ships were signed globally with 44.21 million CGT. Taking into account the delayed report of orders and other factors, it is expected that the number of orders for the whole year of 2021 will exceed 1,600 ships. Global ship deliveries have generally remained stable. In the first 11 months of 2021, a total of 1,365 new ships, totalling 79.94 million dwt, have been delivered. Due to the substantial increase in new ship orders, the scale of global hand-held orders has also increased. As of December 1, global orders for 3,313 ships, totalling 90.07 million CGT, increased by 17% from the level of orders held at the beginning of the year. The newly signed series of environmental protection plans show that the shipping industry is continuously accelerating its green transformation. Orders for new ships using alternative fuels have grown further this year. In 2021, China, South Korea, and Japan accounted for 49%, 38%, and 9% of the newly signed orders in terms of CGT.

Source: XINDE MARINE NEWS

CAPT BЛИGH R.N.

Marriage and Selection for a 'Certain' Voyage

4 Feb 1781, Bligh marries Elizabeth Betham, and soon after joined HMS *Belle Poule* a 30-gun frigate which had been previously captured from the French. By this time England was at war also with the French and Spanish (and in the American colonies). Bligh was to act as Master in this vessel.

April 1781, HMS *Belle Poule* and HMS *Berwick* engage and defeat the French privateer *La Calogne*. In August he fought in the battle of the Dogger Bank under Vice-Admiral Parker.

5 Oct 1781, Bligh appointed as fifth lieutenant of HMS *Berwick* until 1 Jan 1782 when he was posted as fifth lieutenant aboard the 80 gun third rate ship HMS *Princess Amelia* and thence on 20 Mar 1781 to HMS *Cambridge* an 80 gun first class ship of the line as sixth lieutenant. It is interesting to note that included in the crew of HMS *Cambridge* was one Fletcher Christian as a ship's boy. *Cambridge* was involved in relieving the English fortress at Gibraltar. However, once the war had ended, the navy began standing down large numbers of its personnel (100,000 to 30,000 in a few weeks). Bligh was one of those, now aged 28.

Bligh's talents had not gone un-noticed by those in the merchant sailing community and he was offered command of a merchant vessel the *Lynx* operating between England and the West Indies in 1785. Ultimately his 'civilian' career continued for four years seeing him serve on the *Cambrian* and the *Britannia*. Again, it is interesting that Fletcher Christian served as a second mate on the *Britannia*, a position awarded to him by Bligh who now considered him a friend.

Meanwhile, the British government had decided that an expedition would be financed to transport breadfruit plants from Tahiti to the West Indies. A ship was purchased and the captain selected, no other than Lieutenant William Bligh, so in 1787, he returns to the Royal Navy. Breadfruit comes from a flowering tree which tastes like a potato. It is so named as it tastes similar to freshly baked bread when cooked. It can be eaten raw. It was seen as a cheap nourishing food that could be fed to the slaves in the West Indies if it was to be grown there.

(to be continued)

Regards

Jerry Payne

Editor

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