

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

18 February 22 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Swanson RSA

18 March 22 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Waiheke RSA

15 – 18 April 22 – Easter

22 April 22 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Henderson RSA

25 April 22 – ANZAC Day

Hi Folks

NGAPONA ASSN MONTHLY LUNCH

A reminder that our next lunch at the Swanson RSA on Friday 18 Feb is still on.

Vaccination certificates and face masks are required.

Hope to see you there at 1200hrs.

SEARCH FOR SHACKLETON'S SHIP 'ENDURANCE'

A South African icebreaker departed Saturday morning in search of Ernest Shackleton's ship Endurance, which sank off the coast of Antarctica in 1915 after being slowly crushed by pack ice. "The Falklands Maritime Heritage Trust is pleased to confirm that the Endurance22 Expedition, which is aiming to locate, survey and film the wreck of Endurance... has departed on schedule from Cape Town, headed for the Weddell Sea in Antarctica," the expedition's organisers announced. As part of the renowned polar explorer's Imperial Trans-Antarctic expedition between 1914 and 1917, ENDURANCE was meant to make the first land crossing of Antarctica, but it fell prey to the Weddell Sea. Just east of the Larsen ice shelves on the Antarctic peninsula, it became ensnared in sea-ice for over 10 months before being crushed and sinking some 3,000 metres below the surface. The voyage is something of a legend, due to the miraculous escape Shackleton and his crew made on foot and in boats. The crew managed to escape by camping on the sea ice until it ruptured. They then launched life boats to Elephant Island and then South Georgia Island, a British overseas territory that lies around 1,400 kms east of the Falkland Islands. The expedition will last for between 35 days and 45 days, with the vessel navigating its way through heavy ice and harsh temperatures. It hopes to find the iconic shipwreck with state-of-the-art technology and explore it with two underwater drones. But the journey will be a difficult one. The Anglo-Irish explorer himself even described the

site of the sink as "the worst portion of the worst sea in the world." The 144-foot-long ship sunk in the Weddell Sea, which has a swirling current that sustains a mass of thick sea ice that can cause problems even for modern ice breakers. It is one of the hardest parts of the ocean to navigate. Endurance22's director of exploration, Mensun Bound, said in a statement that his team "very much hope we can do justice to this magnificent chapter in polar exploration". If they do find it, it will be left untouched but they will do a 3D scan of it and broadcast it in real time. Despite the optimism, there is no guarantee the 110-year-old ship will be located. "In terms of shipwreck challenges, it is the most difficult," David Mearns, one of the world's leading shipwreck hunters, told AFP. "You won't get any more difficult than this because of the ice conditions".

Source: NDTV



Endurance

MASSIVE NAVAL BUIL-UP

Arleigh Burke-class destroyers USS *Donald Cook* (DDG-75) USS *Mitscher* (DDG-57) USS *The Sullivans* (DDG-68) and USS *Gonzales* (DDG-66) left the U.S. last month as independent deployers for U.S. 6th Fleet. All four ships are also configured for ballistic missile defence. The ships join the four Navy BMD destroyers based in Rota, Spain – USS *Ross* (DDG-71), USS *Roosevelt* (DDG-80), USS *Porter* (DDG-78) and USS *Arleigh Burke* (DDG-51) and the *Harry S. Truman* Carrier Strike Group operating in the Mediterranean Sea. Navy officials on Thursday took pains not to directly tie the deployments to the simmering tensions between the U.S. and Russia over the 100,000 Russian troops on the border of Ukraine and the Russian naval build-up in the Black Sea. However, the collection of ships in U.S. 6th Fleet is the largest American naval force in Europe since 2018. Now, USS *Harry S. Truman* (CVN-75), Carrier Air Wing 1 and its escorts have been on station near the entrance

to the Black Sea since late December under orders from Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin, USNI News reported.



USS Donald Cook

HUGE PROFITS

COSCO Shipping Holdings Co., Ltd. (COSCO Shipping), one of the largest container carriers worldwide, forecast soaring profits in 2021 due to the tight supply of containers amid the pandemic. Net profit attributable to shareholders during the period will likely jump 799.3 percent, year on year, to about 89.28 billion yuan (about 14 billion U.S. dollars), according to a report the company filed with the Shanghai Stock Exchange.

Source: Xinhua

CAPT BLYGH R.N.

The Mutiny on the *Bounty*

28 April 1789. At around 0600 Acting Lieutenant Fletcher Christian, MAA Charles Churchill, Gunner's mate John Mills and AB Thomas Burkett seize Bligh while he slept. Other crew members who were thought to be loyal to Bligh were secured and soon the mutineers had control of the ship.

Bligh did not go quietly. He continuously belaboured all to set him free and to overturn the mutiny, however this was to no avail.

A 23-foot launch was duly lowered and outfitted with canvas, rope, sails, two water casks containing 28 gallons of water, 150 pounds of bread, some wine and rum and a quadrant and compass. 18 men loyal to Bligh were duly placed into the launch. 25 remained on board which included three who had wanted to go with Bligh but were held by the mutineers and were the Armourer Coleman, and Carpenter's mates Norman and McIntosh. It is thought that these crewmembers were considered to be vital by Christian if he were to work the ship back to Tahiti. It is of note that the Carpenter, who remained with Bligh, was allowed to keep his

toolbox by the mutineers. Peckover had a personal watch; John Samuel, Bligh's clerk managed to take Bligh's journal, commissioning papers and the purser's documents but was not allowed to take Bligh's maps and charts which related to 15 years navigational work.

Before finally casting off at around 1000, and after some 'pleading', a few pieces of pork, some clothing and four cutlasses were given to the castaways.

Bounty then headed back to Tahiti, while Bligh, with his 18 loyalists, steered for the nearest land, the island of Tofua identifiable by the plume of smoke rising from its volcano. To begin, the seas were very calm with little wind and the launch was under oars, however, this later changed allowing the sails to be used to reach the island around 30 miles distant. The launch was so overloaded it had only seven inches of freeboard.

Tofua is an island of Tonga. Its volcano is a steep sided composite cone and covers most of the island. It remains active to this day. There is no longer any permanent population on the island.

The reasons for the mutiny are unclear. Perhaps it was the allure of Tahiti or was it as some would say, and notwithstanding the lengths Bligh went to maintain the health and well-being of his crew, the 'ill' treatment of them?



Regards

Jerry Payne

Editor

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