



Fond farewell to minehunter

THE 31-year-old Ton class minehunter H.M.S. Kirkliston's active service ends on Monday when she leaves her Portsmouth home for the last time.

Kirkliston, commanded by Lt-Comdr. Stuart Aitken R.N., of Southsea, is bound for Rosyth Naval Base in Scotland to be refitted and then placed in the Standby Squadron.

Last year Kirkliston and three other Royal Navy minehunters took part in the search for terrorist mines which

had plagued shipping in the Gulf and the Red Sea.

Launched at Belfast in February, 1954, she spent six years with the Ulster Division of the Royal Naval Reserve under the name Kilmorey before reverting to her original name.

In 1960 Kirkliston was converted from a conventional minesweeper into the Navy's first minehunter.

During her career she spent six years in the Far East and has served several times with the NATO Standing Force Channel.