



HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

13 May 22 – Navy Club

20 May 22 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Te Atatu RSA

6 June 22 – Queen’s Birthday

10 June 22 – Navy Club

17 June 22 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Avondale RSA

24 June 22 - Matariki

Hi Folks

Sorry the newsletter is a bit short this week but I have had computer issues.

KEEL LAID FOR FIRST RN TYPE 31 FRIGATES

The construction of the UK's Type 31 frigates is officially underway following a keel laying ceremony for HMS *Venturer* in Scotland. According to the Royal Navy, the keel laying is the formal moment of construction beginning for the ship.

In November 2020, the Prime Minister announced £16.5bn extra funding for the Ministry of Defence (MOD) over the following four years.

During the announcement, Boris Johnson said part of the budget would be used to "restore Britain's position as the foremost naval power in Europe", highlighting plans for five Type 31 frigates to continue, as well as those for Type 26s and previously never-before-mentioned Type 32 frigates.

On 19 May 2021, the MOD announced the names chosen for the five Types 31 frigates - HMS *Active*, HMS *Bulldog*, HMS *Campbeltown*, HMS *Formidable* and HMS *Venturer*.

The vessels, named after famous former ships and submarines from the Royal Navy's past, will be known as the 'Inspiration Class'. HMS *Active* is set to be the second ship in the class, following HMS *Venturer*.

The Type 31 frigate programme is a step in the Government's plan to increase the number of warships in the Royal Navy over the coming decades. This specific class of surface warship is expected to first enter service with the Royal Navy by 2027, and replace the Type 23 frigates.

The Defence Command Paper last year outlined the Type 31s as "key to our forward presence in the South Atlantic, the Caribbean, the Mediterranean and the Gulf of Guinea, as well as the Indian and Pacific Oceans".

The first Type 31 is expected to be in the water within the next three years, with five having been delivered to the Royal Navy by 2028.

Regarding weaponry, the Type 31s will have a 57mm gun, plus two 40mm guns, as well as being fitted with the Sea Ceptor missile system.

The Navy said in 2020 that BAE Systems would be producing Bofors 40 Mk4 and Bofors 57 Mk3 naval guns for the frigates. Each ship is set to come with three Pacific 24 boats, which the Navy says are used for board and search tasks as well as counter-narcotics work.

On the flight deck, there will be room to host helicopters as large as the Chinook, although the Navy says the vessels will more likely work with Merlins and Wildcats. There will be room for a crew of 187 personnel on each ship.



US TO SCRAP CRUISER FLEET

USS *Vicksburg* (CG-69) is in the middle of a \$200 million repair period meant to keep the guided-missile cruiser in the fleet well into the 2030s. Shrouded in scaffolding and white plastic at BAE Systems Ship Repair, shipyard workers have been upgrading *Vicksburg* since 2020. The repair work was part of a controversial decade-old Navy modernization plan to keep 11 of the remaining 22 Ticonderoga-class cruisers in the service's inventory into the 2030s to operate with carrier strike groups and host their air defence commanders. But now the Navy wants to abandon the modernization as part of a wide-ranging cut of legacy platforms the service says cost too much to fix and maintain. In the next five years, the Navy plans to shed its entire cruiser force, including the ships part of the ongoing modernization program, according to the long-range shipbuilding plan released this week. Should Congress allow the Navy to move forward with its plan, the service would decommission 10 cruisers in two years, bringing the cruiser inventory down from 22 ships to 12 by the end of Fiscal Year 2023. "It really comes down to – for these ships that are all over 30-years-old – whether we want to continue to pour resources into them from a modernization perspective when only one of the five has actually delivered," Vice Adm. Scott Conn, deputy chief of naval operations for warfighting requirements and capabilities (OPNAV N9), told reporters on Wednesday.

Source: *USNI News*



USS *Vicksburg* (CG-69)

CAPT BLYGH R.N.

The Recall to Duty

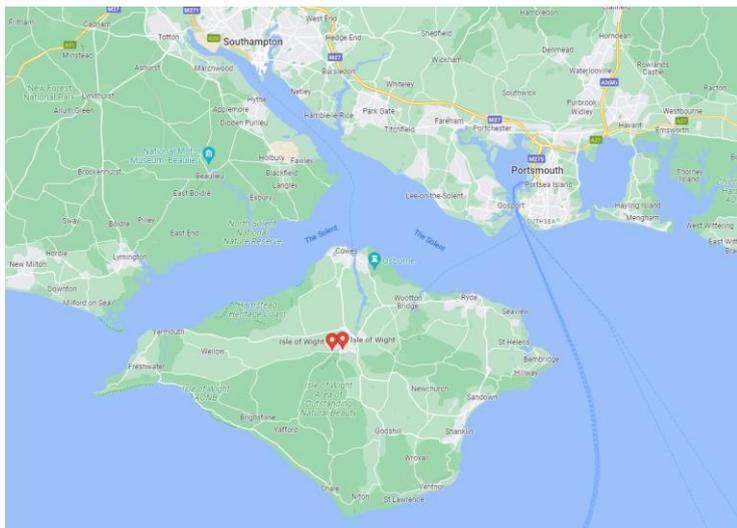
Dec 1793. Discontent is brewing amongst the lower deck of the Navy due to poor wages and conditions. This leads to a mutiny in HMS *Culloden* a 74 gun third rate anchored at Spithead. Spithead is located between the Isle of Wight and Portsmouth. It is protected from all winds except those from the south-east. *Culloden* was preparing to leave England for the Mediterranean but many thought she was unseaworthy. Despite this, the Captain Thomas Troubridge was determined to put to sea. The crew refused to sail. After some time, Captain Thomas Pakenham was able to get the mutineers to surrender once he had given the understanding that they would not be punished. They did so on Dec 11th. Troubridge immediately had ten ringleaders placed in irons. In a subsequent court martial two were acquitted, the remainder were found guilty and were to hang. In the event, a further three were given a reprieve, the other five – not so lucky. Troubridge was eventually promoted to Rear Admiral in April 1804.

April 1795. The war with France rages on. The Navy needs as many qualified and experienced commanders as it can get. Bligh is recalled to command HMS *Calcutta*, a former East Indiaman the *Warley* being refitted as a warship. She was destined to become a 56 gun fourth rate. *Calcutta* was commissioned in May, and on the 20th August, joined seven other ships in pursuit of a Dutch squadron.

October 1795. HMS *Defiance* (Sir George Home). Her crew mutinies. It is of note that as with Bligh, the ship did not carry a detachment of marines to assist the Captain to maintain order. *Calcutta* is ordered to ferry a number of troops to the *Defiance* to regain control. The threat of the troops was sufficient to regain order in *Defiance*.

Dec 1795 *Calcutta* anchors near the Isle of Wight only to be almost set alight when a fire broke out in a timber-laden ship nearby which began drifting down onto *Calcutta*. Swift action by Bligh saw *Calcutta*'s anchors cut away allowing her to swing away from the approaching danger and to anchor safely in another position.

Jan 7 1796. Bligh is posted from *Calcutta* to HMS *Director* 64 guns. This is very rewarding for Bligh as it is a larger vessel which enables an increase in salary.
(to be continued)



Regards
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