

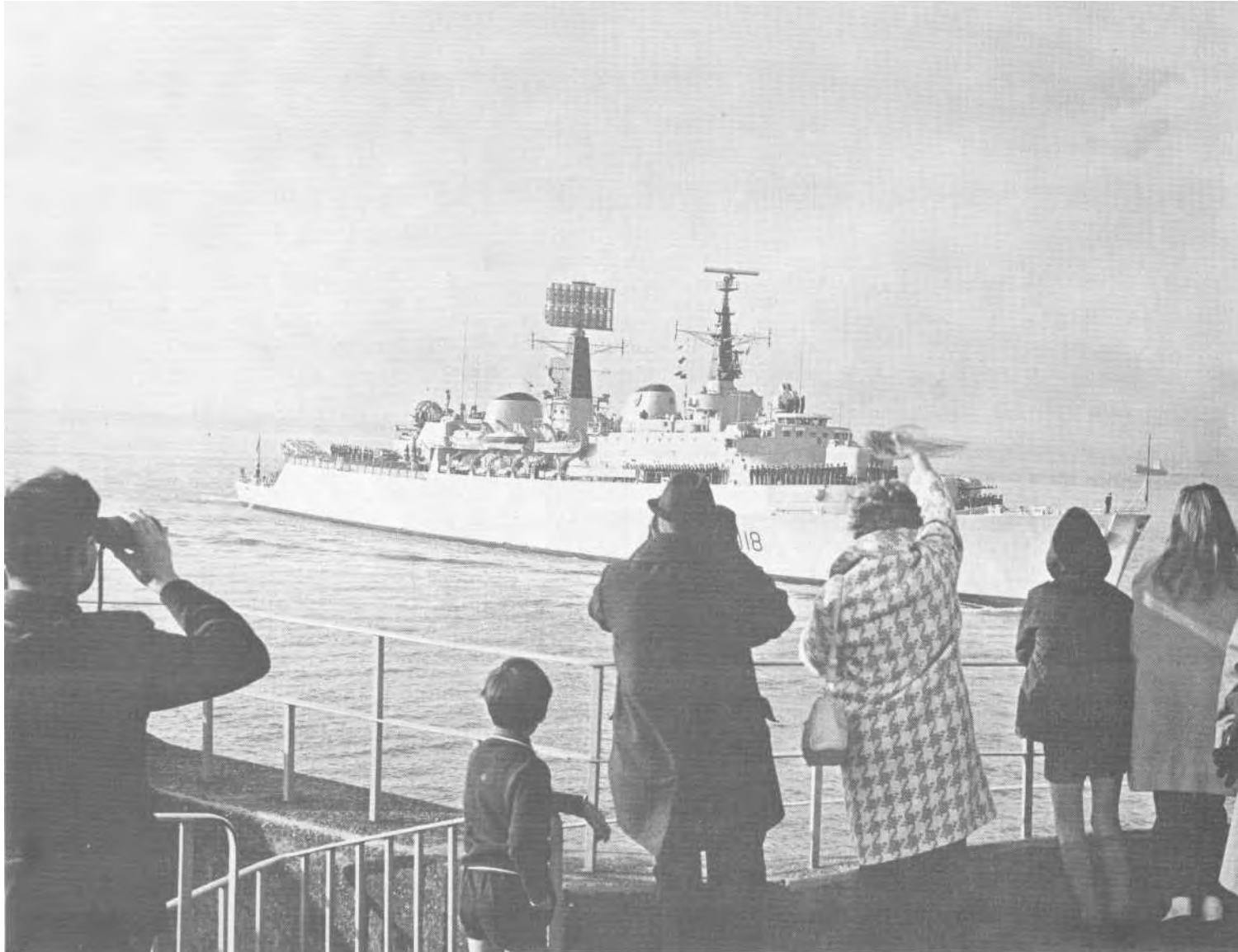
'Happy Hour'

Western Mediterranean

February 1972

The Inter Mess

Deck Hockey Championship



'Home is the sailor

Families welcoming

HMS ANTRIM back to Portsmouth

23rd March 1972



Procedure Alpha entry into Gibraltar

June 1972

Seacat Firings



THE AMERICANS WERE INFAMOUS FOR PROGRAMME  
CHANGES ~ AND WE HAD SOME "MINOR" PROBLEMS

13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE '72



"EVEN MY WATCH HAS  
BUSTED CHIEF. HOW LONG IS IT  
UNTIL THE 14<sup>TH</sup>?"

VI Fleet Interlude!



Vertrep - VI Fleet Style!

## AN ANTRIM MISCELLANY

From one sailor to another during a Self Maintenance Period: "If it doesn't move, paint it. If it does move, batter it into submission, and then paint it."

A signal sent by Vice Admiral Miller (Commander United States VI Fleet) to C-in-C Fleet and FO, Gib:

"It is with great reluctance that we witness ANTRIM taking departure. In her few brief weeks with the VI Fleet she has become 'one of the gang'.. Captain Loram and his fine officers and crew performed magnificently under a rather hectic schedule and contributed immensely to the flexibility of the TG 60.2 and the VI Fleet.

I have heard many comments, made specially to me from our Unit Commanders, praising ANTRIM's true professionalism. We would be delighted to see her back again, anytime. As we have so many times in the past, we continue to learn from the great Navy that started us in our profession".

Officer of the Watch to Machinery Control Room: 'Stand by., we are about to commence the RAS approach. The tanker is 2 cables away.'

Machinery Control Room to Officer of the Watch: 'Roger. How far is that in wheel spanners?'

In July 1972 the ship steamed 7196 miles - the maximum distance covered in one month.

The maximum number of hours actually spent under way in one month was during November 1971, during the JMC Exercise and off Aberporth. From arriving in Portsmouth in November 1970 and returning there again in September 1972 the ship steamed 55,000 miles.

## A FEW (NOT SO VITAL) STATISTICS

Since being accepted into the Naval Service, ANTRIM has consumed:

17,000 tons of Dieso

140 tons of Avcat

14,000 gallons of OEP 69 lubricating oil

3,000 gallons of OMD 112 lubricating oil

27,000 tons of fresh water

140 tons of potatoes - the basic weight of a Boeing 747B  
aeroplane

273,000 eggs

42 miles of sausages

1,800 tins of baked beans - one tin for every foot of  
length of the Quebec bridge in Canada

57,000lb of bread - one lb for every ton of weight  
of the USS New Jersey.

HMS ANTRIMCHRISTENINGS HELD ONBOARD SINCE LEAVING GLASGOW  
21ST NOVEMBER 1970

Charlotte Rose Kettlewell	17th January 1971
Roland Peter Mills	" " "
Emma Louise Mackay	" " "
Charlotte Victoria Evans	" " "
Carol Cook	" " "
Alexander Wharton	" " "
David Alan Stronach	" " 1,
Tracy Ruth Fortune	" " it
William James Charles Moore	15th August 1971
Jonathan Warwick Ackland	" "
Matthew Robin Douglas Payne	" " "
Angela Marie Letford	" " "
Michael John Neville-Rolfe	10th September 1971
Anthony Ian Willey	17th September 1971
Caroline Ruth Edwards	2nd January 1972
Rachael Elizabeth Clinton	30th April 1972
Louise Gustard	21st May 1972
Catharine Jane Hill	" " "

GUNNERY DEPARTMENT:

Apart from the nucleus who stood by the ship in Glasgow, the Gunnery Department got together for the first time in July, 1970, at HMS EXCELLENT in preparation for PCTs. These were carried out in the Portsmouth and Devon-port areas at the end of the month. In general the training produced very good results, and at HMS CAMBRIDGE the departments first record was achieved when more shells were fired than any other ship had achieved in 10 years.

During the interval before the ship's arrival in Portsmouth in November 1970 various training courses were arranged. However, Gunnery and TAS got together one afternoon for an 'Its a Knock Out' type of contest in comical rig. The Quarters crews won by a small margin. A Volley Ball contest was also held, the result of which, due to a rather dodgy judge, has never been agreed upon, but the event was fully enjoyed.

Other events in which the department took part, prior to November, were the 'Freedom of Gosport' Guard, in which we had 20 representatives, some trials in the West Country, and manual labour for the Gunnery School. Two weeks were also spent at Lympstone, showing the Royal Marines how to carry the war ashore'.

We boarded the ship in Portsmouth in typical house moving weather - rain - in time for the Acceptance Ceremony.

The period November 1970 to September 1971 was known colloquially as the period of 'Trials and Tribulations.' At the eleventh hour we passed our SAT(G) with the 4.5"s downing 2 sleeves in the PM of the last day. Difficulties with getting 'B' turret through her Recovery Firings were overcome after a record number of 170 rounds had been fired through the barrels.

October and the early part of November, 1971, were spent Working Up at Portland. We achieved a fair proportion of our aims, and had amazing luck with the weather, which held good for the most part. The Mayor of Portlandia, whose town we went to resurrect after an earthquake, retired from office immediately.

Particular note should be made here of the Supply Department who kept us extremely well fed during the time ashore at Portland, and turned a 'Black Hole' into a very desirable restaurant.

After the Work Up, our time, until Christmas Leave, was spent at Aberporth, and on exercise North of Scotland. Due to weather conditions and exercise requirements few firings were done.

The Ghost of Christmas 1971 having passed; the New Year having been duely Christened; we returned, refreshed, to our Guns and Missiles as the ship sailed for the Med:

The Med she calls  
and Jack he comes,  
Such lovely weather  
For firing Guns,  
For launching missiles  
In the air,  
For guiding them  
Without a care.

For running reams of paper off  
On records, for the end result,  
A G.2 cough.  
What did go wrong - or was it right,  
Records or not - we won the fight.

The weather did hold fairly good and records were, at last, produced. We did, however, get to the stage where we thought we had now trained a 'Rogue Missile' Aimer.

Return to Portsmouth brought Easter Leave and some new faces. We then returned to the Med again to join up with the US 6th Fleet for 6 weeks. Here we really came into our own and carried out very good 4.5" Firings and Seacat shoots which impressed Americans and British alike. Even 4 ton of shells in 35 seconds sounds impressive. Our 'Rogue Missile' Aimer achieved success at last, with 'savage' results.

We had with us on this trip a Radio Controlled Target Boat on which we had some successful shoots. Although under the wing of the Master Gunner, try as we may, we failed to persuade him to coxswain the boat during the firings.

Before we return to Portsmouth in September we have a weeks' firings off Gibraltar for the Principle Warfare Officers' Course.



"ANIRIM" 74 ROUNDS FIRED ~ 4 TOWED AA TARGETS DESTROYED,  
1ST US SHIP 2 ROUNDS FIRED ~ RETIRED: 2ND US SHIP 4 ROUNDS FIRED ~ NO HITS.



"I HOPE SHE DOESN'T FIRE AT US WITH THOSE DEADLY A.S.'s OF HERS"

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMUNICATION

Those of us still on board of the Glasgow contingent remember the period with a certain amount of warmth, when the main consideration for the staff was how soon we could get to the number one and whether to have 1 or 2 pie and peas. Prior to sailing we could muster the SCO, 3 chiefs, 2 RSs and 4 killicks which enabled us to remain reasonably insignificant. On arrival in Portsmouth naturally things took a turn and with all the staff onboard we were no longer the Typing Pool but Communications full stop.

In the land of punched tapes, torn flags and dits and dahs things have remained remarkably stable. The probable highspot was Exercise Highwood (December 1971) when signal-wise we nearly reached saturation point. National week with the American 6th Fleet (July 1972) was rather an anti-climax, the big build up did not come and signal traffic worked out on average at 60 signals daily (compared with Highwood, with an average of 250, it was a quiet time!)

Movements within the Department have been minimal and mainly the Senior rates. RS Green became CRS Green and left us very early for AURORA. CRS Bignell was relieved by CRS Lomas prior to Portland and left for FOF1 staff, becoming Mr Bignell on the way. Shortly before we left for our second deployment to the Med CCY Charles, CRS Lomas and CRS(W) Leppard were all relieved; CRS Lomas went to Portland and CCY Charles and CRS(W) Leppard departed for the wilds of Leydene to prop up the Signal School. All became FCRS (Must be a story somewhere). Their places were taken by CCY Dennis, CRS Foley and CRS(W) Emery and overall command by Lieutenant Howell, the new SCO.

The sporting saga is really a sorry story, LRO(G) Renneberg being our only full time star. Interdepartmental sport has not produced any trophies but we have always made up a team. (Why the twinkling toes of RO1 Coutts, the easy grace of RO1 Stickels in goal, or the solid('.') defence of LRO Rudd and RO2 Carr in the Departmental Football Team were never recognised by the ship's selectors we will never know!)

Despite the runs ashore this trip, Antwerp is still voted as the Top of the Pops (Pop being the wrong word); More of the staff were gathered together ashore en masse than are usually seen on board. RS Littlefield proved once again that we are all young at heart and the usual saying "Never Again" was heard time and time again.

Finally, for those who were interested, the Oil Drum on the Quarterdeck was not for signalling but just for burning Confidential waste.

THE FAMILY THREE

SCO LT HOWELL

CCY Dennis  
LRO Tiger Rudd  
LRO Boot Welbourn  
LRO Nine Card Fitzsimons  
R01 Doc Cann  
R02 Ian Furlong  
R02 Hard as Nails Carr  
R02 The Laird Sinclair  
R02               Pattinson  
R02 Dodger Long  
R02 Smudge Smith  
JRO (Storno Stan) Mellor

CRS Foley  
LRO Gnome Nother  
LRO Ginge Renneberg  
LRO Ship's Bulleyment  
LRO Jack Fassum  
R01 Slim Line Stickels  
R01 Ezz Coutts  
R01 Taloola Tulloch  
R02 Paddy Shields  
R02 Chris O'Toole  
R02 Flash Gordon  
R02 Buster Crabbe  
R02 Radar Reilly  
R02 Deeps Morford  
R02 Phylis Philbey  
R03 Alf Pearson  
JRO Scouse Ostridge

CRS(W) Emery  
RS Hood  
LRO Danny La Drew  
LRO Big Basil Small  
R02 Perspex Campbell  
R02 Beaky Beecroft  
R02 Neanderthal Man Jarratt  
R02 Scrinsen Costello  
R02 Nig Nog Davis  
R02 Raymondo Southam  
R02 Little Basil Small

Buffer:       R S Littlefield



***Antrim's Communicators***



"MAKE TO ANTRIM — EVEN WITH A FULLY BLOODED APACHE INDIAN ABOARD.  
WE CANNOT UNDERSTAND YOUR UNIQUE SMOKE SIGNALS."