

**NZAR ID 283, ARM TYPE: Armed Vessel. Draft date 30/4/13, Compiled by Phil Cregeen  
Pattern: S Class Submarine HMS Scythian (P237). Introduced: 1944. Withdrawn: 1945**

**Details of Vessel:**

Builder: Scotts of Greenock. Laid down 21 Feb 1943, Commissioned 11 August 1944

Displacement: 715 tons surfaced, 1,000 tons dived, LOA 217 ft, beam 23.75 ft, Draught 10.5 ft.

Guns: 1 x 4 in., 1 x 20 mm AA, 3 x .303 MG. Bow Torpedo Tubes 6 X 21 in plus 1 external, 13 Torpedoes.

Propulsion: Diesel Electric 1900/1300 HP, Speed: 14.5/10 Knots.

Compliment: 48 officers and men



**New Zealand Service**

Over 200 New Zealanders served in HM Submarines during WW II, HMS SCYTHIAN was commanded by a New Zealander, Con Thode the only Royal NZ Navy Volunteer Reserve officer to command an RN submarine in wartime.

Con Thode was born in suburban Auckland NZ in early 1911. From his early youth he had a love of yachting and the sea. At 18 years of age he joined the Royal NZ Volunteer Reserve and travelled to the UK soon after WW II began. By mid 1941 he was navigator of HMS PROTEOUS in the Mediterranean and later as First Lieutenant joined the highly successful ULTOR based in Malta and commanded by Lt. George Hunt. In August 1944 Con Thode got his own command with HMS SCYTHIAN operating out of Trincomalee (Shri Lanka).

**HMS SCYTHIAN** was one of 39 S class submarines of the Royal Navy, and part of the Third Group built of that class. She was built by Scotts of Greenock and launched on April 14, 1944. So far she has been the only ship of the Royal Navy to bear the name *Scythian*.

Built as the Second World War was drawing to a close, she did not see much action, spending the period between March and May 1945 on the eastern station. Here, under Con Thode's command she sank nine Japanese sailing vessels (Junks) by gunfire and the Japanese coaster **Akiyama Maru No. 10** and two Japanese landing craft with gunfire in the Malacca Straits.

HMS Scythian (T/A/Lt. Cdr. C.P. Thode, RNZNVR) was placed in reserve at Fort Blockhouse, Portsmouth on the 13 November 1945.

*Scythian* was paid off and arrived at Charlestown on 8 August 1960 for breaking up.

Acknowledgements: <http://www.uboaat.net/allies/commanders/2445.html>