

Pattern: **Rothsay/Whitby Class Frigates;**

Introduced in to NZ Service: 1960; Withdrawn: 1983

Name	Builder	Completed	NZ Service
Otago (F111)	J. I Thornycroft Co Ltd, Southampton,	22/6/60	22/6/60 to 7/11/83
Taranaki (F148)	J S White & Co, Weast Cowes,	28/3/61	28/3/61 to 18/6/82
Blackpool (F77)	Harland & Wolff Ltd, Belfast,	14/8/58	16/6/66 to 6/71

Tonnage: 2144 std; Dimensions: 370 x 360 x 41 x 17.3 ft (112.8 x 109.7 x 12.5 x 5.3 m).

Machinery: 2 shaft, oil fired, double reduction geared steam turbine, 30,340 shp; Speed: 30 knots.

Armament: Guns – 2 x 4.5 in, 1 x 40 mm; 2 x 3 barrel Limbo AS mortars, 12 x 21in torpedo tubes, later replaced by 6 x 12.75 in; 1 x Quad Seacat Launcher fitted '62-'63; F77 the same but no Seacat.

Complement: 219 originally, later 240.



HMNZS Otago



Limbo AS Mortars

### NZ Service

In February 1957 NZ ordered two frigates to replace the six Loch Class, taking over *HMS Hastings* as *Otago* while *Taranaki* was ordered direct, both being completed as improved Whitby Class, renamed Rothsay Class, with specific NZ modifications. *Blackpool* was the last Whitby built for the RN and was loaned to NZ while *Canterbury* (see Leander Class) was being built. After completion and work up at Portland *Otago* and *Taranaki* voyaged to New Zealand, the former via Suez and the latter via Panama, arriving in NZ in January 1961 and November 1961 respectively. *Blackpool* transferred to RNZN at Chatham on 16/6/66 and arrived in NZ in May '67 after 6 months on the Far East Station.

All three ships took part in regular deployments to the Far East, Australia, Pacific Islands and USA exercising with foreign navies. In 1972 the NZ government sent *Otago* to Mururoa to protest against the French atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons. In 1978 the Seacat and Limbo were removed from *Taranaki* and she took up a fisheries protection and training role.

*Blackpool* returned to RN service in 1971 as *Canterbury* neared completion. *Taranaki* decommissioned in Devonport 18/6/82 followed by *Otago* on 7/11/83. After being stripped of valuable equipment *Taranaki* was sold for scrap to Pacific Steel Ltd and broken up at Auckland in 1983 followed by *Otago* in 1987.

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