

HMS · CHATHAM · 1912

BUILT
CHATHAM

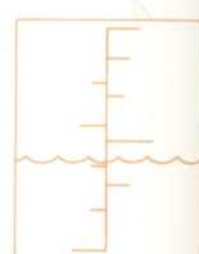
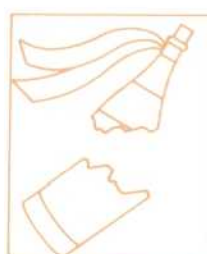
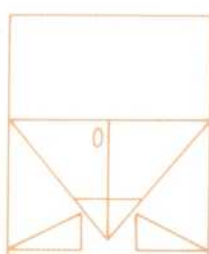
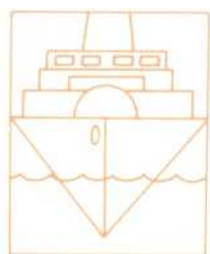
ORDERED
16 July 1910

LAI D DOWN
3 January 1911

LAUNCHED
9 November 1911

COMPLETED
4 December 1912

DISPLACEMENT
5,400 Tons



SWAN HUNTER
LTD
WALLSEND

28 January 1985

12 May 1986


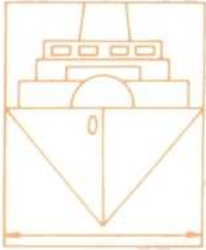
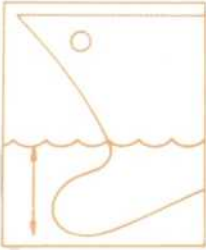
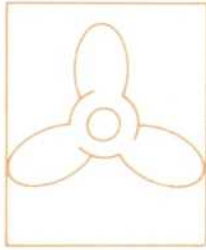

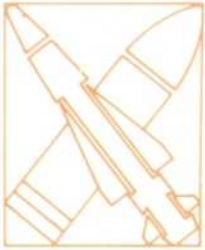
20 January 1988

16 November 1989

5,000 Tons

HMS · CHATHAM · 1989

COMPARATIVE DETAILS

<p>LENGTH 139.6m (458ft)</p> 	<p>BEAM 14.9m (49ft)</p> 	<p>DRAUGHT 4.9m (16ft)</p> 	<p>SPEED 25-5 Knots</p> 	<p>COMPLEMENT 475</p> 	<p>ARMAMENT 8 x 6" guns (anti-ship/shore, range 7 miles) 2 x 21" Torpedo tubes (anti-ship range 3 1/2 miles) 1 x 3" gun (anti-air, range 2 1/2 miles) 4 x 3 pdr guns (anti-air, range 1 mile) 1 Sopwith Camel fighter aircraft (anti-air) unable to land back on the ship! wireless communications range, 250 miles</p> 
<p>148.06m (485ft)</p>	<p>14-75m (48ft)</p>	<p>6.94m (23ft)</p>	<p>31 Knots</p>	<p>237</p>	<p>1 x 4.5" gun (automatic) (anti-air/shore, range 13 miles) 8 x Harpoon missiles (anti-ship, range 60 miles) 2 x 6 Seawolf launchers (anti-missile, range 5 miles) 1 30mm Gatling gun (anti-missile, range 1 mile) 2 or 4 30mm guns (anti-air, range 1 mile) 2 x 3 Torpedo tubes (anti-submarine) Helicopter - up to 2 Lynx or 1 Seaking V or EH101 (anti-submarine/ ship) satellite communications range, worldwide</p>

COMPARATIVE DETAILS

THE STORY SO FAR



THE LAYING OF THE KEEL

The first milestone in the life of a ship is when the keel is laid in the dry dock or slip where the hull will be built.



THE LAUNCH

The most dramatic part of the building process is where the empty shell of the ship slides majestically into its natural element. Lady Oswald, our sponsor and guest of honour today, launched HMS CHATHAM at 1530 on the 20th of January 1988.



SEA TRIALS

Sixteen months after her launch came the excitement of taking the ship out to sea for the first time. The crew, comprising standing-by Ship's Company and Swan Hunter's workers, took the ship to sea for a projected 10 days of trials off the Northumbrian coastline. The trials were so successful that she returned to Wallsend a day early, having proven the main machinery at full power and fired the 4.5" gun for the first time.



ACCEPTANCE

The ship bade a sad farewell to Newcastle on Saturday 11th November 1989, as the combined RN/Swan Hunter crew took the ship to sea for some final trials and the Delivery Voyage. Lady Oswald witnessed the emotional moment of the Acceptance Ceremony in Portsmouth, where the Red Ensign of the Merchant Navy was exchanged for the White of the RN. This signified the end of Swan Hunter's contract and the start of HMS CHATHAM as a warship in the Royal Navy.

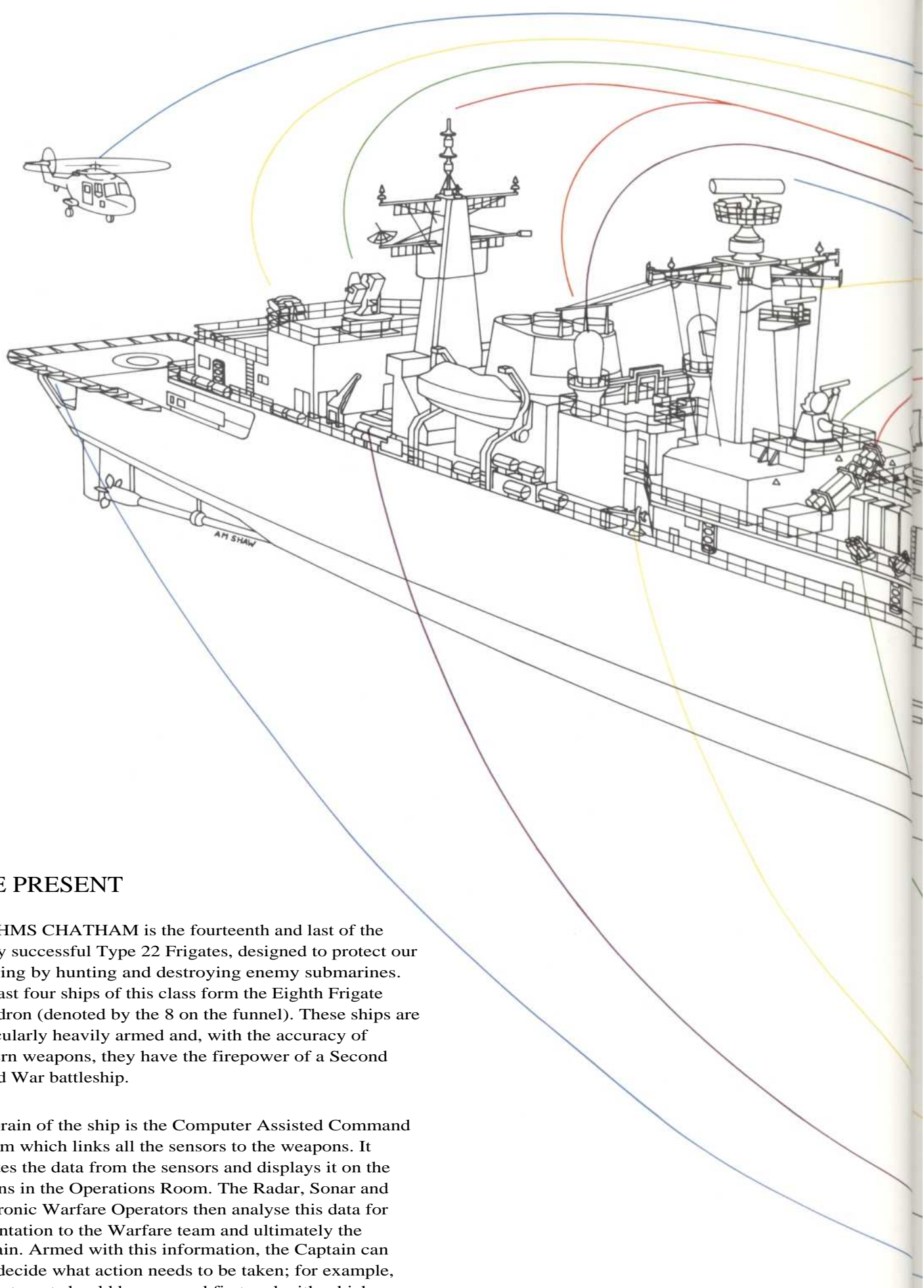
THE STANDING BY SHIP'S COMPANY

Although CHATHAM is now manned by some 237 men, only a few 'stood by' the ship during the time at the shipbuilder. The first to join arrived in Newcastle in the early Summer of 1988, gradually growing in number to about 50 a year later. Their role was to liaise with the shipbuilder, the Principal Naval Overseer, the Naval Ship Acceptance Team and other bodies to try to ensure the smooth transition from 'No.126 Ship Swan Hunter Shipbuilder' into a fully fledged member of the Fleet called HMS CHATHAM.



A very close working relationship was formed with all the organisations involved and the renowned Geordie hospitality was much appreciated by all those fortunate enough to have spent time at the shipyard.

This photograph shows the Ship's Company entertaining the workforce at Swan Hunter with a Christmas carol concert. Nobody will confess to being the one dressed as Little Red Riding Hood!



THE PRESENT

This HMS CHATHAM is the fourteenth and last of the highly successful Type 22 Frigates, designed to protect our shipping by hunting and destroying enemy submarines. The last four ships of this class form the Eighth Frigate Squadron (denoted by the 8 on the funnel). These ships are particularly heavily armed and, with the accuracy of modern weapons, they have the firepower of a Second World War battleship.

The brain of the ship is the Computer Assisted Command System which links all the sensors to the weapons. It collates the data from the sensors and displays it on the screens in the Operations Room. The Radar, Sonar and Electronic Warfare Operators then analyse this data for presentation to the Warfare team and ultimately the Captain. Armed with this information, the Captain can then decide what action needs to be taken; for example, which target should be engaged first and with which weapon system. This would then be fed back into the computer which will automatically aim the weapon and fire, although the option still exists to veto the order if necessary.

HMS CHATHAM TYPE 22 FRIGATE

'LYNX' HELICOPTER

6 'SEAWOLF' LAUNCHERS

'SEAWOLF' TRACKER

COMMUNICATION AERIALS

SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS AERIAL (WORLD WIDE)

SURVEILLANCE RADAR - RANGE 120 KM

NAVIGATIONAL RADAR

'GOALKEEPER' 30MM GATLING GUN (4,200 rpm)

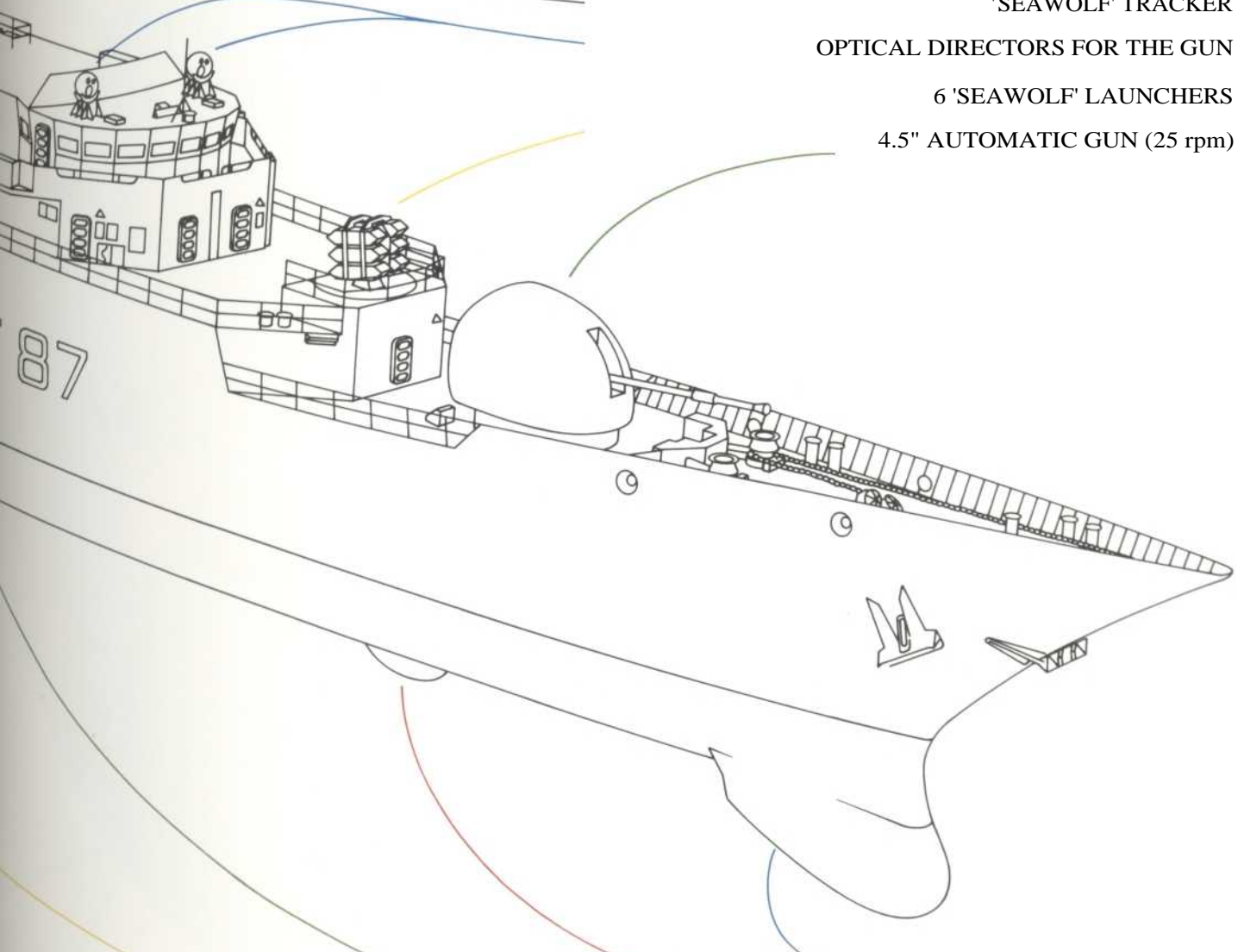
8 'HARPOON' ANTI-SHIP MISSILES

'SEAWOLF' TRACKER

OPTICAL DIRECTORS FOR THE GUN

6 'SEAWOLF' LAUNCHERS

4.5" AUTOMATIC GUN (25 rpm)



MEDIUM RANGE ACTIVE SONAR

UNDERWATER TELEPHONE

'SEAGNAT' MISSILE DECOY LAUNCHERS

30MM GUNS

ANTISUBMARINE TORPEDO TUBES

TOWED PASSIVE SONAR

OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

Is the largest department on board, comprising 9 Officers, 21 Senior Rates and 75 Junior Ratings and is divided into the following sub-specialisations:

RADAR

The radarmen form the hub of the Action Information organisation and are responsible for collating all incoming information from written orders, our own radars and other ships sensors via computer radio links. Their job is to present the Captain with an accurate tactical picture of the air and surface contacts around the ship.

