



LONGCAST

- 30 January 23 – Auckland Anniversary Day
- 6 February 23 – Waitangi Day
- 10 February 23 - Navy Club
- 17 February 23 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Swanson RSA
- 17 March 23 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Waiheke RSA

Hi Folks

BRITISH NUCLEAR TESTING MEDAL TO BE AWARDED

On 21 November the Prime Minister of UK, Rishi Sunak, announced that all servicemen and civilians who are veterans of the British Nuclear Bomb testing would be awarded a Medal. Those veterans of Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Kiribati (Xmas Island) were also entitled to that medal. Our government will apply on New Zealand's veteran's behalf. The RNZAF and Army are also in that list. Do you qualify?

Gerry Wright would like to hear from you. Email: gerrywright@xtra.co.nz

HMAS VAMPIRE DUE FOR MAJOR CONSERVATION WORK

The vessel, which sits on the water while on display at the museum, will undergo \$3 million in repairs, including work on its hull. The museum's chief executive, Daryl Karp, said the ship was due for major conservation work. "Her

keel was laid 70 years ago [and] we've had roughly five million visitors go on to her," Ms Karp told ABC Radio Sydney" As with anything that sits on the water — saltwater and museum objects [are] not a good mix." Ms Karp said while the ship took a lot to maintain, it was important to have the display on the water. Around five million visitors have boarded the ship at the Australian National Maritime Museum. "We're continually having to take it onto dry dock, to check it for rust, to repair things," Ms Karp told Breakfast presenter James Valentine." And to make sure that she remains absolutely safe for all our visitors." HMAS VAMPIRE was built on Sydney's Cockatoo Island in the 1950s, with its keel laid in 1952. The ship was one of three Daring class destroyer ships built in Australia. Ms Karp said the vessel was one of the last big gun ships to be built, as subsequent fighting ships were equipped with missile weaponry. "She and her two sister ships were the first all-welded ships to be constructed in Australia," Ms Karp said. "There's an enormous sense of pride and achievement in these ships being manufactured locally." Despite its intimidating size, Ms Karp said the warship had a relatively peaceful career. The ship was used to escort soldiers to Vietnam in the 1960s. It was then turned into a training ship in 1980, before being decommissioned in 1986 and given to the museum in 1997.

Source: ABC news



£3.5MILLION DONATION FROM 'RNVR' TO 'TOWER RNLI'

Lifeboat crew from Tower RNLI have left their old station near Victoria Embankment on the Thames River, London, and will operate from the new temporary base at HMS PRESIDENT – the Royal Naval Reserve’s training facility in London. HMS PRESIDENT is situated in the shadow of Tower Bridge in the heart of London and the crew will be based there until the new station goes on service in April 2023. The dedicated full-time Thames Commanders and volunteer crew will still maintain their vital 24/7 life-saving service on the Thames whilst the new permanent facilities are completed. On their first full day at the station on Monday (January 9) the crew received three call outs for their assistance. Since 2002 the Tower lifeboat crew have launched 9,669 times, saving 376 people across 16 miles of the tidal Thames. The age and unique floating design of the current station has meant it has become structurally unfit for purpose. Thanks to generous donations – including £3.5million from the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve Officer’s Association following the sale of the Naval Club in Mayfair – Tower RNLI’s new station is nearing completion, ready to meet the challenges of keeping London safe for generations to come.

CHINA'S MILITARY BUILD-UP

President Xi Jinping's speech at the 20th party congress in November provided a forecast of China's policy towards the Asia-Pacific region over the next five years: military build-up and foreign expansion. Xi has expressed his determination to defend China's sovereignty, security and development interests. In 2017, he called for revolutionising the People's Liberation Army (PLA) into a world-class military by 2035. Last year, Xi said the PLA's transformation had to be accomplished by the 100th anniversary of the People's Republic in August 2029. Given the rapid development of China's military, especially the modernisation of its defence equipment, the goal looks to be in sight. Its third aircraft carrier, FUJIAN, was launched on June 17 last year. The Chinese navy now has the same number of ships, if not more, than its US counterpart. A study published in September last year by US-based research institute the Centre for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments estimated that by 2030, China's naval strength would increase by 40 per cent.

Source: South China Morning Post

US WEAPONS SUPPLY LINE GETTING TIGHT

A top Navy admiral warned Wednesday that the US might have to "rob Peter to pay Paul" in a matter of months as Washington continues to supply Ukraine with weapons to fight off Russia's ongoing invasion. Defence industry leaders have said for months that US orders for Ukraine coupled with ongoing supply chain issues have affected their production, but Navy Fleet Forces commander Adm. Daryl Caudle said he is running out of patience. "I am not forgiving the fact you're not delivering the ordnance we need. OK? I'm just not," he said at the Surface Navy Association Symposium in Arlington, Va. "We're talking about war-fighting, national security, and going against a competitor here and a

potential adversary [China] that is like nothing we've ever seen. We can't be dilly-dallying around with these deliveries." The US has sent Ukraine more than \$20 million in military aid to battle the Russian attack that began nearly 11 months ago while simultaneously trying to keep its own armed forces stocked with crucial weaponry.

Source: New York Post

RUSSIA'S NAVAL WOES CONTINUE

PD-50, a huge floating dry dock at the 82nd Repair Shipyard in Roslyakovo, Russia, accidentally sank on Oct. 29, 2018 while *Admiral Kuznetsov*, Russia's only aircraft carrier, was inside for repairs. Roslyakovo is located in the Kola Bay north of Murmansk, and south of Severomorsk, the Northern Fleet's main base for surface warships.

Kuznetsov is still afloat but the dry dock could be a total loss.

Shipyard No. 82 in Roslyakovo was handed over from the Navy to Rosneft in 2013. The state-owned oil company had big plans for the yard, as hope for major oil findings in Arctic waters were on the rise. In August 2018, Rosneft announced intentions to build two major dry-docks for oil platforms at the yard. Two months later, the giant PD-50 floating dock sank, blocking most of the access to for larger vessels and platforms.

Plans are now underway to lift the nearly 200,000 ton and 330 meters long dock, according to Murmansk Governor Andrey Chibis. It was during his end-of-the-year press briefing he talked about the plans, but without specifying exact timing for the operation.

While injuries and possible deaths in addition to damage to the flight deck — caused by a collapsing 70-ton crane — are noteworthy, the loss of the PD-50 could potentially ripple through the Russian navy and exacerbate its persistent problems with maintenance and modernization.

Because of chronic problems with the production of new naval vessels larger than a frigate, Russia relies on large Soviet-era surface combatants to field a credible blue-water navy capable of projecting power and influence. Russian

president Vladimir Putin recognizes the role a strong military can play in consolidating domestic support and strategic messaging abroad, and the Russian navy's older capital ships remain one of Putin's favorite instruments. By overhauling and extending the service life of existing, older ships, the Russian navy may be able to realize short-term cost savings compared to building new replacements. However, this approach only works as far as Russia can continue to modernize, renovate and rehabilitate these platforms. Russia has four possible options going forward, none of which are good. Cutting its losses on PD-50 and *Kuznetsov*. Raising and repairing PD-50. Using limited options in Russia to upgrade *Kuznetsov*. Or going outside Russia to third parties such as China. If Russia proceeds with its carrier modernization, all the available options entail delays and increased costs. There are significant challenges to raising and repairing the PD-50. Early reports indicate that PD-50 may be lying on its side in 160 feet of water, which would make the recovery technically difficult. If the PD-50 dock can be raised from its watery grave, a course of action that the director of the 82nd Repair Shipyard, Aleksey Rakhmanov, has addressed with skepticism, repairing it could take years at great expense.

By Kris Osborn, Warrior Maven - Center for Military Modernization



Russian aircraft carrier Admiral Kuznetsov at the PD-50 floating dock in Murmansk

ROYAL NAVY SHIPS IN NEW ZEALAND

HMS HARRIER

Cruizer class screw sloop built at Pembroke Dockyard and commissioned in Nov 1854.

Armament: One 32 pdr pivot gun. 16 32 pdr carriage guns.

Propulsion: Sail, steam (single screw)

Length: 160 ft.

Beam: 31 ft 10 inches

Displacement: 1045 tons

1854-1856 Service in the Crimean War.

1860 – Refit Portsmouth and thence to the Australian Station undertaking action

against Fijian natives in 1863.

1863 – assisted in rescue operations when HMS *Orpheus* was wrecked in the Manukau Harbour. *Harrier* also grounded but was refloated.

Harrier along with HMS *Curacoa* and HMS *Eclipse* assisted in operations during the invasion of the Waikato and in the Tauranga Campaign. The invasion of the Waikato occurred as a result of ongoing tension between the colonial government and Kingite Māori. The subsequent war included the battle of Rangiriri (Nov 1863 and the battle of Orakau (March 1864). The campaign ended when the Kingitanga Māori retreated into the interior of the North Island. The Tauranga Campaign followed the invasion of the Waikato. RN vessels involved included HMS *Miranda*, HMS *Esk*, HMS *Curacoa*, HMS *Falcon*, HMS *Harrier*, HMS *Eclipse*.

General Duncan Cameron deduced that Tauranga was being used by Māori to supply men and materiel for their forces in the Waikato. To interfere with this activity, he sent an expedition to occupy Tauranga. In the initial stages HMS *Miranda* blockaded Tauranga harbour to prevent reinforcements joining the defence. Cameron arrived at Tauranga in HMS *Esk* with reinforcements. HMS *Falcon* also arrived with reinforcements. Cameron engaged Māori at Gate Pa on the 28th of April. Part of his force included a Naval Brigade made up of sailors from HMS *Miranda*, HMS *Falcon* and HMS *Esk*. On the 29th of April, an assault on the pa by the Naval Brigade under Commander Hay (Commanding Officer of *Harrier*) and the 43rd Regiment led by Lt Col Booth resulted in the force engaging Māori in fierce hand to hand fighting, however the British were beaten off with a casualty list of 31 dead including 10 officers and 80 wounded. Commander Hay had been killed in the attack. Cox'n Samuel Mitchell of *Harrier* was awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery during the attack. His citation reads:

For his gallant conduct at the attack at Te Papa, Tauranga on the 29th of April last, in entering the pa with Commander Hay, and when that officer was mortally wounded, bringing him out, although ordered by Commander Hay to leave him, and seek his own safety. This man was at the time 'Captain of the Fore-top' of the 'Harrier' doing duty as Captain's Coxswain; and Commodore Sir

William Wiseman brings his name to special notice for this act of gallantry'. Mitchell was promoted to Boatswain's Mate and continued to serve in the RN until 1865. He returned to New Zealand settling on the West Coast of the Sth Island working the gold fields and later taking up farming. He was drowned on the 16 March 1894 when attempting to cross the Mikonui River which was in full flood at the time. His medal is now displayed in the Hokitika Museum. *Harrier* paid off at Portsmouth on the 31 March 1865 and was broken up in 1866.



HMS Cruizier, sister ship to HMS Harrier

Regards

[Jerry Payne](#)

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