

# Two Points

Both relatively recently named.

First is Te Pane o Horoiwi – The head of Horoiwi - at the east end of St Heliers Beach

Horokiwi was a crew member of Tainui waka+

More recently called **Achilles Point**. Named by Auckland City Council in early 1940 after HMS Achilles

Followed the battle of the River Plate in late 1939. Three cruisers of which HMS Achilles was one forced German pocket battleship Graf Spee into a neutral port. British propaganda coup convinced the Germans she was facing insurmountable odds if she sailed out. She was scuttled.

A suffered minor damage but lost 4 of her crew in the battle.

Returned to Auckland for a refit. Parade up Queen St, Feb 1940

The point was decorated with a temporary flagpole and bunting. Signal flags had Nelson's famous 'England Expects ...' signal.

## **Achilles Point**

Achilles named after the Greek hero of the Trojan War as were others of her class. She was a Royal Navy Cruiser then allocated to the New Zealand Division of the Royal Navy, based in Auckland. About 60 % of the crew New Zealanders, the rest Brit loans. Almost all the officers in the Division and the cruiser were loaned British RN.

The newspaper report of the time on the name proposal acknowledged the Te Pane o Horoiwi name.

Did the Council have the authority to change names of geographic features? It didn't. That is the role of the Geographic Board. The Board seemed to get in first with a gazette notice purportedly dated 1 January 1940. Seems an unlikely date. Was a confirmation notice in 1948.

Two other geographic uses relating to HMS Achilles, Achilles Peak in the Southern Alps, Mount Achilles in the Admiralty Mountains in the Ross Dependency of Antarctica.

Also seem to have been a popular street name. Nineteen in the LINZ database.

Became HMNZS Achilles on the creation of the Royal New Zealand Navy in 1941. Never owned by NZ – returned to Britain who sold it to India. Served in their navy as INS Delhi.

Was played by herself in the film Battle of the River Plate. 1956.

The Council voted not more than pounds 100 for a memorial plaque for the site, duly erected in late 1940.

Now the site seems to be subject to a naming battle over who can erect the most bronze, matched by flag poles and pou.

Second is **Musick Point** named after Pan Am aviator Captain Ed Musick

Officially now Musick Point / Te Naupata - determined by a treaty settlement.

Name has links to Tainui waka as well. In the territory of Ngai Tai since their first existence.

Pa site on the point is Waiarohia Pā

Musick Point was deemed by Postmaster General F Jones in Feb 1938 - naming the point and a proposed aeradio and navigation aid station for future trans-Tasman air services in memorial of Musick. Completed 1942.

Previously it had also been known as Tāmaki Head

The Geographic Board says: “[Musick Point](#) This name is not official. Status: Replaced”

March 1937 Pan American SIKORSKY S-42B Pan American Clipper II NC 16734 Ed Musick.

This was a **proving flight**, San Francisco, Honolulu, Kingman Reef, Pago Pago, Auckland. This was the first cross-Pacific flight to New Zealand.

S-42 plane in commercial service for Pan Am carrying passengers on relatively short over ocean flights in the Caribbean. Was regarded as an interim type.

The S 42B model was a version with greater wingspan, more powerful engines, greater payload and higher cruising speed, built particularly for longer routes. But primarily achieved range using the payload for extra fuel. Were no paying passengers on NZ flights.

### **Musick Point**

1937/ 1938 Pan American SIKORSKY S-42B Pan American Clipper II, NC 16734 Ed Musick. Arrived December 26th, 12 hr 55 mins from Pago Pago

Met by PM Mickey Savage. Departed January 2nd.

This was the **inaugural flight** of an Auckland - Honolulu service on the same route as above. It connected with Honolulu - San Francisco airmails.

This was the first NZ to US airmail.

The aircraft and crew were lost off Samoa on January 12, 1938, on the next flight to New Zealand leading to the suspension of the service. Plane reported and oil leak and shut down one engine and the intent to return to Samoa. Advised they were dumping fuel. The fuel dump valve was close to the engine exhausts and fuel being dumped may have ignited. A witness said it descended in flames. (This is a common witness description of a crash even where there is no evidence of fire so may apply here) Some of the recovered wreckage was burned. Seven crew died.

Was the inaugural mail flight from the US to NZ – all the mail was lost.

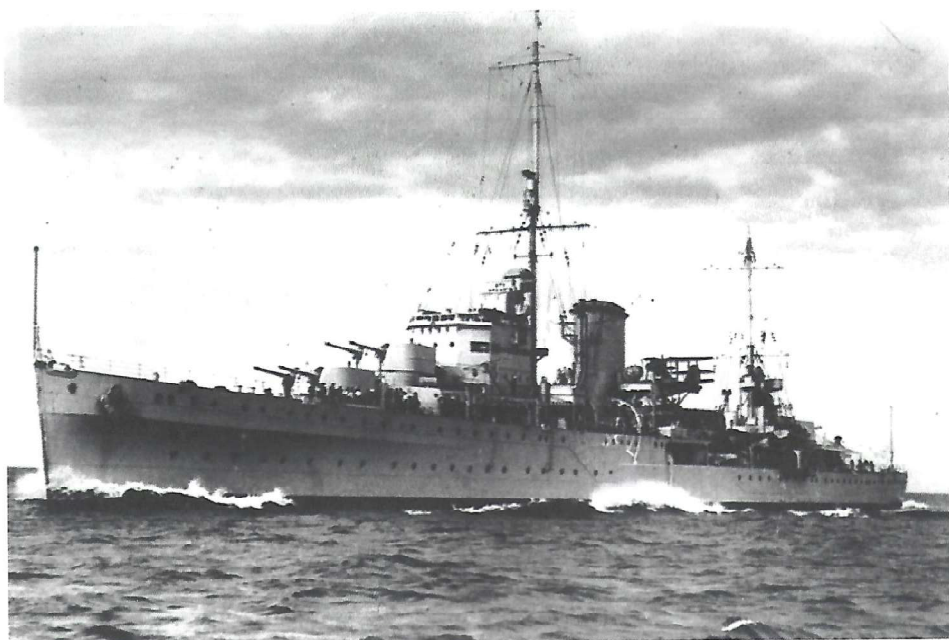
July 1940 transpacific lights and mail resumed by Pan Am, but with Boeing 315 flying boat aircraft. These continued until the Pearl Harbour attack.

Pilot from 1913, served in US military aviation, then as a commercial pilot from 1920 onwards, Chief pilot for Pan Am. Flew pioneer trans-Pacific flights to China.

**Musick Point** Musick was one of the best known pilots of the 1930s, even making the [cover of Time magazine](#) on December 2, 1935. He received the [Harmon Trophy](#) in 1936 to recognize the first commercial flight of China Clipper. At one point during the 1930s, Musick held more flying records than any other pilot. Some jointly with Lindberg who crewed on a pioneering Pan Am flight. At the time of his death, Captain Musick had reportedly flown about two million trans-ocean miles in airline service.

Items on Musick appeared in Papers Past from July 1935 relating to other Pan am flights. This was two years ahead of his arrival here. Must have been well known here.

Musick name not used in any other street or place name. But not Sikorsky. There are 'Clipper' street names but they may be ship linked.

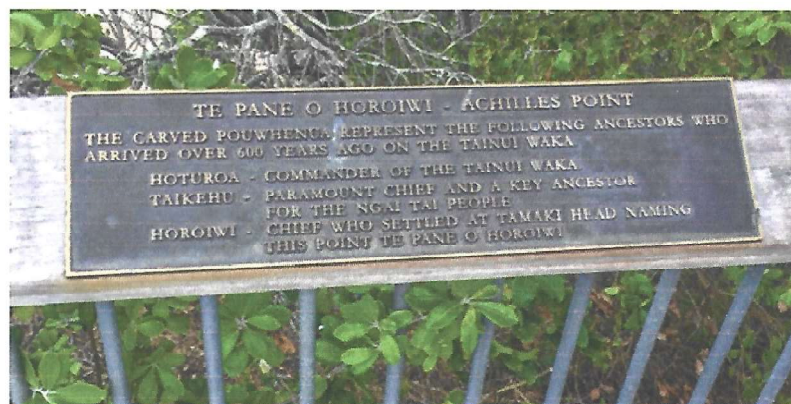
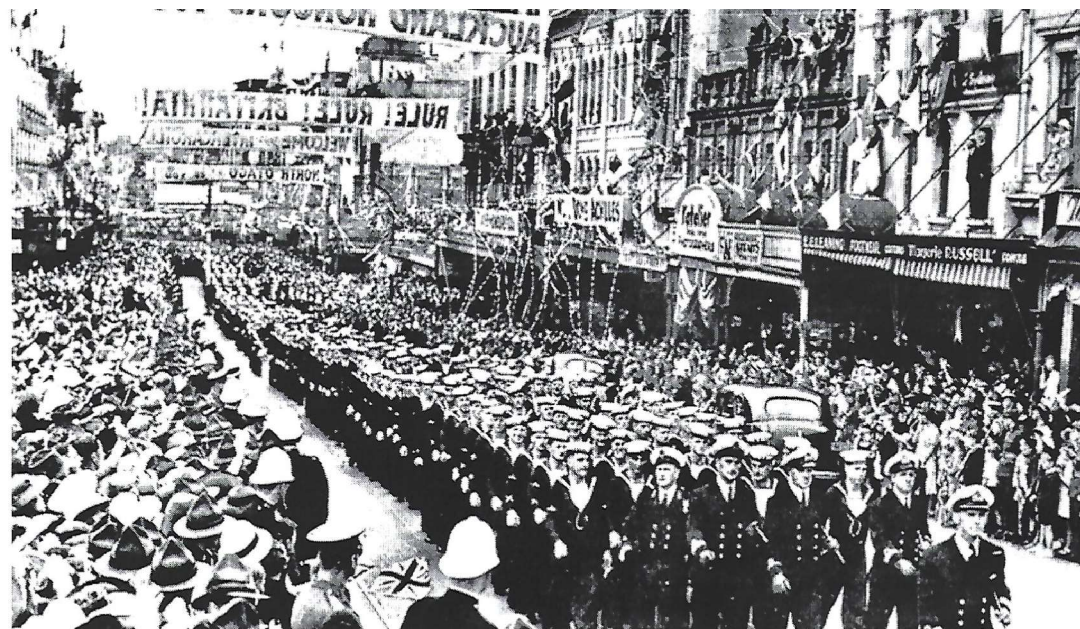
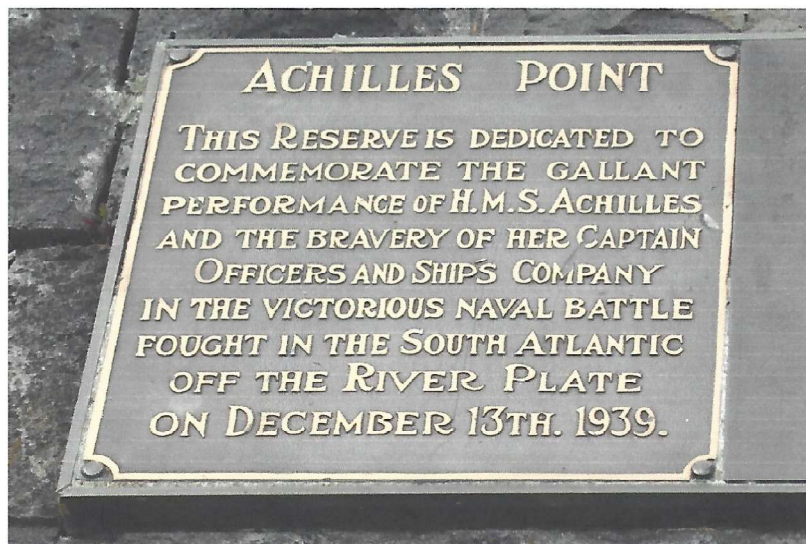


*Ac L. 1163*

Mr. Fraser commented on the beauty of the vista opened up from the point, commanding as it did views of the city and beautiful St. Helier's Bay, nestled below, and the wide sweep of the Wai-te-mana Harbour, with majestic Rangitoto, Motutapu, Waiheke and Motuihi and other islands in the foreground. He said he could not imagine a more beautiful or poetic spot for such a memorial as that proposed. It offered one of the most glorious vistas in the world and it was worthy of the men who fought so nobly in the great naval battle with the Graf Spee.

*NZ Herald 16 Jan 1940*





23 Feb 1940





Pan American Airways' Sikorsky S-42B NC16734, Samoan Clipper, moored at Mechanic's Bay, Auckland, New Zealand, December 1937. The flying boat in the background is a Short S.23 Empire, G-ADUT, named Centaurus. (Turnbull Library)

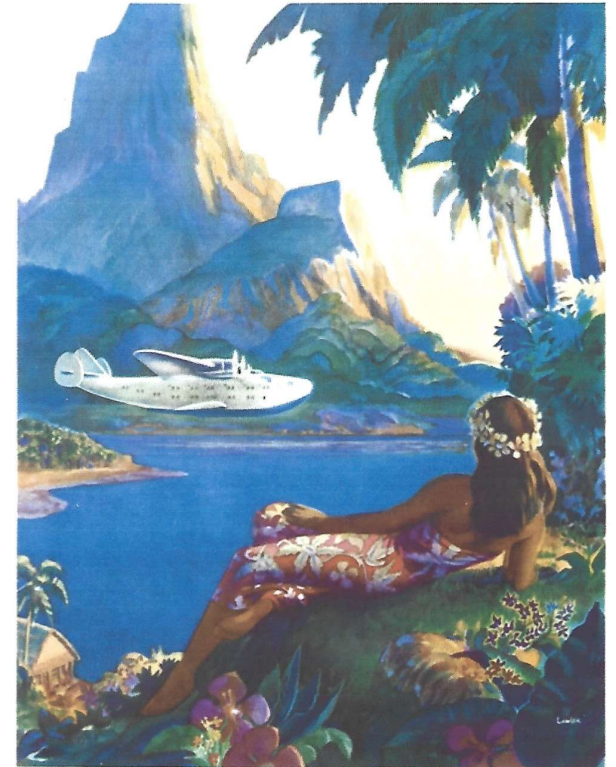




Captain Edwin Musick, Harold Gatty and crew alighting from Pan American Airways, Sikorski S-42B at Mechanics Bay, Auckland after their first Pacific survey flight, March 1937. Whites Aviation Limited.

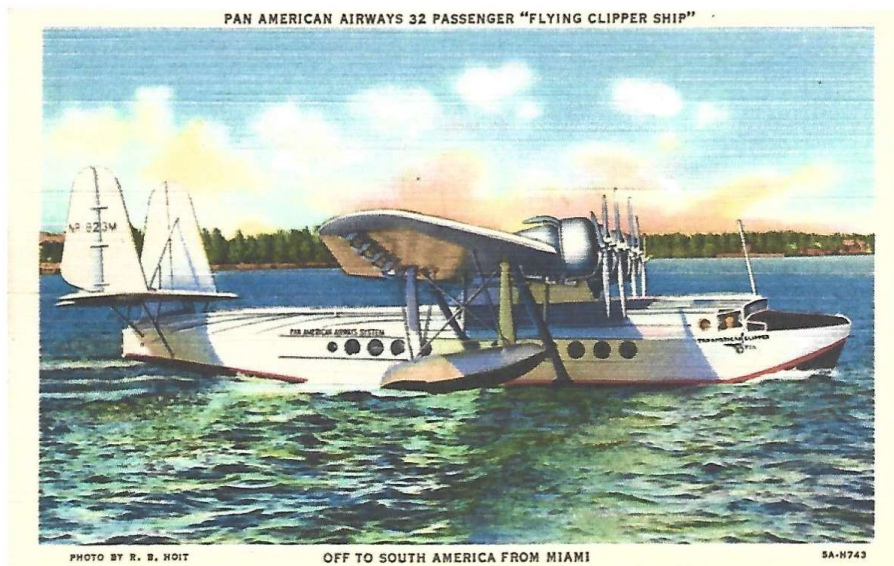
*March 1937 First trans Pacific  
Flight to NZ*

## FLY TO SOUTH SEA ISLES

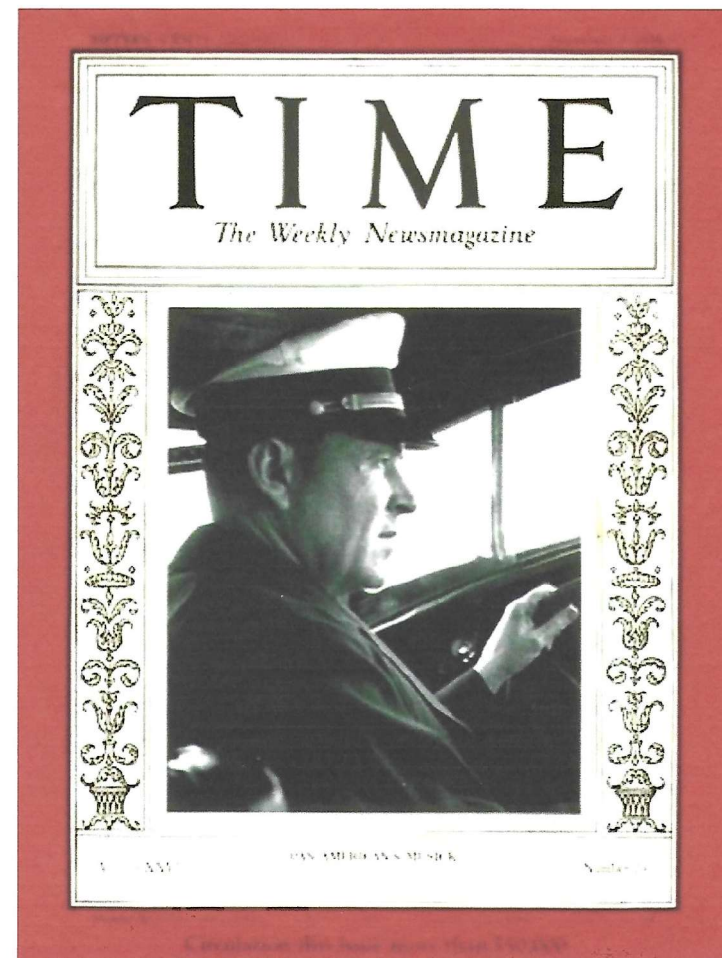


**Via PAN AMERICAN**

*Boeing 315*



Sikorsky 542



Dec. 1935