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HMNZS NGAPONA ASSOCIATION INC

LONGCAST

7 August 22 – Ngapona Assn AGM at Birkenhead RSA at 1500

13 August 22 – Navy Club – AGM, Remuera Club at 1100

19 August 22 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Orakei RSA

9 September 22 - Navy Club

15 September 22 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at New Lynn RSA

Hi Folks

HMNZS NGAPONA ASSN INC NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of the Ngapona Assn will be held on Sunday, 7th August 2022, at the Birkenhead RSA at 1500hrs.

Notice of Motion (1) That an Associate Member may stand for election to the Committee.

Notice of Motion (2) That Full Membership shall be open to Serving and

Past members of all RNZNVR/RNZNR Divisions.
Notice of Motion (3) That the Constitution be changed to reflect the new requirements of the Incorporated Societies Act.

Please make an effort to attend this meeting as it is important for the survival of your Assn.

There will be 'finger food' and of course a 'President's Shout'.

NZDF DEPLOYMENTS

Personnel deployed on major peace support operations, training missions and headquarters positions around the world:

31 personnel to the Multinational Force and Observers in Egypt, including the Force Commander

12 personnel to the United Nations Command and Military Armistice Commission in the Republic of Korea

8 personnel to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation based in Golan Heights, Lebanon and Syria

6 personnel in the Middle East in roles associated with the Defeat-ISIS Coalition in Iraq

4 personnel to Honiara, Solomon Islands

3 personnel to the Combined Maritime Forces Headquarters in Bahrain

3 personnel to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan

1 personnel deployed to UK Maritime Trade Operations in United Arab Emirates as part of our Maritime Security commitment.

SUPPORT TO UKRAINE

The New Zealand Defence Force currently has 41 personnel deployed to support multi-national and partner operations in efforts to support Ukraine's self-defence. Logistics Support (4) – Four NZDF personnel are deployed to Europe to support the International Donor Co-ordination Centre. NZDF personnel are

assisting with the planning and preparation of aid from throughout Europe to enable the efficient and timely transportation of donated aid to Ukrainian authorities.

Intelligence Support (6) - Six NZDF intelligence personnel are deployed throughout the UK in support of UK intelligence teams.

Liaison Officers (2) – One NZDF Officer is deployed to Belgium to act as New Zealand's Deputy Permanent National Military Representative to Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe.

One NZDF Officer is deployed to London to integrate into, and provide staff officer support to, the UK's Permanent Joint Headquarters.

Artillery Training Team (29) - Twenty-nine personnel have deployed to the UK to train members of the Armed Forces of Ukraine in the use of the L119 Light Field Gun.

TESTING THE WATERS

A US Navy destroyer sailed near a disputed South China Sea island chain on Wednesday, challenging the restrictions imposed by China and others on transit through the area. Lt. Nicholas Lingo, a spokesperson for the US Navy's 7th Fleet headquartered in Japan, said it was the second so-called freedom of navigation operation in the Paracel Islands -- known as the Xisha Islands in China -- so far this year, and the third targeting Beijing's "excessive maritime claims" in regional waters during the same period. Wednesday's operation by the guided-missile destroyer USS Benfold challenged not only China but Vietnam and the self-ruled island of Taiwan, which also claim the islands, as all three governments require military vessels to seek permission or give advance notice of "innocent passage" through the area, Lingo said. The Paracels are a collection of 130 small coral islands and reefs in the north-western part of the South China Sea. They have no indigenous population to speak of, only Chinese military garrisons amounting to 1,400 people, according to the CIA World Factbook.



NEW ZEALAND VC RECIPIENTS



Cyril Royston Guyton Bassett, VC (3 January 1892 – 9 January 1983)

Born in Auckland, in the suburb of Mount Eden, to a printer, Frederick Bassett, and his wife Harriet, née Powley. Bassett attended Auckland Grammar School and then Auckland Technical College. After completing his formal education in 1908, he worked as a clerk for the National Bank of New Zealand. In 1909, he joined what later became the Territorial Force, the part-time military reserve, and was posted to the Auckland College Rifles. Two years later he transferred to the Auckland Divisional Signal Company.

When the First World War broke out, he joined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force (NZEF) as a sapper in the Corps of New Zealand Engineers, assigned to the New Zealand Divisional Signal Company. Bassett embarked with the main body of the NZEF for the Middle East in October 1914. Initially based in Egypt, after a period of training, he landed at ANZAC Cove on 25 April 1915, the opening day of the Gallipoli Campaign. Along with the other signallers of his unit, he was immediately set to work laying communication lines to the headquarters of the New Zealand and Australian Division.

In early May, he, along with two other signallers, was noted in consideration for a gallantry award for their efforts in laying telephone wires while under heavy fire.

Later in the campaign, Bassett was promoted to corporal. In August 1915, a series of offensives against Turkish positions along the Gallipoli front was planned to break the stalemate that had developed since the initial landing. On 7 August, the New Zealand Infantry Brigade attacked Chunuk Bair, a prominent hill overlooking the battlefield. The battle lasted for three days. Chunuk Bair was captured by the brigade's Wellington Infantry Battalion on the second day, during which Bassett, in command of a section of five other signallers of his unit, laid down and maintained telephone lines between brigade headquarters and the front lines. Working on the exposed slopes leading up to Chunuk Bair, he braved continuous gunfire during this time armed with only a revolver and a bayonet. A bullet struck his boot and two more passed through the fabric of his tunic during the fighting, but he was not wounded.

After the battle, Bassett's name, along with those of the other five signallers of his section, was collected by Major Arthur Temperley of brigade headquarters, who nominated Bassett to receive the Victoria Cross (VC). A few days later, Bassett was evacuated from Gallipoli due to poor health. Suffering from dysentery, he spent several months recuperating at a hospital in Leicester and it was here that he was advised of his VC award.

His VC was the first to be awarded to a soldier of the NZEF and he was the only one to receive it for actions during the Gallipoli Campaign. King

George V presented him the VC at an investiture held at Buckingham Palace on 3 February 1916. Bassett later remarked of the VC action, "I reckon there must be some guardian angel looking after me, especially as one man was shot dead in front of me and another wounded just behind."

Called up for the National Military Reserve as a result of the outbreak of the Second World War, Bassett was placed on active duty in 1941 as a captain in the Royal New Zealand Corps of Signals (RNZSigs). He was not required to serve overseas and instead he worked in signals on the Home Front in New Zealand. Promoted to major in February 1942, his active war service ended in December 1943. By then he had achieved the rank of lieutenant colonel, and was commander of signals in the Northern Military District.

Bassett returned to the National Military Reserve from which he retired in 1948. As a civilian, he resumed his banking profession. He retired in 1952 but remained active in the community of Devonport, on Auckland's North Shore, as a justice of the peace. In 1953, he was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal. He died at Stanley Bay, in Auckland, on 9 January 1983, shortly after his 91st birthday; his ashes were buried at North Shore Memorial Park. He was survived by his wife Ruth and their two daughters. His VC, gifted to the RNZSigs upon his death, is displayed at the Auckland War Memorial Museum. Several years earlier, Bassett had planted a pine tree, reportedly cultivated from a seedling taken from the area of the Battle of Lone Pine at Gallipoli, in front of the museum as part of an Anzac Day service.

According to his daughter, Bassett rarely spoke about his achievements, and she did not learn of her father's award until she studied Gallipoli at primary school. He was modest and expressed embarrassment at being the only New Zealand VC recipient of the Gallipoli Campaign. He commented that "when I got my medal I was disappointed to find I was the only New Zealander to get one at Gallipoli, because hundreds of Victoria Crosses should have been awarded there."

Bassett remains the only New Zealand signaller to have been awarded the VC

and was a lifetime member of the Corps of Signals Association. In recognition of Bassett's rank at the time of his award, the Bassett Memorial Trophy is awarded annually to the most outstanding corporal in the RNZSigs. The trophy is a statue of Bassett on Chunuk Bair. An annual speech competition, run by the Royal New Zealand Returned and Services' Association and sponsored by the ANZ Bank, formerly the National Bank, for secondary school students is named for him. The winner travels to Gallipoli to attend the ANZAC Day commemorations.



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