

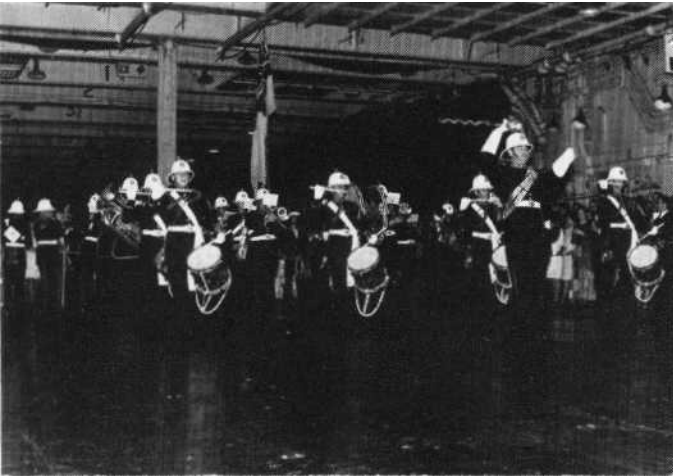


CINC arrives onboard in Brest

After another brief diversion to Gibraltar we paid an official visit to Brest from 23 to 30 May flying the flag of Commander-in-Chief Fleet, Sir Edward Ashmore. 42 Cdo had been traded en route at Guz for a Royal Marine Band embarked especially for the visit.

Sport featured strongly during the week together with the many expeditions that were planned in ship's boats. The latter went up river, camping at random, and making full use of the local produce to supplement their victuals. The gourmets amongst us wallowed in the delights of the Bretagne cuisine whilst a few were distracted to Paris.

On 31 May we returned to Pompey having completed the cruise and during the first week in June we welcomed our new leader, Captain Staveley.



Beating the Retreat at the Official Cocktail Party

Change of Driver-2 June '72





"IT'S O.K. WINGS, HE'S TRAINING TO BE A MINE DETECTOR. . . .!"

HOME WATERS

Thirty five Officers from the Royal College of Defence Studies spent 13 June at sea with us during which they witnessed demonstrations by Wessex 5's, Seakings and Hovercraft as part of 'CODSHOP 72'. The following day we headed north for Rosyth where we received a visit from the Grand Duke of Luxembourg, accompanied by FOSNI.

Having embarked 45 Cdo and 848 in the Forth, we sailed for the Orkneys to join company with *HMS Fearless* for exercise 'STRENGTH TRIAL' which lasted four days (there being no darkness this time of year up there!)



RCDS visiting the displays

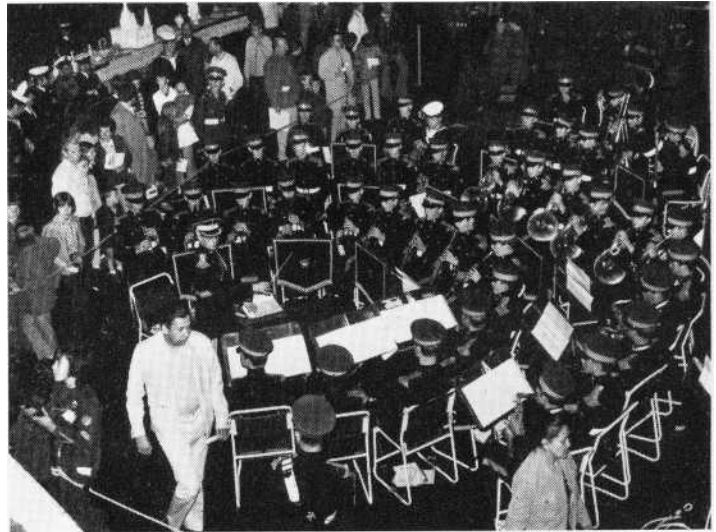


The Grand Duke of Luxembourg arrives



'Alpha' into Rotterdam

Leaving the Orkneys we sailed for the world's largest port via Arbroath where we landed 45 Cdo back to their home and embarked a 300 strong company of Royal Netherlands Marine Corps, complete with hair, from *HMS Fearless*. Also embarked were the Junior



Junior Leaders Band playing while ship Open to Visitors



2000 hours celebration for Victor Lima

Leaders Regimental Band of the Royal Armoured Corps who played us into Lekhaven with the flight deck lined with alternate RN and RNMC uniforms.

Favourite places for visits during the stay were Delft, The Hague and, of course, Amsterdam, with its canals.

On 8 July 848 disembarked for the last time at Culdrose. We then made our way up the west coast to Greenock for Clyde Week, once again to be at a buoy. However, despite the



848 fly off for the last time



Time to go home

Scottish Highlands whilst a few intrepid Banyan fanatics ventured up Loch Long to renew acquaintances with Messrs Pimms and Curry.



Big Brother gives a helping hook

DOVER AND THE CINQUE PORTS



The Captain welcomes the Mayor of Dover

As the ship was adopted by the Confederation of Cinque Ports, two ancient towns and their members corporate in September 1953, it was a fitting gesture that, what will probably be our last visit to a UK Port, should have been to Dover. Choppy seas prevented our Open Day from taking place, but the Official Cocktail Party for the civic leaders of the five towns was held. Prints of the map produced by Midshipman Buckley showing *Albion's* various visits were presented to the Mayors to mark our stay.

The link between the Cinque Ports and *Albion* is displayed in the Ship's Crest. The Ship's name is the old Gaelic form of Britain, which the lion awaits to defend from the white Channel cliffs; as in past days did the ships from the Cinque Ports, before there was a regular Navy.



Albion crest



All lit up

FAMILIES' DAY

18th July



Load lifting demonstration



A future flyer takes his first lesson?

Nearly 1000 relations were brought out by tug to join us at Spithead early on this fine Tuesday morning. By 10 o'clock we were ready to weigh anchor and for the next two hours all were treated to displays by helicopters and hovercraft, an air-sea rescue

being one of the features designed to show what the 'old man' does in his spare time!

At 1215 we were alongside Pitch House Jetty again and everyone was ready to tuck into the splendid lunches laid on by the Catering department.

A day enjoyed by all without exception, a nice rest for Mum, a day with the family for Dad and, for the children, a chance to play at sailors.



Families embarking at King's Stairs

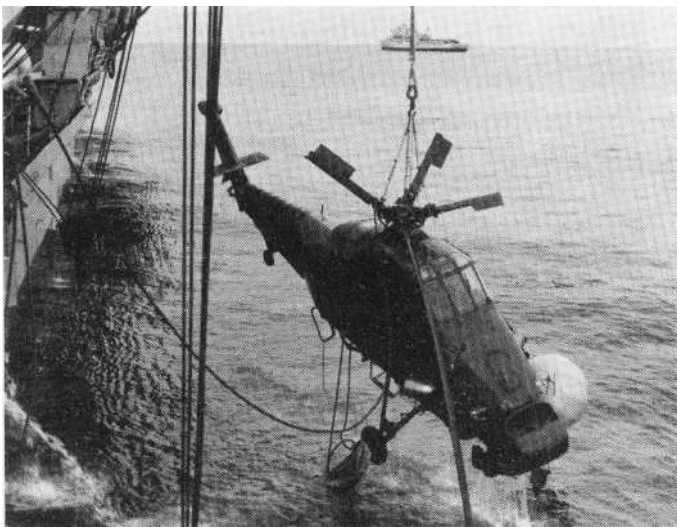


Through the Mjøsand Narrows

'STRONG EXPRESS'

During September the wheel turned its full circle and took us again to the Norwegian fjords in this, the largest NATO exercise yet staged. Despite a Wessex 5 insisting on proving its amphibious qualities we had no casualties and completed a successful operational trip.

On 10 October we sailed for Canada to visit Saint John, Halifax, Quebec and Montreal the penultimate trip planned for the mighty 'A'.



Successful recovery of aircraft Golf



Royal 'shot' in the fjords



Navy Days Queue August 1972