



# Russian Convoy Club of New Zealand

**Newsletter**  
June/July 2020

Dear shipmates, families and friends

## Russia awards 75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Medal



Russia has issued a 75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Medal to veterans who served on the Arctic Convoys during World War Two.

Despite the challenges created by the COVID-19 lockdown, all entitled members received their 75th Jubilee medal either through the post or courier.

Our thanks go to the Ambassador and the Embassy staff.

## Deputy Prime Minister issues VE Day statement

8 May 2020: Deputy Prime Minister of New Zealand and Leader of New Zealand First, Rt Hon Winston Peters said, "Today is the 75th anniversary of VE Day – marking the end of World War II in Europe.

Millions died in the six years of war, and families were torn apart. 75 years on, in the throes of a health crisis of pandemic proportions, we remember those who fought and sacrificed so much for our freedom.

And in doing so we must do everything we can to support and care for the generation that lost so much, for us to gain everything," said Mr Peters.



**June 2020**  
Russia National Day

**27 August 2020**  
RCCNZ Meeting  
Lower Hutt RSA

**3 September 2020**  
Merchant Navy Day

**26 November 2020**  
RCCNZ Christmas Meeting  
Otaki

*Further details will be advised  
as they come to hand*

## New Zealand and Australia strengthen defence cooperation

New Zealand and Australia have agreed to further strengthen defence cooperation in the fight against COVID-19 on both sides of the Tasman and in our Pacific neighbourhood.

On 7 May 2020, Minister of Defence Hon Ron Mark, held a joint teleconference with Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds, Australian Minister of Defence, and the Hon Melissa Price, Minister for Defence Industry, to discuss responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"New Zealand has no better friend than Australia. Our co-operation on supporting our defence industries and our shared experience in emergency response are important components to our strong relationship," Minister Mark said.

Ministers discussed how Australia and New Zealand are providing support to their respective defence industries, to overcome the challenges caused by COVID-19 so that they can continue to deliver capability to both countries' defence forces.

"As both countries continue to focus on responding to COVID-19, continued engagement with industry and the sharing of lessons learned will remain a priority for us, especially in the area of defence science and technology," said Minister Price.

There are opportunities for competitive ANZ suppliers to demonstrate their ability to offer value for money and provide quality goods and services in support of industry capability development in both countries. It also reduces the cost of doing business for both government and industry.

Ministers noted that New Zealand companies qualify as local industry under specific industry programs and they acknowledged the important role both defence forces were playing in Australia and New Zealand's respective all-of-government responses to COVID-19, including concurrently supporting partners in the Pacific impacted by Tropical Cyclone Harold.

Ministers Reynolds and Mark reaffirmed their commitment to ongoing closely coordinated efforts to support our Pacific family during the COVID-19 crisis.

**МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫЙ ЦЕНТР СЕВЕРНЫХ КОНВОЕВ**      **THE NORTHERN CONVOYS INTERNATIONAL CENTRE**


**DEAR FRIENDS! DEAR VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES!**


**We heartily congratulate you on Victory Day!**

The memory of the feat of our people in the struggle for peace and freedom lives in each of us, and gratefulness to all those who made the Victory closer sacrificing themselves every hour and every day makes us who we are – patriots and true citizens of our countries.

We thank our dear veterans from the bottom of our hearts for the peaceful skies, and we express deep gratitude to the veterans of the Allied countries in World War II, who fought against the fearsome enemy together with the Soviet people.

**May there always be peaceful skies above us! Happy Victory Day!**

Head of Board of Trustees  Pavel Ozhgihin

Director  Vladimir Solomonov

## Ambassador lays wreath at Russian Convoy Memorial

The Russian Embassy says that Victory Day, which is celebrated in Russia on 9 May, marks the most tragic milestone in Russian history.

H.E. Ambassador Georgii Zuev laid a wreath on behalf of the Embassy of the Russian Federation at the memorial plaque located at the Wellington Waterfront.



“It was a common Victory, and we greatly appreciate the contribution of our allies, especially New Zealand with its brave sailors who participated in the Arctic Convoys and helped millions of Soviet people to survive during those horrific times”.

## RNZN personnel win Antarctic marathons

Royal New Zealand Navy medic Max Neustroski can lay claim to a feat not many others have achieved – winning a marathon in the world’s most southern continent, Antarctica.

Able Medic Neustroski, a former Gisborne Boys High School student, won the McMurdo Marathon in a time of three hours 42 minutes.

Along with three other New Zealand Defence Force personnel - Major Andrew Thornton, Corporal Flea Beaven, and Lance Corporal Robin Goomes - he joined 50 other competitors on the start line for the marathon in January 2020.

The race was held on the Ross Ice Shelf – a glacier the size of France connected to the continent and floating on the ocean – and provided interesting running terrain, with areas of soft snow, compacted snow, groomed ice and slippery ice.



“It was interesting running in soft and compacted snow, but the views of the mountain ranges, Mount Discovery and the Ross Ice Shelf were amazing. It was a fun thing to do. I’ve had a bit of time to acclimatise down here, so I started the race in a thermal, tee-shirt, light jacket, tights and shorts, and socks. I ended it in just a tee-shirt, tights and shorts,” Able Medic Neustroski said.

The marathon was a first for Major Thornton, who finished third in a time of four hours 19 minutes. It was also Lance Corporal Goomes’

first marathon, and she went on to complete the ultra-marathon (52km) and claim first place with a time of six hours four minutes.

While Able Medic Neustroski can usually be found working as a medic on RNZN ships, his job in Antarctica is communications operator, where he works shifts with three others, communicating with science programme personnel throughout the continent.

The NZDF has been involved in Antarctica since 1955, supporting New Zealand’s contribution to international efforts to improve scientific knowledge and safeguard the pristine environment.

A vintage recruitment poster for the Royal Naval Division. The top text reads "ROYAL NAVAL DIVISION" in large, bold letters, followed by "HANDYMEN TO FIGHT ON LAND &amp; SEA" in orange. Below this, the poster is divided into two columns for the "1ST BRIGADE" and "2ND BRIGADE". Each column lists battalions: "BENBOW", "COLLINGWOOD", "HAWKE", "DRAKE" for the 1st Brigade, and "HOWE", "HOOD", "ANSON", "NELSON" for the 2nd Brigade. In the center, a sailor in a dark uniform stands with a rifle. At the bottom, it says "RECRUITS WANTED" on both sides, followed by "VACANCIES FOR RECRUITS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18 AND 38" and "CHEST MEASUREMENT, 34 in. HEIGHT, 5 ft. 3 in. PAYMENT FROM 1/3 PER DAY. FAMILY ALLOWANCES." Below that, it says "Besides serving in the above Battalions and for the Transport and Engineer Sections attached, MEN WANTED who are suitable for training as Wireless Operators, Signalmen, and other Service with the Fleet. Apply to the Recruiting Office, 112, STRAND, LONDON, W.C." At the very bottom, in small letters, it says "PRINTED &amp; PUBLISHED BY THE ROYAL NAVAL DIVISION, LONDON."

## Membership Subscriptions

Members are reminded that subs were due in March for the 2020-21 year. Invoices were posted and included an invitation for those who wished to make a donation in lieu of, or in addition to, the sub.

Up Spirits!



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