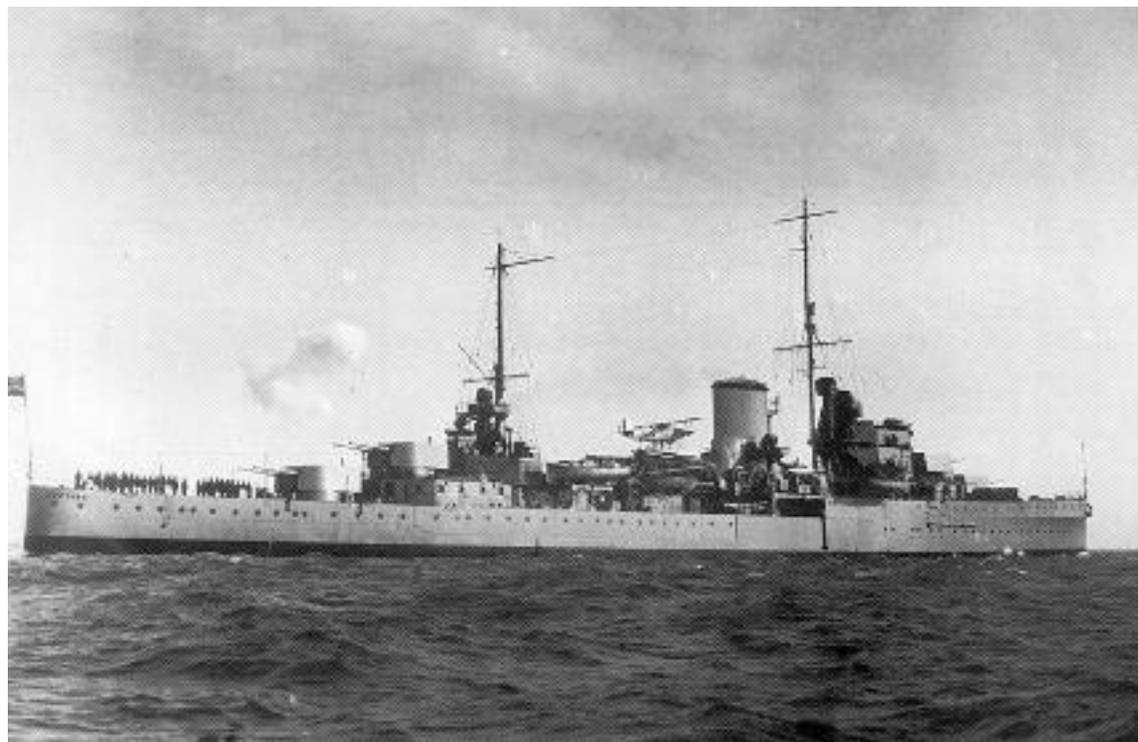


**OUR NEW ZEALAND NAVAL PERSONNEL LOSSES IN
WORLD WAR TWO
1939-1946**



HMS Neptune

Prepared

By

Commander Neil Howard VRD* MA(Hons) RNZNVR(Ret)

From a 1946 Naval Office Document and from the

Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

One of the longest held documents in Toroa was the 1946 Navy Office List of RNZN Casualties List. It was pretty dog-eared and several people had used various coloured pens to highlight names or underline whole lines.

After the 75th Reunion in 2003 we replaced the Memorial Plaque for the members of the Otago Division of the RNVR with a plaque commemorating all the Otago and Southland naval personnel who had lost their lives. This became an historical statement because it also showed the ship or unit that the person was serving in. I thought then that it would be good to have a book of all the casualties nearby on a lectern where visitors could find details of friends or relatives.

The compiling took a long time because I found that I could only do so many without the dangers of becoming morbid. In addition I had to think of them as a person I might have known – it was not just a matter of copying down letters. Ann Jackman from the Hocken Library introduced me to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (which showed me my amazing ignorance!). This enabled me to identify the aircraft carrier or Naval Air Station that the Fleet Air Arm Personnel had been flying from when lost and to identify ships where the original list had been indefinite.

OFFICIAL NUMBERS: Officers did have an Official Number but it was never entered in these lists. In the case of some Ratings from the Royal Navy and especially from the Royal Marines their official number was so long that in the constraints of space that I was operating in I had to enter in the spirit rather than the detail. I also felt that the official number would not be the detail that readers would be looking for. Pre-War Naval Reservists had an A1500 plus for those from Auckland, W3000 plus for Wellington, C5000 plus for Christchurch and O7000 plus for Dunedin.

AWARDS and MEDALS: Very few of the casualties had earned these and so a column for them was not justified. Spaces in columns have been used for them. The only posthumous awards in the Royal Navy were the Victoria Cross and Mentioned in Despatches (m.i.d.) Lieutenant-Commander(A) Richardson was one who was recommended for a VC for his conduct in the air attack on the German battleship Tirpitz but he was given an m.i.d. Some years ago his failure to gain the VC was raised in Parliament but Queen Elizabeth has always refused to revisit decisions made by or for her father.

THE UNITS : VR stands for (a) Pre-War Reservists or for (b) Wartime officers enrolled for the war only and commissioned in the RNZNVR. NZ stood for sailors in as career sailors or those ratings called up for ‘Hostilities Only.’ RN stood for those ratings seconded from the Royal Navy. RM was for Royal Marines seconded from the Royal Navy. WR stands for Wren (Womens Royal New Zealand Naval Service.)

DATES: When I started this work it was on Apple Works 6 where I used dash for dates. When I finished and transferred the work to Microsoft Office 2004 the long dates like 10-10-43 retained the dash but the short dates like 3-4-41 became 3/4/41 and even the experts could not change the mindset of the computer!

One name has been added to the Official List, that of Richard Ernest Scales a pre-war Otago RNVR rating, O7115, whose name appeared on our first Memorial Plaque. He went to Malaya to work at the tin mines. When war broke out he was returning to New Zealand to join up. Instead he was persuaded to join the Royal Malayan Naval Volunteer Reserve. When the Japanese invasion forces were approaching he was sent out in command of an auxiliary minesweeper, HMS Banka of 600 tons. It was lost without trace on December 10 1941.

An advantage of computerising the List is that the Part 2 is listed according to ship or establishment. This brings together all the casualties on a given ship. It demonstrates the great loss of life in HMS Neptune and even more brings home the tragic loss of life in so many flying accidents in the Fleet Air Arm.

It is hoped that this publication will not only inform but bring some comfort to that hidden community of grief.

Neil Howard

ROYAL NAVAL AIR STATIONS
RNAS

NAME	PLACE	NAME	PLACE
CONDOR	Abroath, Scotland	CORNCRAKE	Ballyhallat, Northern Ireland
DAEDALUS	Lee-on-Solent, Hampshire	DIPPER	Henstridge, England
GADWALL	Belfast, Northern Ireland	GANNET	Derry, Northern Ireland
HERON	Yeovilton, Hampshire	JACKDAW	Crail, Scotland
LANDRAIL	Campbelltown, Scotland	MERLIN	Fife, Scotland
OWL	Ross Shire, Scotland	PEEWIT	Angus, Scotland
RINGTAIL	Woodvale, England	ROBIN	Orkney
SHRIKE	Maydon, Northern Ireland	SPARROWHAWK	Orkney
TERN	Orkney	URLEY	Isle of Man
VULTURE	Cornwall, England		

OVERSEAS ROYAL NAVAL AIR STATIONS

BEHRUNDA	Colombo, Ceylon	CHINA BAY	Trincomalee, Ceylon
GOSHAWK	Trinidad	GREBE	Egypt
St ANGELO	Malta	SAKER)	
ASBURY)	Rhode Island, USA	CANADA)	Nova Scotia
SAKER II)		SEABORN)	

Alphabetical Listing