



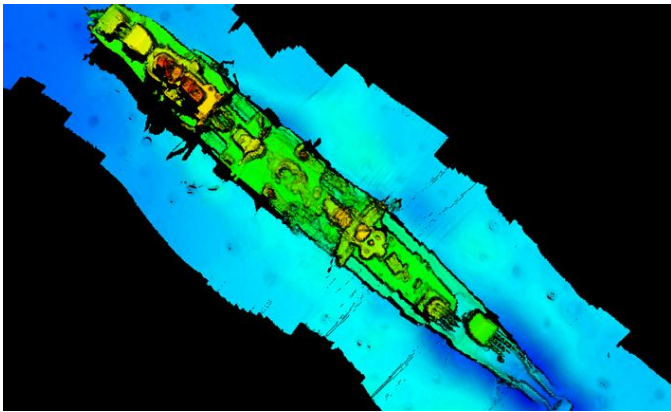
Russian Convoy Club of New Zealand

Newsletter
October/November 2020

Dear shipmates, families and friends

Wreck of sunken WWII Warship discovered after 80 years

At 490 meters below sea level, electricity company Norwegian Statnett has discovered German cruiser *Karlsruhe*, the warship that led the attack on Kristiansand, Norway on 9 April 1940. The German cruiser came under fire from Norwegian artillery, torpedoed by a British submarine, and finally sunk by the Germans themselves during the invasion. The shipwreck on the seabed has never been found or identified - until now.



You can find *Karlsruhe's* fate in history books, but no one has known exactly where the ship sunk. Moreover, it was the only large German warship that was lost during the attack on Norway with an unknown position. After all these years we finally know where the graveyard to this important warship is, says Frode Kvalø, archaeologist and researcher at the Norwegian Maritime Museum.

It was during inspection work three years ago that sonars discovered a shipwreck close to Statnett's power interconnectors between Denmark and Norway, just 15 meters from an undersea power cable between Norway and Denmark.



This summer, Statnett's Senior Project Engineer Ole Petter Hoberstad got the chance to find out more about the sunken ship that had been observed 13 nautical miles from Kristiansand in Southern Norway. From the offshore vessel *Olympic Taurus*, the mysterious wreck was investigated by ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) and multi-beam echo sounders.

When the ROV results showed us a ship that was torpedoed, we realized it was from the war. As the cannons became visible on the screen, we understood it was a huge warship.

With a length of 174 meters and equipped with steam turbines and nine cannons, *Karlsruhe* led the German attack on Kristiansand during Operation Weserübung. German Rear Admiral Otto Schenk has written about the day himself in a book published the same year as the attack: Dense fog that covered the inlet to the fjord, narrow waters, and a force that already was behind schedule, caused concern in the hours before the attacks took place. As *Karlsruhe* entered the fjord outside Odderøya near Kristiansand city, the cruiser came under fire from the Odderøya Fortress. However, it is unclear how comprehensive these damages were. Kristiansand was taken, but the very same afternoon the British submarine *Truant* attacked *Karlsruhe* and hit the cruiser with a torpedo, leaving it significantly damaged. It was then sunk by order from the German Captain.

Kvalø points out that the underwater images of *Karlsruhe* show a rare sight. Normally, big warships with a high center of gravity will turn around when they sink. But *Karlsruhe* stands firmly 490 meters below sea level with cannons pointing menacingly into the sea. With the main battery of nine cannons in three triple turrets, this was the largest and most fearsome ship in the attack group against Kristiansand.

Merchant Navy Day commemorated in Wellington

RCCNZ attended and laid a wreath alongside representatives of government, defence and veterans' associations at the Merchant Navy Day commemoration held at the National War Memorial, Pukeahu Park, Wellington on 3 September 2020.



Photo Credits: Mark Tantrum Photography

Several subscriptions are still outstanding for the current year. However, we thank those members who made a significant donation to the club funds.

World War Two hero, 105, awarded Norwegian medal



A 105-year-old World War Two hero has been awarded a commemorative medal by Norway for his role in liberating the country from Nazi control.

John Manners served as the British naval officer in charge of the city of Trondheim during the German surrender. He was presented with a commemorative medal by the Norwegian Defence Attaché Col Olsen at his care home in Newbury, Berkshire.

Mr Manners said he was "so pleased" to receive the medal. He added: "While we were in Norway, we experienced so much.

"I was overwhelmed with the kindness of the Norwegian people; they were so welcoming to us, and it is an honour to be recognised for what we did while we were there."

Mr Manners, originally from Exeter, served as a commanding officer on *HMS Viceroy*, which sank a German submarine in the North Sea in 1945, for which he received the Distinguished Service Cross. He also took part in Operation Conan, the Royal Navy's contribution to the liberation of Norway.

Col Olsen said: "We will never forget his contribution to our freedom ... he put his life in danger to defend our values of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law. Manners showed tremendous courage and determination."

The presentation ceremony at Bayford House care home involved 30 pupils from Stockcross CE Primary, which has documented Mr Manners' war stories as part of its World War Two module.

Mr Manners, who is also a former first-class cricketer, said: "I was in four destroyers throughout the war. We were desperately short and continued working all the time.



26 November 2020
RCCNZ Christmas Meeting
Otaki

Further details will be advised as they come to hand

Inverasdale, Loch Ewe : Commemoration : 16 May 2021



Pen Moore turns 100



Late August saw a significant event. Our long-time member and ex-treasurer, Pen Moore, celebrated his 100th birthday. Our heartiest congratulations Pen and we hope there are many more to come accompanied with good health.

Pen served on *HMS Malcolm* in several theatres of war including convoy PQ 18. In addition, in November 1942, his ship was deployed as part of the British Task Force to cover landings in Algeria where the ship was badly damaged by shore batteries and was forced to withdraw. He also took part in "Operation Neptune" on D-day and was subsequently awarded the French Legion d'Honneur.



Up Spirits!



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