

1949
NEW ZEALAND

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND NAVY

REPORT OF THE NEW ZEALAND NAVAL BOARD FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL, 1948,
TO 31ST MARCH, 1949

*Presented to Both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency the
Governor-General*

Navy Office, Wellington C.1, 9th June, 1949.

The Hon. the MINISTER OF DEFENCE.

SIR,—

We have the honour to address to you the following report of the Royal New Zealand Navy and proceedings on the New Zealand Station during the year 1st April, 1948, to 31st March, 1949.

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SECTION I—STATE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Navy Department is controlled by the Naval Board, established by the Naval Defence Amendment Act, 1936.

2. The Board consists of—

The Minister of Defence (Chairman).

A Captain, Royal Navy, with the rank of Commodore (as First Naval Member and Chief of Naval Staff).

A Captain, Royal Navy (as Second Naval Member).

A Commander (S), Royal Navy, with the acting rank of Captain (S), Royal Navy (as Naval Secretary).

3. A state of the Fleet as at 31st March, 1949, is attached as Appendix I.

SECTION II—GENERAL SURVEY OF THE YEAR

4. The main naval event of the year was the arrival of the first four frigates at Auckland on 5th January, 1949. With their large radius of action, modern A/S armament, and good accommodation, these ships are a welcome addition to the New Zealand Squadron. Two further frigates are expected to reach New Zealand by the end of August.

5. Consequent on the arrival of the frigates, it has been decided to reconstitute the New Zealand Squadron, with the Commanding Officer, H.M.N.Z.S. "Bellona" as Senior Officer, as from 31st March, 1949.

6. Negotiations are proceeding for the purchase of a surveying ship in the United Kingdom. Construction will take about three years. In order to commence surveying as soon as possible it is hoped to obtain a surveying ship on loan from the Royal Australian Navy for a period of three years.

7. Other changes that have occurred during the year are—

(a) The corvettes H.M.N.Z. Ships "Arabis" and "Arbutus," originally presented to New Zealand as a free gift from the United Kingdom, have been returned to the Royal Navy. They left New Zealand in April, 1948, with crews for the frigates, arriving in the United Kingdom in June.

(b) Two 75 ft. tugs—the "Arataki" and "Manawanui"—have been completed for service at Auckland.

(c) The Wellington Harbour Board have intimated that they no longer require the Saint Class Tug "Toia," which they have held on loan from the Royal New Zealand Navy. There is no prospective naval use for the "Toia," and she is to be offered for sale by tender.

(d) The Royal New Zealand Navy Headquarters in London has been renamed H.M.N.Z.S. "Maori." This was done at the request of the Admiralty as the existing name—H.M.N.Z.S. "Cook"—was causing confusion with the Royal Navy surveying ship of the same name.

8. Movements of ships have included a Pacific Islands cruise by H.M.N.Z.S. "Bellona" from June to August, 1948, during the course of which His Excellency the Governor-General was embarked for a period, and visits by H.M.N.Z.S. "Bellona" and the frigates to New Zealand ports, ending in combined exercises during the month of March. Further details are given in Appendix II.

9. No British or Commonwealth warships have visited New Zealand during the year. The postponement of the visit of His Majesty the King in H.M.S. "Vanguard" was a great disappointment. The French sloop "Dumont D'Urville" visited Auckland in May, 1948.

10. Duties undertaken outside the normal run of service routine include—

- (a) Visits to service the meteorological stations on Raoul Island (Kermadec Group) and on Campbell Island.
- (b) The regular servicing of lighthouses in Hauraki Gulf.
- (c) Fishery-protection patrols by a motor-launch.
- (d) Demolition of underwater obstructions in Whakatane Harbour.

SECTION III—PERSONNEL

11. Comparative statements of numbers borne on 31st March, 1948, and 31st March, 1949, are shown in Appendix III.

12. The re-entries include 33 ex-R.N.Z.N. ratings and 359 ex-R.N. ratings recruited in the United Kingdom.

13. The numbers of male candidates called for examination and rejected for various reasons in the past two years are shown below—

			1948-49	1947-48
Called for examination	..	..	.. 768	648
Rejected—				
Medically unfit	..	..	.. 107	77
Dentally unfit	..	..	.. 38	39
Educationally unfit	..	..	.. 177	127
Other reasons	..	..	.. 121	123

The numbers rejected on medical and educational grounds remain high.

14. The chief lack is a shortage of Petty Officers, particularly in the Seaman Branch.

15. A scheme for the entry of permanent Electrical Branch officers was inaugurated during the year, the first Cadet (L) being entered in January, 1949. The scheme of training comprises one year's preliminary naval training, three years at the National School of Engineering, Canterbury University College, and two years' practical training in naval electrical schools and electrical manufacturers' workshops in the United Kingdom.

16. The 23 Direct Entry Officers mainly comprise officers entered for short service in the Medical, Dental, Education, and Chaplain Branches.

The first officer selected for naval Service in the Defence Scientific Corps joined the R.N.Z.N. in March, 1949.

SECTION IV—WELFARE

17. Efforts are being made to overcome the housing difficulties of naval personnel, nine permanent and fourteen temporary housing units at Narrow Neck have been completed during the year and a further ten will be finished in the near future. Two housing units have also been completed at Cass Bay. Comprehensive plans are being prepared to house personnel wherever they may be stationed throughout New Zealand.

18. Recent additions to the recreational facilities available to personnel include—

Provision of a Y.M.C.A. hut at H.M.N.Z.S. "Tamaki."

Construction of additional facilities for sports at the Naval W/T Station, Waiouru.

The inauguration of a scheme for the circulation of entertainment and educational films.

SECTION V—NAVAL RESERVES

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVES

19. The four Divisions (Auckland, Wellington, Canterbury, and Otago) commenced weekly drills and training late in 1948. Recruiting has been satisfactory, and a good type of volunteer has come forward, including a number of pre-war, and so experienced, R.N.Z.N.V.R. ratings.

20. The strength of the Divisions on 31st March, 1949, was as follows:—

	Officers.		Ratings.	
	Establishment.	Borne.	Establishment.	Borne.
Auckland	33	21	240	88
Wellington	33	11	240	73
Canterbury	28	14	180	83
Otago	28	13	180	85
Totals.. .. .	122	59	840	329

As stated in the last annual report, recruiting has for the moment been confined to half-strength to ensure that a number of experienced men are available in each Division when the current four-year period of enrolment expires.

21. The Canterbury and Otago Divisions have taken delivery of their motor-launches, and these have proved a valuable incentive to recruiting besides being utilized for putting into practice the theoretical training learnt at evening parades at headquarters.

22. Approximately 5 officers and 90 men went to sea in ships of the squadron during March for one week's sea training.

23. The Government has approved payment to officers and men for attendance at drills of one day's pay for each six hours' training. In addition, actual travelling-expenses from place of residence to headquarters will be refunded.

24. Inquiries have been received as to the possibility of starting Reserve Divisions at places other than the four main centres. Shortage of experienced instructors at present precludes an increase in the number of Divisions, but the situation will be reviewed when the manning situation eases.

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND NAVAL RESERVE

25. The R.N.Z.N.R. comprised 12 officers and 191 ratings on 31st March, 1949.

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND NAVAL VOLUNTEER SUPPLEMENTARY RESERVE

26. The R.N.Z.N.V.S.R. comprises officers who held temporary commissions in the Navy or Reserves during the late war, and who wish to maintain their connection with the naval service. No training is carried out in peacetime, but members state they are prepared to be called up for the naval service under a Royal Proclamation in the event of emergency.

On 31st March, 1949, there were 239 officers on the list.

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND NAVAL EMERGENCY RESERVE

27. During the year an Emergency Reserve was formed, similar to the Supplementary Reserve, but open to ratings. By 31st March, 1949, 72 men and women had enrolled—a disappointing response in view of the large number of discharged naval ratings who are eligible to join.

NAVY LEAGUE SEA CADETS

28. Although not part of the official Reserves, the Sea Cadet movement is officially recognized by the Naval Board and assistance is afforded whenever possible. Assistance during the past year has included training in H.M.N.Z.S. "Black Prince" and at the annual summer camps.

SEA SCOUTS AND RANGERS

29. Assistance has been given where possible in the form of naval instruction and organized visits to ships.

SECTION VI—CIVILIAN STAFF

30. The effects of defence policy as far as naval commitments are concerned have now enabled a clearer picture of civilian staff requirements to be established. The staffing position has been under constant review and, with the collaboration of the Public Service Commission and detailed investigations by their Inspectors, considerable progress has been made in establishing permanent complements where requirements are definitely known. This has the effect of giving a more balanced organization and, in clarifying promotion prospects, improves the morale of the staff by removing the uncertainties which have existed for some time past.

31. The general difficulty in maintaining suitably trained staff, both in the clerical and trades groups, continues as in other Departments and industries. Staffs in all groups have now reached the point where further losses result in a decrease in over-all efficiency. Deficiencies in certain branches have become more apparent since the commissioning of the frigates.

32. *Apprentices.*—During the year 21 apprentices were entered in the various trades; two vacancies only were not filled, those of sailmaker and rigger. It is still found that, even though they now have the benefit of permanent staff status, a number of apprentices are lost to the Dockyard on completion of training owing to the attraction of higher wages outside.

33. *Dockyard Workers' Wages Agreement.*—The 1947-49 agreement expired on 31st March, 1949. Negotiations are proceeding with the unions representing the Dockyard workmen, and the Public Service Commission as the employing authority, for dealing with the claims for a new agreement, which will presumably require to be ratified by the newly-appointed Government Services Tribunal.

34. Comparative figures of civilian staffs at Wellington and Auckland are shown in Appendix IV.

SECTION VII—H.M.N.Z. DOCKYARD AND NAVAL BASE DOCKYARD WORK

35. *Naval Vessels.*—Work, varying from major refits to minor repairs, was carried out on all of H.M.N.Z. ships, launches, and miscellaneous craft. The arrival of four frigates in January, 1949, after their 14,000-mile passage from England caused a considerable increase in repair requirements.

36. *Vessels Belonging to Other Government Departments.*—Vessels refitted on behalf of other Government Departments included—

“Matai”, “Ikateri”: Marine Department,

“Maui Pomare”: Island Territories Department,

“Alpha”: State Forest Service,

“Duchess,” “Golden Hind,” “Rehutai”: Works Department,

and miscellaneous small craft for Civil Aviation, Army and Royal New Zealand Air Force.

Work was also carried out on a French ship on behalf of the French Government.

37. *General Work.*—The usual routine maintenance of Dockyard buildings, installation, and plant was completed, together with the manufacture, inspection, and repair of various items of naval stores.

38. *Work for Other Government Departments.*—Side by side with the naval work, 440 jobs, valued at £57,559, were completed for other Government Departments. The largest item was the construction of two head towers for the Maraetai hydro-electric scheme.

39. *Work for Private Individuals or Firms.*—A total of 60 jobs which could not be undertaken elsewhere in New Zealand were completed for private individuals or firms to a value of £5,720.

40. *Oil-fuel Installations.*—Naval oil-tanks are, under agreement, being used to store furnace and Diesel fuel oil for the British Petroleum Co. of New Zealand, Ltd., and the Department's oil-barge is used to deliver fuel as required.

41. *Stores.*—The storage of the various items of naval, armament, and other stores required by the R.N.Z.N. is satisfactory, and adequate stocks are held.

G. T. MILLETT,

Naval Secretary and Member, New Zealand Naval Board.

J. G. HEWITT, Captain, R.N.,

Second Naval Member, New Zealand Naval Board.

GEO. W. G. SIMPSON,

First Naval Member, New Zealand Naval Board.

APPENDIX I.—STATE OF THE NAVY AT 31ST MARCH, 1949

IN COMMISSION

" Bellona "	..	..	Cruiser.
" Taupo " ..	..	..	} Frigate.
" Pukaki " ..	..	..
" Kanieri " ..	..	..
" Hawea " ..	..	..
" Rotoiti " ..	..	..
" Tutira " ..	..	..	} Trawler (training ship).
" Kiwi " ..	..	..
Eight motor-launches	..	..	Fishery-protection, training, and harbour duties, and R.N.Z.N.V.R. Divisions.
" Hipi " ..	..	..	} Tug.
" Arataki " ..	..	..
" Manawanui " ..	..	..
" Endeavour " ..	..	..	} Yard Craft.
" Tu Atu " ..	..	..
" Coastguard " ..	..	..
and Miscellaneous minor vessels	..	..	} Depot Auckland. Responsible for recruiting, drafting, and discharge of personnel of the Royal New Zealand Navy, also for the training of the various technical branches.
" Philomel " ..	..	..
" Philomel II " ..	..	..	Navy Office, Wellington.
" Tamaki " ..	..	..	New Entry Training Establishment, Auckland. Responsible for the basic training of all new entries.
Naval W/T Station, Waiouru.			
" Maori " ..	..	..	R.N.Z.N. Headquarters, London.

IN RESERVE			
"Black Prince"	Cruiser.
"Tui"	A/S M/S trawlers.
"Killegray"	..	..
"Inchkeith"	..	..
"Scarba"	..	..
"Sanda"	..	..
"Hinaiu"	Boom-defence vessel.
"Rimu"	..	..
"Claymore"	Torpedo and Anti-submarine School and Naval Base, Lyttelton.
"Tasman"	..	..

APPENDIX II.—R.N.Z.N. MOVEMENTS DURING YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1949

"Bellona"—			
April-May	..	..	Tarakohe, New Plymouth, Pelorus Sound, Wellington, Bay of Islands, Hauraki Gulf, Motuihi Island ("Tamaki").
June-August	..	..	Pacific Islands' cruise, visiting Suva, Nukualofa, Islands of the Lower Cook Group, Niue, Samoa, the Tokelau and Fiji Groups. (His Excellency the Governor-General of New Zealand, Lady Freyberg, and staff were embarked at Suva on 22nd July. His Excellency the Governor of Fiji was embarked on 27th July for the remainder of the cruise in Fijian waters.)
October-December	..	..	Hauraki Gulf, Motuihi Island ("Tamaki"), Gisborne, Picton, Nelson, Wellington, Lyttelton, Akaroa, Oamaru, Timaru, and Napier.
February-March	..	..	Russell, Whangaroa, Southland Sounds, Bluff, Dunedin, Wellington, Akaroa, and New Plymouth.
"Arabis" and "Arbutus"—			
April-June	..	..	Sydney, Cairns, Darwin, Singapore, Colombo, Aden, Suez, Port Said, Benghazi, Malta, Gibraltar, Portsmouth.
"Taupo," "Pukaki," "Kaniere," and "Hawea"—			
October-January	..	..	United Kingdom, Gibraltar, Malta, Port Said, Suez, Aden, Colombo, Fremantle, Auckland.
March	..	..	Akaroa, Wellington.
"Taupo"—			
March	..	..	Picton, Tauranga.
"Pukaki"—			
March	..	..	Timaru, Napier.
"Kaniere"—			
March	..	..	Dunedin, Greymouth, Westport.
"Hawea"—			
March	..	..	Apia, Dunedin, Bluff.
"Kiwi"—			
April-August	..	..	Lyttelton, Wellington.
November-December	..	..	Wellington, Lyttelton, Dunedin, Campbell Island, Wellington.
February-March	..	..	Hauraki Gulf, Doubtless Bay, Akaroa, Raoul Island (Kermadec Group).

APPENDIX III.—STATE OF NAVAL PERSONNEL

OFFICERS

				R.N.Z.N.	R.N.	W.R.N.Z.N.S.
Figures at 1st April, 1948	..	..	..	114	36	2
Direct Entries	..	..	..	23	..	..
Promotions from Lower Deck	..	..	..	13	..	..
On loan from R.N.	..	..	..	..	37	..
				150	73	2
Discharges	..	..	..	5	15	..
Figures at 31st March, 1949	..	..	..	145	58	2
Total	..	..	..	205		

RATINGS

				R.N.Z.N.	R.N.	W.R.N.Z.N.S.
Figures at 1st April, 1948	..	..	..	1,336	133	36
Entries	..	..	..	253	..	63
Re-entries of Naval Ratings	..	..	..	392	..	..
Loan from R.N.	..	..	..	..	13	..
				1,981	146	99
Discharges	..	..	..	125	19	19
Figures at 31st March, 1949	..	..	..	1,856	127	80
Total	..	..	..	2,063		

Officers and ratings combined total 2,268.

APPENDIX IV.—STATE OF CIVILIAN STAFF

TABLE A.—NUMBERS OF CIVILIAN STAFF AS AT 31st MARCH OVER THE PERIOD OF THE LAST TEN YEARS

Year.	Navy Office.			Auckland.			
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.		Female.	Total.
				Clerical.	General.		
1940	18	50	68	27	30	6	63
1941	27	72	99	28	68	30	126
1942	45	124	169	31	95	77	203
1943	59	229	288	35	110	113	258
1944	57	232	289	40	154	126	320
1945	50	221	271	55	179	136	370
1946	49	145	194	67	191	106	364
1947	43	107	150	79	167	74	320
1948	48	79	127	72	229	64	365
1949	40	78	118	59	300	61	420

TABLE B.—PUBLIC SERVICE STAFF TURNOVER FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1949

	Navy Office.			Auckland.		
	Male.	Female	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Appointments	3	24	27	99	27	126
Resignations	5	24	29	44	30	74
Transfers	6	1	7	5	1	6
Services terminated .. ..	..	1	1	2	1	3
Secondment ceased .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lent	1	1	2	..	..	..
Deaths	1	..	1	..	1	1
Extended leave	4	17	21	1	..	1

TABLE C.—CIVILIAN WORKMEN EMPLOYED IN THE DOCKYARD UNDER PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION 150: AVERAGE NUMBERS OVER PAST SIX YEARS

	1948-49.	1947-48.	1946-47.	1945-46.	1944-45.	1943-44.
April	399	468	453	587	488	503
May	395	481	451	564	468	509
June	392	493	447	563	459	501
July	386	495	449	553	445	498
August	392	491	473	554	461	495
September	396	486	474	526	454	509
October	405	462	464	484	457	506
November	411	451	466	504	485	492
December	405	449	463	508	503	489
January	407	404	465	446	480	467
February	400	410	465	468	509	511
March	400	405	472	454	584	502
Yearly average	399	458	462	517	486	498

There was a high turnover in the numbers of casual workmen employed, the figure being 57 per cent.

TABLE D.—A COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF ANNUAL WAGES PAID TO CIVILIAN WORKMEN

	£		£
1942	231,446	1946	211,696
1943	233,991	1947	157,838
1944	243,625	1948	157,403
1945	214,500	1949	143,666

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