



THE CLAYMORE

HMNZS OTAGO ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

#99 Winter 2018

Chairman's Corner,

"No pity is wasted except self-pity"

Greetings to you all. The weather all over the world is crazy. Ours is no different. But take heart, Spring is on its way and Summer's just around the corner.

REUNION 2019 - This is now planned, and a registration form will be available very soon. Your Committee decided on a "one day event" to keep costs to a minimum to enable you to start saving for the Big 60th in 2020. The emphasis for this 2019 reunion is to enable us to talk to each other and "mix and mingle" more without too much formality. Food will, as always, be plentiful and really good, and drinks will be at RSA prices.

So "come on, let's be 'aving yer' and although it's still a few months away, please register as soon as you can. Also, make it be known to your "oppos" and encourage them to come too.



FINANCE - We are still in a very sound financial position and working within our income.

MEMBERSHIP - The secretary has removed from the database about 15 names of members who, in despite of several reminders over the last couple of years, have not paid their subs. Through the persistent efforts of Fed Wilson in sending out "joining Data" to several potential members, we have a couple of new members. There are still hundreds out there men, so please, go and get them.

OTAGO P148 - On behalf of the Association, I recently presented 200 notepads to the C.O. *Otago*, Lieutenant Commander Lorna Gray, RNZN. At a clear lower deck, I took the opportunity to address the ship's company about our Association and our affiliation to the ship and invited them to join. As the Acting Maritime Commander (same as the old Comauck) was on board, I presented him with a notebook too, which, because he had been CO of Otago a number of years ago, and a strong supporter of the Association, he sincerely appreciated it.

Otago is now doing fishery and other Patrol work up in the Islands.

Kind regards to you all keep warm and dry and keep taking the pills.

Jim Blackburn BEM Ld' H
President

"Revenge is a dish best eaten cold"

REUNION 2019

The 2019 Reunion will be held at the Birkenhead RSA in Recreation Dr, Birkenhead, Auckland, on Saturday, 6 April, 2019.

Could I please ask the Auckland attendees if they have a spare bed for the out of towners? This will help keep the costs down, which may result in more attending. If you can help, please let Jim know on 09 4444091 or email Jim on jimblackburnbem@gmail.com

Registration Forms will be in the next edition of the Claymore.

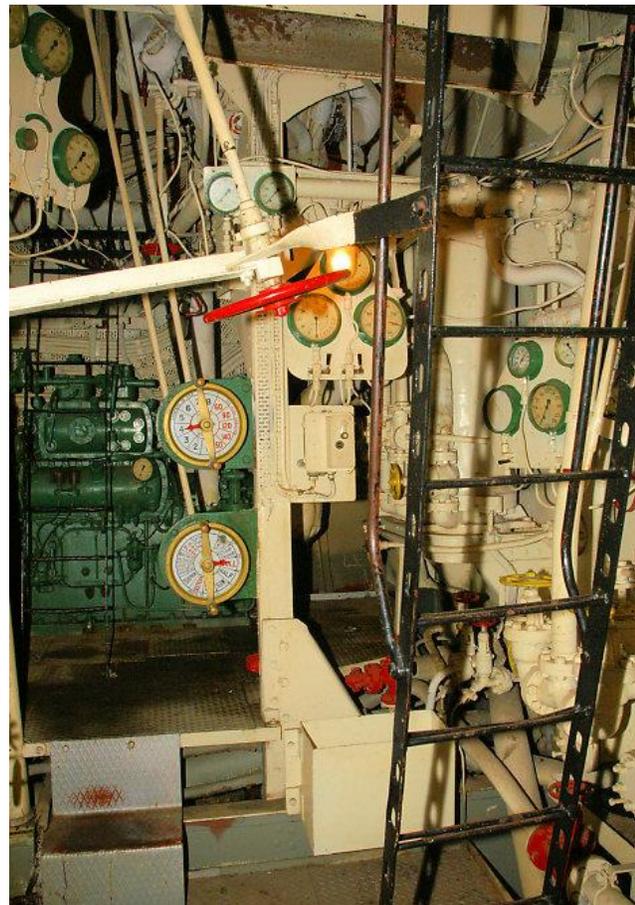
HMNZS OTAGO STORIES

A book is being compiled of the history of the frigate Otago. As members of the association you are invited to send me your stories of your time in that ship. Please note the CO's name and place to help me fit your contribution into the right place in the manuscript. Crew lists, Claymore ship's magazine and any documents are especially welcome. I can scan and return any documents and personal photographs.

Please send your contribution to Gerry Wright gerrywright@xtra.co.nz or 8 Rowan Road, Epsom, Auckland, 1023. I aim to publish the book before the next Dunedin reunion.

OTAGO F111

During a visit to Hong Kong in July, 1966, the port boiler was found to be damaged. Within days the upper deck was a shambles of old and new boiler tubes, boiler bricks, engineering stores and squatting Chinese workers from Taikoo Dockyard. It was also the Typhoon season and had one come near Hong Kong, the ship would have had to be moved to a Typhoon Buoy to ride out the storm. Some special boiler tubes were not available and spares had to be flown from the UK by a RNZAF C130. That delayed work for a week. In all it took four weeks of working around the clock by the ship's engineers and Taikoo workmen to rebuild the boiler. Otago eventually sailed a month late on 23 August.



HMNZS Otago P148

2018 started off as a high paced year, but the last few months have seen HMNZS Otago ramp up the operational tempo even further in preparations to deploy to the South Pacific from August until December 2018. When considering how much time, effort, planning, and resources it takes to make a ship ready to deploy, it's hard not to admire the hard work of the ship's company, and the proactive leadership from Otago's command team. She has fought through countless obstacles and challenges in order to go from being a skeleton ship in dry dock to a fully capable warship ready to conduct major maritime security patrols and boarding operations in foreign environments. The last few weeks are always the busiest before a ship leaves for deployment, with 'last minute' preps occurring right up until Otago finally slipped her lines and said goodbye to New Zealand for 4 months, a collective sigh of relief coming from everyone on board as they could finally focus purely on the task ahead.

What is that task? For the next few months, Otago has been assigned key roles in a number of NZDF and RNZN Operations around the Pacific. Working under the umbrella of the NZDF's larger mission – Operation Calypso – HMNZS Otago is playing a key role in Operation Nasse and Operation Wasawasa. These operations focus on intercepting and boarding fishing vessels to inspect for compliance to international regulations, and continue the assessment of fisheries trends in the high seas adjacent to New Zealand's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). That's a pretty big role for Otago to fill, but luckily this isn't her first rodeo out in the rough seas of the Pacific Ocean. For her Commanding Officer LTCDR Lorna Gray, and a large number of her ship's company, this won't be their first deployment to the Pacific, and with the added expertise of the NZ Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI), and the United States Coast Guard (USGC) she is well equipped to deal with whatever comes next in the following months.



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