

What's all the fuss!!

and dedication you have all demonstrated in the ARK ROYAL, Ship's Company and Squadrons alike, are carried forward into this new era so maintaining the high standards expected of us. To remind the Fleet and future generations of these high standards, it is intended that CAH 03 shall be named ARK ROYAL. Well done and good luck to you all."

On Sunday 3rd December the Ship's Company had their Christmas Dinner and during the afternoon while in Mounts Bay, 824 Squadron and the SAR Flight completed a shuttle service to Culdrose of men and stores. The SAR Flight returned on board and departed from the flight deck for the last time once the ship was safely secured alongside in Devonport. That evening we were told that our Commanding Officer, Captain E R Anson is to be the next Flag Officer Naval Air Command in June 1979 and will be confirmed as a Rear Admiral on 7th January 1980.

Over night Ark remained in the English Channel and before dawn on Monday 4th December we were heading for Plymouth Breakwater with the knowledge that for once the weather would not prevent us going up harbour. Once inside the ship's company manned the ships' side for Procedure Alpha and as dawn broke the tugs arrived to



escort us to our berth. As usual the manoeuvring care and precision were much in evidence as the mighty Ark moved up the Hamoaze with her 450 ft Paying Off Pennant

fluttering in the light breeze. The various vantage points were lined with spectators and on several occasions we broke with naval tradition and the order came to wave back to the waving crowds. Many signals were received welcoming us home and the ships on the dockyard outer walls manned their sides as we passed followed by an increasing number of tiny ships and tugs.

As HMS ARK ROYAL approached her berth, thousands of wives, children and sweethearts were patiently waiting to be re-united with their menfolk at the end of this deployment. At 0850 the order to ring off was given by Captain Anson and back came the reply "Engines Rung Off for the last time, Sir".





THE SQUADRONS





After a recovery.



The SAR Flight.









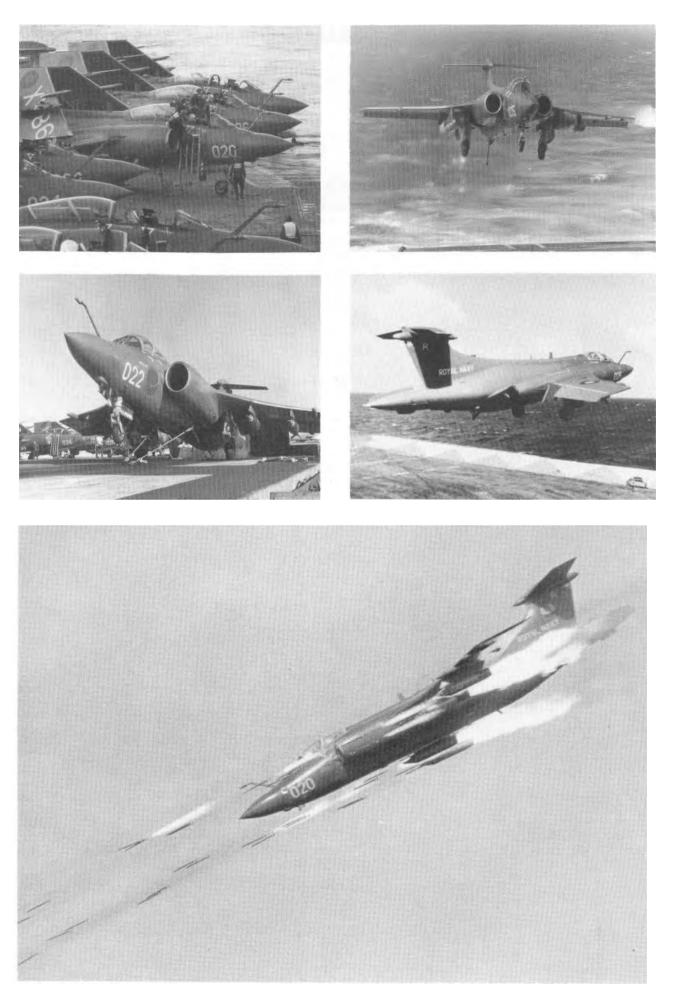
















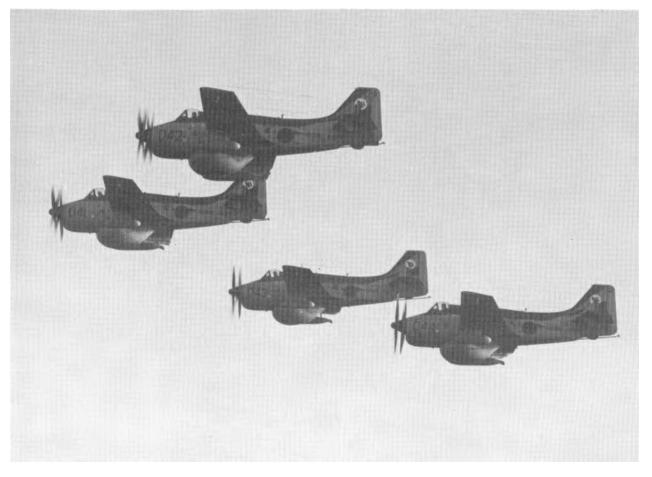








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CAPTAIN, OFFICERS AND MEN OF HMS ARK ROYAL LAST COMMISSION

Commanding Officer

Captain E R Anson

Executive Officer

Commander J L Weatherall



LT CDR M J Woodward LT CDR D J Codd LT CDR B A Davies LT CDR W H J Allen LT CDR W H J Allen LT CDR M A James LT CDR P M Cunningham LT CDR P J Melson LT CDR A Craig

FCPO(Ops)(M) J C Duthie FCPO(Sea) A Robinson, BEM PO(M) J Haste AB(M) K Cook AB(M) L Parsons AB(R) J Tomlinson AB(R) A Swinfield AB(M) M Hoe AB(R) K M Radbourn AB(R) D A Ward

CPO(Ops)(S) G E Dalley CPO(Sea) L Maidment PO(MW) R Grant PO(MW) A Reynolds LS(M) C F Moralee LS(M) 1 L Parker LS(M) M A Smith AB(S) R C Chiswell AB(M) J E Davis AB(R) D R Goldie AB(M) S J Green AB(S) A Gribble AB(S) J A Macklin AB(R) R C Smith AB(S) N B Sadler AB(M) A Stevenson

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

LT P J Elliott LT G Bateman LT J E Dixon LT I Roberts LT T Pratt LT J Tarbet LT D G Snelson LT A E G Mecham LT P B Ferris

SEAMAN

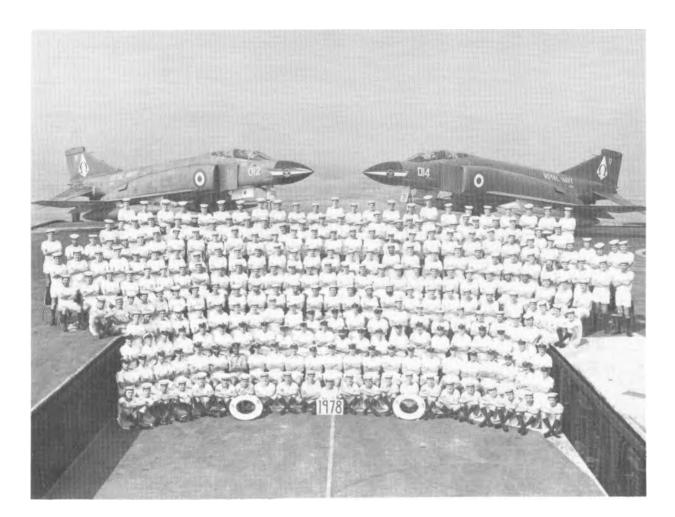
PO(R) J McCarthy PO(R) F Dixon LS(MW) D Dowding LS(R) D Benassi LS(M) J Ison LS(S) K Yeomans AB(S) P Ashton AB(R) G Belcher AB(S) K Chamberlain AB(R) P Commander AB(R) J Crawford AB(R) J Crofts AB(R) S Cummings AB(R) A Denny AB(M) M Garnett AB(M) P Gleeson AB(R) L Goodwin AB(R) P Harrison AB(R) 1 Henwood AB(S) P Ingham AB(S) M Lamb AB(R) D Marsh AB(R) G Rogers AB(M) D Spence AB(R) S Spence AB(R) S White AB(R) V Williams



LT S M Walker LT S M McClelland LT R A Craddock LT S L Sheppard FLT LT G W Dinmore LT T J Stoneman SUB LT C R Graham SUB LT D G Harbun SUB LT C L Larnbshead

AB(M) C Winser S(R) S Brosnan S(R) L Bitchard S(M) K Haywood S(R) N Mason S(R) N Prosser S(R) C Reis S(R) T Setter S(R) K Waddell S(M) J Walker S(R) P Wilson S(S) P Wheeler JS(EW) M Gallagher JS(EW) P Teague

PO(R) D Evans PO(R) P Short LS(UW) R Dowdle LALS(M) L Fairbairn LS(R) K French LS(S) T Pordage LS(MW) A Stoutjesdyk AB(R) J Ambler AB(M) S Barwick AB(M) D Beck AB(M) T Clemson-Banks AB(EW) M Francis



AB(MW) A Fedorus AB(M) J Carder AB(R) I Gridley AB(M) M Harley AB(S) M Holliday AB(R) E Mathews AB(M) T O'Brian AB(M) A Partridge AB(S) R Pearson AB(M) R Rose AB(R) C Rowley AB(M) R Smith AB(S) P Tregarthen AB(R) A Tunnacliffe AB(S) M Williams S(R) D Bioletti S(R) M Brown S(R) S Cutts S(M) A Frisby S(R) N Gibbons S(M) S Henaghen S(R) K Johnson S(R) M Richards S(R) N Robinson S(R) A Saunders S(M) T Tomlinson JS(EW) F Whiteoak JS(EW) G Webster PO(M) H Brown PO(M) T Phillips PO(M) D Newton AB(S) K Hodgson

AB(S) K Hodgson S(M) C Meadway AB(M) M Scarborough S(M) M Wallis

PO(Sea) P Tiller PO(S) B Knowles

PO(R) S Robinson PO(Sea) D Craig

LS(M) M Brotherhood LALS(M) P Hales LS(R) D Hicks LS(MW) W Moran LS(M) D Murrie AB(EW) C Breeden AB(M) C Beauvoisin AB(S) R Beecham AB(R) S Canner AB(R) G Eaton AB(S) N Elvery AB(M) A Hearst AB(M) D Heppenstall AB(M) G Hogg AB(M) J Lane AB(R) P Mayson AB(MW) S Oliver AB(R M Petherham AB(R) D Ratcliffe AB(R) D Seeley AB(MW) 1 Thomas AB(M) A Tweddle AB(S) P White S(R) B Appleby S(M) G Bage S(R) R Booth S(M) J Brown S(M) N Bowmer S(M) D Fiddler S(R) P Gibbons S(R) R Mitchell S(R) K Stewert S(R) R Wright S(M) R Young S(M) K Bunker S(M) C Harrison

PO(Sea) R Gilmore PO(Sea) D Kirkman LS(MW) S Perry ALS(M) M Quinn AB(M) K Collins AB(M) P Driver AB(M) S Fairlamb AB(M) D Miller AB(S) A Parsons AB(M) G Peck AB(M) G Shrimpton S(M) P Nixon S(M) A Ripley JS(M) N Jackson

PO(Sea) N Jones PO(R) R Dentith PO(MW) A Francis LS(MW) A King LS(MW) R Letchford LS(R) D Gregory ALS(M) P Harris LS(S) D Reid AB(R) P Balmforth AB(R) N Barnett AB(M) J Brooke AB(R) B Crossland AB(M) A Coleman AB(R) D Davies AB(R) P Dowling AB(R) J Elder AB(R) N Frame AB(R) M Galliano AB(MW) J Gaffney AB(S) C Hadcraft AB(M) R Jackson AB(R) P Larkin AB(R) S Leeson AB(R) T Miller