

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

LONGCAST

6 February 19 – Waitangi Day
8 February 19 – Navy Club Lunch, Remuera Club
15 February 19 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Titirangi RSA
8 March 19 - Navy Club Lunch, Remuera Club
15 March 19 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Waiheke RSA
23 March 19 – Kumeu Militaria Show
18 April 19 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Henderson RSA (Thursday)
19 – 22 April 19 – Easter Weekend
25 April 19 – ANZAC Day

Hi Folks

NAVY TRADITION OF SPIT POLISHING BOOTS/SHOES.

(Supplied by Jack Donnelly (WOGI Rtd)

Do our young sailors of today still spit polish their naval footwear? As Seaman Boys we were issued with 2 pairs of boots, one for working in and the other for guard/ceremonial duties.

The art to spit polishing one's footwear is very time consuming and requires a lot of patience, concentration, radio, TV or a good 'talking' mate. Ensure you have a good comfortable place to sit, and away you go. As for the perfect technique to spit polishing boots/shoes they are many and varied so I will explain how we were taught by our instructors at Tamaki on Motuihe island.

You will require polish, a soft clean cotton rag, water or alcohol and an old toothbrush at the ready. The use of alcohol may well have been a sailors 'dit' never bothered to use it. Some personnel even promoted the idea of using a lighter and briefly running it across the footwear so that the heated flame liquefies the polish to settle deep into the grain of the leather to help the polished areas to last longer and produce a far superior shine.

Begin by applying a thick coating of polish all over the boot/shoe. Leave to dry for 2-3 minutes then polish up, do this 2-3 times so that you have a solid base coat on your footwear. Now pour a little water into the lid of the polish tin, prepare your polishing rag wrapped tightly around your index finger, dip into water then a generous bit of polish and with small circular motions begin the process.

When it starts to feel dry, breath over the area you are shining so that it appears fogged up like a window. Continue to add water and polish slowly reducing the amount of polish. Eventually it will begin to shine through. I generally would spend about 30-40 minutes on each of my polishing sessions. Finally, dip your toothbrush into the polish and rub it generously into the welts or ridges of the sole of the boots/shoes and polish off.

Today, like many of the old matelots I still spit polish my ceremonial shoes for funerals, ANZAC, Remembrance Day and special occasions, good habits that were formed and never forgotten.



NOT MY BOOTS!

NEW DRYDOCK FOR PORTSMOUTH

Royal Navy drawing up plans for new mega dry dock in Portsmouth for HMS Queen Elizabeth

AMBITIOUS plans are being drawn up by the Royal Navy to build a new mega dry dock capable of housing Britain's new aircraft carriers in a venture that could be worth hundreds of millions for Portsmouth. The complex proposals are being crafted by an expert team of engineers and could see Portsmouth Naval Base's Number 2 Basin converted into one of the country's biggest dry docks, sources have told The News. Portsmouth will be the home of the navy's two Queen Elizabeth-class aircraft carriers, HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH and HMS PRINCE OF WALES for the next 50 years.

Source : Portsmouth News



HMNB PORTSMOUTH

TWO NEW CARRIERS FOR UNITED STATES NAVY

US Navy signs mammoth contract with Huntington Ingalls for two aircraft carriers. The U.S. Navy has signed a \$14.9 billion contract with shipbuilder Huntington Ingalls for two Ford-class aircraft carriers, the Navy announced Thursday evening. By buying two carriers simultaneously, the Navy expects to save \$4 billion, according to a Navy release. Navy Secretary Richard Spencer hailed the deal as a team effort and said the contract will create stability for the skilled workforce and create savings as a result. (by: David B. Larter – Shipping News Clippings)



USS *Gerald R. Ford* (CVN 78)

Class and type: Gerald R. Ford-class aircraft carrier
Displacement: About 100,000 long tons
Length: 1,106 ft (337 m)
Beam: 134 ft (41 m) (waterline)
256 ft (78 m) (flight deck)
Height: nearly 250 ft (76 m)
Decks: 25
Installed power: Two A1B nuclear reactors
Propulsion: Four shafts
Speed: In excess of 30 knots (56 km/h; 35 mph)
Range: Unlimited, 20–25 years
Complement: 2,600+
Armament: Surface-to-air missiles:
2 × RIM-162 ESSM launchers
2 × RIM-116 RAM Guns:
3 × Phalanx CIWS
4 × M2 .50 Cal. (12.7 mm) machine guns
Aircraft carried: More than 75
Aviation facilities: 1,092 ft × 256 ft (333 m × 78 m) flight deck

DID YOU KNOW?

On 4 February 2005, the Action Working Dress (AWD) was removed from the clothing scales. The familiar light blue shirt and dark blue trousers/shorts had been superseded in 2001 by the General Purpose Seagoing coverall (GPSC), i.e. green overalls. AWD had been introduced in 1949 to replace the overall and had remained unchanged except for the introduction of items tailored for females.

Take care

Jerry Payne

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Editor

HMNZS Ngapona Assn Inc

"There are good ships, and there are wood ships, the ships that sail the sea."

"But the best ships are friendships, and may they always be."

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