



LONGCAST

16 September 22 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at New Lynn RSA

14 October 22 – Navy Club

21 October 22 - Ngapona Assn Lunch at Glen Eden RSA



**It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**

Elizabeth II (Elizabeth Alexandra Mary; 21 April 1926 – 8 September 2022) was Queen of the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth realms from 6 February 1952 until her death in 2022. She was queen regnant of 32 sovereign states during her lifetime, 15 at the time of her death. Her reign of 70 years and 214 days is the longest of any British monarch and the longest recorded of any female head of state in history. Elizabeth was born in Mayfair, London, as the first child of the Duke and Duchess of York (later King George VI and Queen Elizabeth). Her father acceded to the throne in 1936 upon the abdication of his brother, King Edward VIII, making Elizabeth the heir presumptive. She was educated privately at home and began to undertake public duties during the Second World War, serving in the Auxiliary Territorial Service. In November 1947, she married Philip Mountbatten, a former prince of Greece and Denmark, and their marriage lasted 73 years until his death in April 2021. They had four children: Charles, Anne, Andrew, and Edward.

When her father died in February 1952, Elizabeth—then 25 years old—became queen of seven independent Commonwealth countries: the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan, and Ceylon (known today as Sri Lanka), as well as Head of the Commonwealth.

Prince Charles acceded to the throne upon the death of
Queen Elizabeth II

LONG LIVE THE KING

Hi Folks

NGAPONA ASSN MONTHLY LUNCH

Our next lunch is this Friday at the New Lynn RSA.

MEMORIAL SERVICE CORNELIA BEENTJES: CAPTAIN RNZN

Cornelia Beentjes: Captain RNZN (Rtd) WRNZNS. H 28619. (Corry) 29th September 2021

The family advise all Naval Family friends of Corry that a memorial service for the late Corry will be held on the first anniversary of her passing.

The Celebration of Corry's life service will take place in St Christopher's Chapel, HMNZS Philomel, Thursday 29th September 2022 at 1100.

Names of those wishing to attend are required for Defence purposes and access to the Base. Names to. margaretmitchell@xtra.co.nz. by the 26th of September 2022, please note numbers may need to be restricted.

UK WARSHIPS OUT OF ACTION

More than half of Britain's warships are stuck in maintenance or in need of long and complex refits, leaving Navy chiefs struggling to meet operational commitments. According to official figures, the fleet has six Type-45 destroyers and 13 Type-23 frigates - already the smallest number of frontline combat warships since the end of the Second World War. Of these 19 vessels, however, only eight are available for operational deployment today. For submarines, the figures are even more alarming - with only two out of five Astute hunter-killer boats active, and only two out of four nuclear deterrent-carrying Vanguards operational.

The revelations come as one of the Royal Navy's two supercarriers, HMS *Prince of Wales*, is being placed in dry dock for a "considerable time" after suffering a technical fault.

Source: Sunday Express Defence Editor

NEW ZEALAND VICTORIA CROSS RECIPIENTS



Harry John Laurent, VC (15 April 1895 – 9 December 1987)

Henry Laurent, known as Harry, was born on 15 April 1895 in Tarata, in the Taranaki region of New Zealand. His father, John, and mother, Mary, were farmers. His family was of French descent, his grandfather, a former officer in the French Army, having emigrated to New Zealand in 1852. The family moved to Hawera while Laurent was still a child. He attended Hawera District High School and after completing his education, he found work as a grocer's assistant. He also served with the Territorial Force, having joined at the age of 16.

In May 1915, Laurent enlisted with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force (NZEF), shortly after his 20th birthday. An attempt to volunteer for the NZEF the previous year had been declined, as he was below the minimum age for service aboard. Posted to the 2nd Battalion of the New Zealand Rifle Brigade (NZRB), Laurent embarked for the Middle East in October 1915. He did not arrive in time to be involved in the Gallipoli Campaign and instead participated in the defence of the Suez Canal.

In March 1916, the Rifle Brigade was designated part of the newly formed New Zealand Division and the following month it was sent to the [Western Front](#). Laurent participated in the Battle of Flers–Courcellette, part of the Somme Offensive, during which he was wounded. After a period of hospital treatment, he returned to his battalion in April 1917. He received a series of promotions over the next several months, and during this time, his battalion participated in the Battle of Messines as the reserve for the NZRB, the First Battle of Passchendaele, and in defending the British lines near Colin camps during the German spring offensive of late-March 1918. By September 1918

Laurent had advanced in rank to sergeant.

During the Hundred Days Offensive, the New Zealand Division, following the Second Battle of Bapaume, was in pursuit of retreating German forces. Leading a patrol on 12 September in the area east of Gouzeaucourt Wood, France, Laurent was ordered to locate and regain contact with the German front lines. The 12-man patrol inadvertently penetrated through the front line and located a line of artillery. Realising the patrol's mistake, Laurent organised a swift attack which resulted in the capture of 112 prisoners, with one member of the patrol being killed and three others wounded. He then extricated his patrol, together with the prisoners, back to the New Zealand line, fighting off counterattacks along the way. For his bravery and leadership, he was awarded the Victoria Cross. His VC was gazetted on 12 November 1918, and the citation read:

“For most conspicuous bravery, skill, and enterprise when during an attack he was detailed to exploit an initial success and keep in touch with the enemy. With a party of twelve he located the enemy support line very strongly held, at once charged the position, followed by his men, and completely disorganised the enemy by his sudden onslaught. In the subsequent hand-to-hand fighting which ensued he showed great resourcefulness in controlling and encouraging his men, and thirty of the enemy having been killed, the remainder surrendered, a total of one officer and 111 other ranks in all. The success of this daring venture, which caused his party four casualties only, was due to his gallantry and enterprise.”

— *The London Gazette*, No. 31012, 19 November 1918

Laurent was sent to England in October 1918, where he attended an officer training school. The war had ended by the time he was commissioned in February 1919. He, together with three other New Zealanders who had been awarded the VC, received his medal from King George V in a ceremony at Buckingham Palace on 27 February 1919. A few months later, he left England for New Zealand and his hometown of Hawera. On his arrival, the mayor presented him a gold watch and chain, the cost of which was met by public donations. In October 1919, he was part of the welcoming party when

fellow VC recipient and Hawera resident John Grant returned home.

Discharged from the NZEF and placed on the Reserve of Officers, Laurent settled into life in Hawera and soon found employment at a grocery store. He later worked as a sales representative. He married Ethel Homewood, originally from England, on 20 July 1921, in a ceremony at Hawera. Fellow VC recipients John Grant and Leslie Andrew were present, the former in the capacity of best man. In 1937, Laurent, along with several other VC recipients, was awarded the coronation medal to commemorate the ascension of King George VI to the British throne.

During the Second World War, Laurent was recalled to the Reserve of Officers of the New Zealand Military Forces. He was soon commanding a battalion in the Home Guard. Later promoted to a temporary lieutenant colonel, he was made group director of the Hawera Home Guard in early 1942. Late the following year he was appointed commander of the Hawera squadron of the Air Training Corps and held this post until 1945. He was formally seconded to the Royal New Zealand Air Force for a brief period as a squadron commander of 34th Air Training Squadron before ceasing active duty at the end of the war. He formally retired from the military in 1949.

At the age of 61, Laurent went to London in 1956 as part of the VC centenary celebrations. He attended further VC events in the following years. He died in Hastings on 9 December 1987, the last surviving New Zealand VC winner of the First World War. His wife had predeceased him the previous year. His ashes are interred in the Memorial Wall at the Servicemen's Cemetery at Hawera, his hometown. A street in the town is also named after him, and nearby is Grant VC Street, named for fellow VC recipient John Grant. Laurent's VC was displayed at the QEII Army Memorial Museum in Waiouru, along with his service medals from the First and Second World Wars and his coronation medals. On 2 December 2007, Laurent's VC was one of nine Victoria Crosses that were among a hundred medals stolen from the museum. On 16 February 2008, New Zealand Police announced all the medals had been recovered as a result of a NZ\$300,000 reward offered by Michael Ashcroft and Tom Sturgess.
