



Dear shipmates, families and friends

How Kiwis connected with WW100 commemorations



WW100 was the most extensive programme of commemorations ever undertaken in this country. The scale of the commemorations reflected the catastrophic impacts of the war on New Zealand society at the time and since. It also recognised the benefits for our collective wellbeing that can be realised when people have opportunities to connect with the past and reflect on what it means to us today.

The centenary was a truly collaborative endeavour, one that has involved individuals, organisations and communities the length of Aotearoa New Zealand and beyond. The contributions of all these people have been instrumental in helping achieve the remarkable results.



The final overseas national commemoration of the centenary was held on 4 November 2018, marking 100 years since New Zealand troops liberated the French town of Le Quesnoy. More than 300 descendants of the New Zealand soldiers joined the Le Quesnoy community, a New Zealand Defence Force Contingent and French and New Zealand dignitaries to mark the occasion. Photo: NZDF

The Government has released a WW100 Final Report which looks at a selection of the more than 1,100 activities that took place during the centenary. The report also includes a summary of research which captured New Zealanders' attitudes towards, and

engagement with the programme, as well as their knowledge of the First World War.

You may read a copy of the report at:
<https://ww100.govt.nz/final-report>



Here's a summary of the key findings:

- Almost all New Zealanders (93 percent) engaged with the First World War centenary.
- 83 percent of New Zealanders say they now have at least a basic understanding of New Zealand's involvement in the First World War, up from 79 percent in 2012.
- 82 percent of New Zealanders believe the First World War has been relevant in shaping our national identity to some extent.
- Of those who engaged in the commemorations, 71 percent agreed that it reinforced for them the importance of New Zealand's commitment to peace.

Wellington waterfront ceremony

The 15th annual commemoration at our plaque site on the Wellington waterfront on 9 May 2019 saw fine but breezy weather.

Wreaths were laid by the Russian Ambassador, the British High Commissioner, Capt. Tony Hayes RNZN, Capt. Lew Robinson, Rear Admiral Jack Steer RNZRSA, the Russian Convoy Club of NZ, Victor Gauduch and many floral tributes from members of the Wellington Russian community. The Russian and Merchant Navy flags flew from the yardarm of the *Wahine* mast in Frank Kitts Park.



During the ceremony the British High Commissioner presented the Arctic Star, posthumously, to the grandson of William Taylor (C/JX 373083) who served on HMS *Vigilant* as a Submarine Detector on several Russian convoys (photo above).

Colour added to Arctic Convoy images

Colourised images by Welsh electrician Royston Leonard have revealed the brutal conditions faced by sailors who protected the Second World War Arctic Convoys.

Black and white images have been transformed to show the harsh life on ships heading to and from freezing ports in the Soviet Union - an operation Winston Churchill described as 'the worst journey in the world'.

Many show crew shovelling snow and chipping away at ice that would regularly coat weapons and decks.



The Arctic convoys inspired books, including Alistair Maclean's *HMS Ulysses* which tells the story of a Royal Navy cruiser leading a convoy to Murmansk with vital supplies for the Russian Army. The novel echoes real life events in which British *HMS Glowworm* and *HMS Jervis Bay* sacrificed themselves by engaging larger German opponents.

Crew members wearing heavy winter coats would regularly remove ice during bitter sub-zero conditions to stop their top-heavy ships capsizing.



Striking images like these are featured in British author Michael D. Carroll's book, *Retrographic* which features the colourisation of historical images. The book is available for purchase online from [Book Depository](#).

Source: The Daily Mail

Ushakov Medal awarded



Arctic Convoy veteran Commander Peter Holt RN was surrounded by family when recently presented with the Ushakov Medal at a ceremony in Auckland attended by Igor Baiazov Deputy Head of Mission, Russian Embassy. Peter (P/JX246031) rose from Boy Seaman 2nd class to Commander and served on HMSs *Belfast*, *Scylla*, *Onslaught*, *Intrepid*, *Middleton* and *Tyne*. Peter's son, Adam (pictured second from left) passed his appreciation to the Club for the assistance in making the presentation possible.

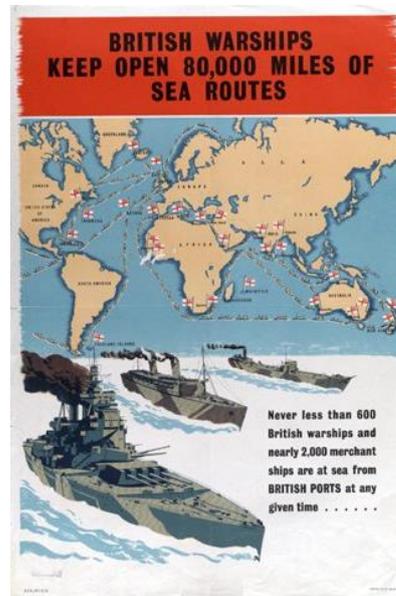
Obituary

We regret to advise the passing of our member:

Ron Sanderson

Arctic Convoy service on RFA *Laurelwood*

Passed away at Lower Hutt on 19 May 2019



Diary Dates

Russia's National Day, Wellington
Tue 11 June 2019

Club Meeting, Anzac Lounge, Lower Hutt Memorial RSA
Thurs 29 August 2019 at 1100hrs

Christmas Gathering at Otaki
Details to be advised

What do you call a sail with only two corners?
I haven't got a clew!

Up Spirits!



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