









Captain Gerard-Pearse

When I assumed Command in November 1973, with the ship sitting at the bottom of a dry dock, I must confess that I wondered whether we would ever get to sea on time and whether my wildest dreams would come true. As a result of determined efforts by all Departments, we left Devonport ten minutes ahead of the time which had been decided nine months earlier. Thereafter, we never looked back. Of course we had our trials and tribulations but the enthusiastic and infectious optimism of all on board ensured happy and lasting memories for me, which I feel certain are shared by all.



Captain Graham

Having taken over an efficient and, I believe, a happy ship from Admiral Gerard-Pearse, my task has been simply to make sure that we all kept going in the same direction. This, I think, we have accomplished. Every man onboard has his part to play: one bad apple can make the whole case rotten. But we have remained an effective and efficient team who have manned and operated the Royal Navy's largest ship with pride and the knowledge that we have played a significant part in maintaining the NATO maritime force in the North Atlantic. This book is a record of many days and many thousands of miles and I hope in the years to come, as you turn over the pages, you will, like me, look back on these days with happiness and satisfaction in a job well done.







Visit of
Her Majesty
Queen Elizabeth
The Queen Mother























