

***New Zealand Company of
Master Mariners***

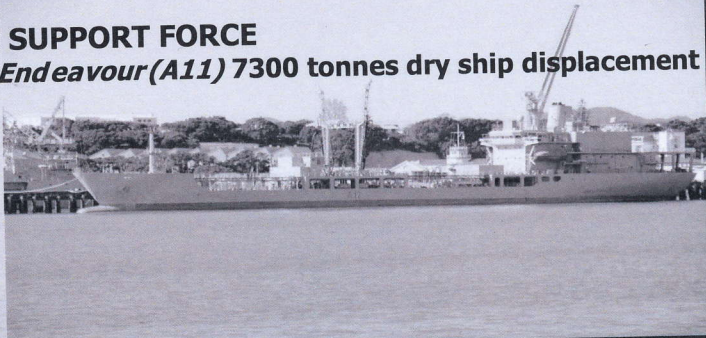
ON DECK

March 2014

ANZAC CLASS FRIGATES 3600 tonnes displacement
Te Mana (F111) Te Kaha (F77)



LOGISTIC SUPPORT FORCE
CANTERBURY(L421) 9000 tonnes displacement *Endeavour (A11)* 7300 tonnes dry ship displacement



Above: ROYAL NEW ZEALAND NAVY MAJOR FLEET UNITS.
THESE VESSELS REPRESENT THE TYPES REFERRED TO IN RULE 4.1.1.

PROTECTOR CLASS OFFSHORE PATROL VESSELS 1900 tonnes displacement
Wellington(P55) Otago(P148)



INSHORE PATROL CRAFT 150 tonnes
Taupo(P3570) Rotoiti(P3569)



Hawea (P3571)



Pukaki (3568)



Above: ROYAL NEW ZEALAND NAVY MINOR WAR VESSELS



Littoral support vessel *Manawa nui*
 (A09) 911 tonnes displacement





The New Zealand Company of Master Mariners

**Incorporated under the patronage of
His Excellency Lieutenant General The Right Honourable
Sir Jerry Mateparae GNZM, QSO, Te Kāwana Tianara o Aotearoa
Governor-General of New Zealand**

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Confederation of European
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organisations are available to
Ordinary Members only on application to Editor.



Barque *Pamir* Full and by'

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**National Library of New Zealand
Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa
ON DECK**

ISSN 2324-5131 (Print)

ISSN 2324-514X (Online)



EDITORIAL

HONOURING PAST SACRIFICE.

A few years ago my teenage grandchildren and some of their friends were watching a TV adaption of the film *Battle of Britain*. I was surprised to hear them giggling at the type and character of the WW2 aircraft and comments similar to "Who would want to fly in those old things."

No, I didn't chide them as I am sure they are fully aware of the sacrifices made for freedom in the past, even if they are not sure exactly what those sacrifices were for, nor exactly what they achieved. In this they join many of us more mature folk who perhaps wonder the same things.

Yes, like us they certainly honour the sacrifices made by their forbears in past conflicts and campaigns. They can hardly not be aware with the regular memorial celebrations held at appropriate times throughout the year. But there is another consideration that may not be fully realised by old servicemen and that includes old merchant seamen.

When I was a teenager I was some 75 years removed from the end of the Crimean war and around 30 years from the end of WW1. Of course I was aware of the Crimean War, both Tennyson's '*Charge of the Light Brigade*' and Florence Nightingale's exploits made sure of that, but it was far too removed in time for me to generate any emotion.

I regarded WW1 similarly but more fully understood the sacrifices that were made. After all my father was at sea in the Merchant Marine throughout and at Gallipoli, and some of my primary school teachers were old soldiers, so memories and stories were ever present and personal. I attended memorials and parades as did most others, even marched as a school cadet, but naturally sentiment fades with time. On the other hand, there are modern wars that are all but forgotten or seldom discussed for both political and/or humane reasons e.g. Vietnam 1965—1971.

While I fully recall WW2, (as much as age allows) it must be understood that a contemporary, say, 20 year old now finds himself almost 70 years beyond the end of that conflict and most of those who fought are long gone, and with them personal memories. As a retired old seafarer I too am almost 70 years removed from the end of WW2 as I was only 14 when it ended.

The point is that while it is important to celebrate the sacrifices made in the past to safeguard the values of our constantly developing culture and one would hope our Christian humanities, there must be realisation

that not all of us have the emotional responsiveness to embrace much passion for historical endeavours we neither experienced nor properly understood.

The armed forces are the depository of the history of conflicts, artefacts and have the will to organise commemorations of such conflicts. They have the personnel, funding and infrastructure to achieve this and, more to the point, the political need to provide as much public exposure and public relations spin as possible in order to maintain their defence budgets from year to year. They have support as well from the several organisations that cater for serving and retired servicemen. Some of these like the RSA punch well above their weight politically if not always punching in the right places nor for the right reasons. The depressing thing is that such flag waving is necessary to motivate our politicians to provide adequate defence funding

We take no issue with this as such funding is critical for firstly the defence of the realm, if ever necessary, and secondarily to keep our commitments to our defence partners. A sword in its scabbard will rust, but providing help and succour to our neighbours in trouble will keep such sword clean and shining.

As old soldiers and old merchant seamen, then, we can hardly blame our teenagers and young people for not being fully aware of our involvement or costs during WW2. That war is the engagement that has become the most frequently celebrated in this era, and the one we oldies most remember.

Perhaps it is time to move on. Do we hear of celebrations for the Crimean War or even the Boer War? Even the most enthusiastic believer must reply "not much."

We are then as guilty of non-observance, non-remembrance and non-celebration as any of the young people we like to castigate as uncaring.

Face it, most of them really do care, they care but without the personal experience it fades in younger generations as a historical circumstance of some significance in the past but not really impacting on their lives.

This is the '**now**' that that struggle in the '**past**' aimed for. Isn't that what it was all about—giving our kids a fear-free and decent future, rather than have them crying over the costs paid by us over the last three or four generations ago?

Our youngsters are aware, they are at least as intelligent as we oldies, better educated and they are worthy of the sacrifices made by their grandfathers and great grandfathers. But their concerns are more immediate and we should realise that our own concerns are no longer theirs, nor should they be.

They will honour past sacrifices in their own way and in their own time. They have the same heart and heritage that inspired their grandfathers and will respond just as readily as we oldies did if the call is ever made again.

Lets move on!