

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

DEATH NOTICE

It is with great sadness that I have to advise that John David Rust, RNZNVR, F100489, (LtCdr Rtd), passed away on Tuesday, 19 April 2022.

His funeral will be held on Thursday, 28 April 2022, at the City Impact Church, 794 East Coast Road, Browns Bay, Auckland, at 1100hrs.

RIP John, you were a good friend.

RUSSIAN CRUISER SUNK

Moskva, the flagship of the Russian Black Sea Fleet, helped lead the naval assault during the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine. She was the most powerful surface vessel in the Black Sea region at the time.

In February 2022, the cruiser left Sevastopol to participate in the attack on Ukraine. The ship was later used against the Ukrainian armed forces during the attack on Snake Island, together with the Russian patrol boat *Vasily Bykov*. *Moskva* hailed the island's garrison over the radio and demanded its surrender, and was told "Russian warship, go fuck yourself". After this, all contact was lost with Snake Island, and the thirteen-member Ukrainian garrison was captured. The Slava class cruisers are built for air superiority and they have no land-attack missiles. *Moskva* mainly stayed behind other Russian warships, providing air cover for military demonstrations of amphibious landings with Odesa as the apparent target.

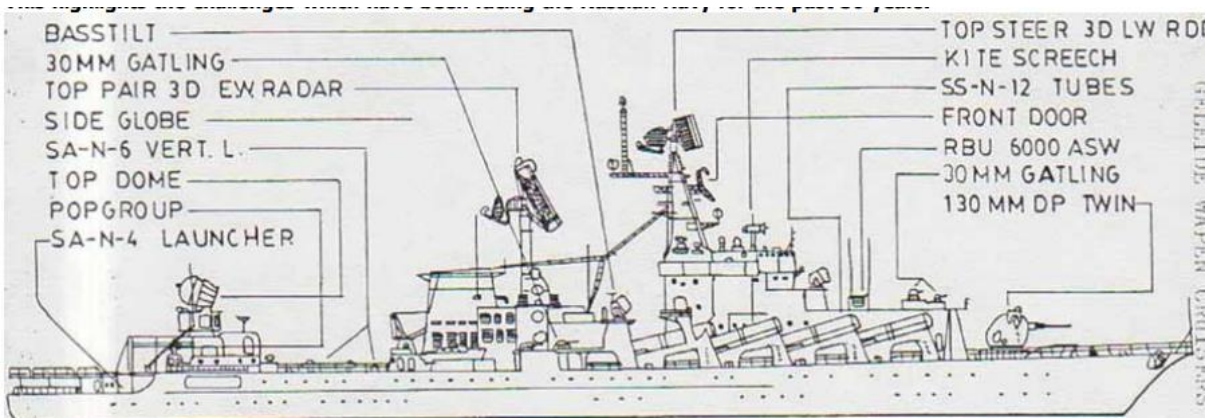
Ukrainian presidential adviser Oleksiy Arestovych and Odesa governor Maksym Marchenko said their forces hit *Moskva* in the late hours of 13 April 2022, with two R-360 Neptune anti-ship missiles, and she was on fire around 7 p.m. local time (GMT+3).

On 14 April 2022, the Ukrainian Southern Command said that *Moskva* had capsized and was beginning to sink. Ukrainian officials and the United States Department of Defence said Ukraine attacked the cruiser with two R-360 Neptune anti-ship missiles. The Russian Ministry of Defence said a fire

caused a munitions explosion. The same day, the Russian Navy attempted to tow the damaged ship toward Sevastopol, but she sank in the Black Sea, 100 kilometres (62 mi) from the coast of Odessa. *Moskva* is the largest warship to be sunk in combat since World War II, and the first of a similar size since the ARA *General Belgrano* during the Falklands War.

According to the Lithuanian defence minister, there were 485 crew members aboard, including 66 officers. He also said that a "Turkish ship" responded to a distress call and saved 54 crew members at 2 a.m. local time. The captain of the ship was reported to have died in the incident.





RUSSIA DEPLOYS UNUSUAL 110-YEAR-OLD SHIP

Since it was sunk by Ukrainian missiles on April 13-14, analysts have been watching for signs of a salvage operation on Moskva. The once-mighty SLAVA Class cruiser is the largest warship to be lost in combat for decades. And its loss is both strategic and symbolic.

Its final hours were caught in satellite imagery, and some images subsequently emerged. But so far analysis of open-source satellite imagery has drawn a blank for the expected salvage operation. The area where it sunk is often covered in cloud and on the clear days, no Russian ships were seen guarding the wreck.

It now appears that the vintage rescue ship *Kommuna* has been deployed.

One of the most interesting ships of the Russian Navy, *Kommuna* (Коммуна) was laid down in 1912 and launched in 1913. The unusual catamaran arrangement allows for small submarines to be carried between the hulls. It was originally intended to lift stricken submarines into this area.

However, as submarines grew in size and rescue and salvage technology matured, this became outdated. However, small rescue submarines could be carried and deployed via the central well, and the ship lived on. It is almost certainly one of the oldest *active* warships of any major navy.



Kommuna seen in Sevastopol, February 2022. Note the red and white mini-submarine.

TITANIC SINKING – JAMES MOODY (SIXTH OFFICER)

On the 110th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic, international maritime charity Sailors' Society is paying a special tribute to one of its own - the Titanic's Sixth Officer, James Moody. Moody, who was just 24, was the only junior officer to go down with the ship. Shortly before midnight on April 14 1912, the Titanic hit an iceberg. The story of this tragedy and the many individual acts of heroism are well known. But especially poignant for the Society is the act of duty carried out by the seafarer son of a North East solicitor. James Moody had been trained at the Society's King Edward VII Nautical School, securing his Master's Certificate just a year before the fateful voyage. In an open letter to the press, shortly after news of the tragedy broke, the Society said: "Till the last moment comes it is the duty of the junior officer to stand by his Captain, pass on his commands and be steadfast unto death." It is reported that Moody helped launch lifeboats and in a well-known incident, that of the separation of the Becker family, it was Moody who saw three members of the family into the lifeboat while Ruth Becker went to find extra blankets. It is recorded that Ruth then asked Moody to help her board the next lifeboat and he lifted her up and threw her in. It is likely James stood with his Captain, Edward Smith, to the very end when Smith gave the command: "Every Man for himself and God for us all!" Both Captain and Sixth Officer perished when the ship broke apart and went down early in the morning of April 15th. Moody's body was never identified. The open letter from the Society reflected: "The sea is still God's school for teaching the highest in sacrifice." A monument in Woodland Cemetery, Scarborough, also commemorates Moody's sacrifice with the words: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends". There were just 706 survivors from a passenger and crew list of nearly 2,000.



THE LATE MR. J. P. MOODY.

TWO MORE PATROL BOATS FOR RAN

The Australian Government has announced plans to acquire two more evolved Cape-class patrol boats (CCPB) from Austal in Western Australia (WA). The investment is estimated to be approximately \$91.32m (A\$124m). The two patrol boats will support the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and the Australian Border Force (ABF) in bolstering the border security in the region. Besides, the new investment is expected to generate around 400 direct employment opportunities and around 150 jobs through Austal. Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said: "This investment doesn't just help secure our borders; it secures hundreds of shipbuilding jobs in Western Australia. "Keeping our borders safe is a key priority for my government, and the acquisition of two more Evolved Cape Class patrol boats will boost the

capability of Navy's patrol force to ensure it is available where and when needed. Delivery of the two additional evolved CCPBs is expected in late 2023".



CAPT BLIGH R.N.

Success, and Humiliation

17 Dec 1792. *Providence* anchors at St. Helena. St Helena is a British possession in the South Atlantic Ocean. Napoleon was exiled to this island and died there.

27 Dec 1792. Bligh sails St Helena for the island of Saint Vincent.

22 Jan 1793. The ships arrive at Kingstown Harbour on the island of St. Vincent.

Feb 1793. *Providence* moves to Port Royal, at the mouth of Kingston Harbour, Jamaica. The breadfruit are landed. Although Bligh had lost more than half of the breadfruit plants through lack of water, he was still able to land 544 healthy plants.

Ultimately, these proved to grow well in Jamaica. However, as a cheap food source for slaves, it was a disaster. The slaves found the breadfruit unpalatable.

The arrival of a ship from England brought the news that England was once again at war with France. This unhappily delayed Bligh's intention to return to England.

Bligh's ships required fitting out with suitable arms and awaiting news of a suitable state of affairs which would allow a safe voyage.

June 1793. *Providence* and *Assistant* depart Jamaica arriving at Deptford England

7 Aug. The voyage had taken almost two years and they had covered more than 35,000 nautical miles.

But, while Bligh was away, and in the aftermath of the court martial of the mutineers, the families of the mutineers had set out to discredit him. Edward Christian, elder brother to Fletcher Christian was a very successful barrister, had done his utmost in this regard. Bligh was now seen by the public as a tyrannical and abusive commander. The Admiralty swayed in favour of public opinion. Bligh was shunned.

Sept 1793. HMS *Providence* and *Assistance* are paid off. The crew of both ships cheer loudly for Bligh as he stepped ashore and continued until he had left the dock gates.

Nov 1793. Bligh is awarded the Royal Society of the Arts gold medal for his success in the transportation of the breadfruit.

The Navy however stands Bligh down on half pay. He remained unwanted for a further year and a half.

(to be continued)



The Royal Society of Arts Gold Medal awarded to William Bligh

Regards

Jerry Payne

Editor

HMNZS Ngapona Assn

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