



# FOREWORD

A commission book is apt mainly to record the events and ignore the thing that has made the commission memorable. The Ship's Company make the ship and *Dido* has always been a happy, cheerful ship; the Ship's Company a happy band of extroverts.

From the cold bleak days of a winter Chatham refit in September '69 to February '70 the spirit and thirst of *Dido* has been unquestionable. From those first carefree gatherings in the United Services to the commissioning in the rain and the work-up in the fog, to me the really outstanding feature of the *Dido* has been the cheerful way we have gone about our business.

We have had our sad moments and no one can leave *Dido* without remembering the late David Carr; but he, I am sure would not wish us to be sad for he was a 'most happy fella', an enthusiastic and very cheerful DI DO.

The memorable events of the commission will be different for different people. For some it might be a run ashore; or the subsequent brush with authority; for others it might be the passing of the tot. Some will remember their first foreign visit, their first Beira Patrol, their first distaste of seasickness. All I am sure will remember their messmates and be glad that they served in HMS *Dido*.



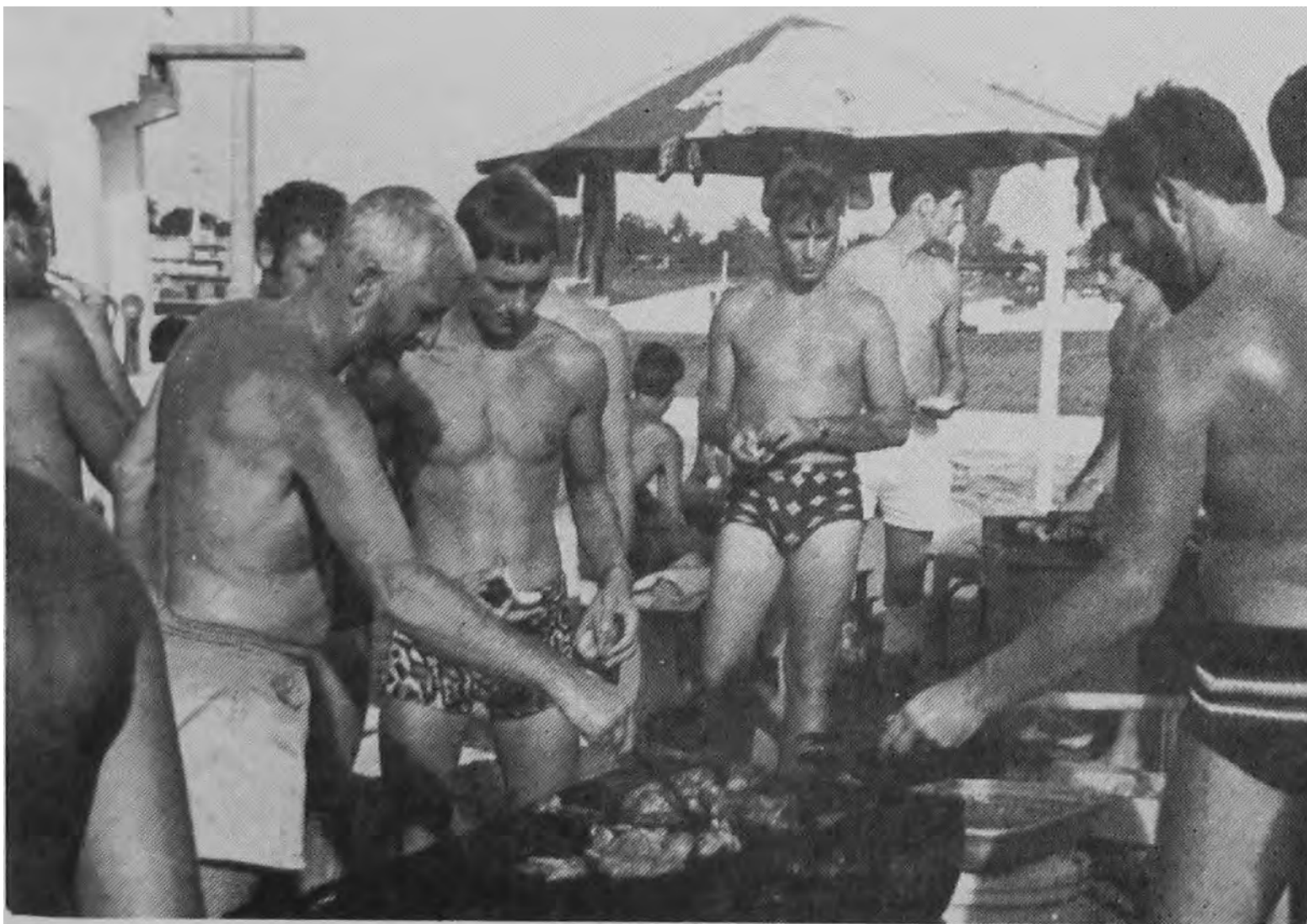
A. R. BARNDEN



*Singapore at last, and on one engine too!*



*Young Seaman 5—Greenies?*



*Bar-B-Q, Singapore*



*'Starboard 30'*

# LIST OF SHIP'S COMPANY

## *Commanding Officers*

Cdr. A. R. Barnden

Cdr. C. S. Argles

## *Officers*

Lt. Cdr. C. P. R. Belton  
Lt. Cdr. R. H. Urry  
Lt. Cdr. R. B. M. Payne  
Lt. Cdr. P. R. S. Gibbons  
Lt. Cdr. D. J. Newsom  
Lt. Cdr. D. M. Carr  
Lt. R. M. H. Stone

Lt. D. R. Carpenter  
Lt. M. D. MacFarlan  
Lt. D. E. A. Thornett  
Lt. A. P. Deverell Lt.  
R. J. A. Turner Lt.  
T. Blakeley  
Lt. M. R. Lumley

Lt. D. P. Wilson  
Lt. M. S. Lewis  
Lt. A. C. W. Bevan  
Lt. P. D. Ambrose  
Lt. B. H. Caesar  
Lt. P. W. Edwards  
S/Lt. A. Roberts

S/Lt. W. G. Samways  
S/Lt. P. Meakins  
A/S/Lt. B. Kelly  
A/S/Lt. J. A. Grieve  
A/S/Lt. R. V. Lake  
Mid. R. C. Evans Mid.  
S. A. A. Haworth

Mid. S. J. McLellan  
Mid. B. W. E. Morgan  
Mid. A. E. White Mid.  
G. H. Fabian Mid.  
W. L. Thomson

## *Coxswain*

T. Goodgroves CPO

## *Communications*

N. Atha RS  
D. Dain CY  
P. Thompson LRO  
R. Winchester LRO  
C. Graham LRO

A. Guilding LRO  
I. Moor R02  
T. Hodgkinson RO2  
K. Clarke RO2  
J. Harries RO3

E. Meehan RO3  
I. Simpson RO2  
D. Derrick RO2  
M. McGovern RO1  
E. White RO3 E.  
Shuter RO2

J. King RO3 M.  
Green RO3  
K. Q. Roberts RO2  
M. Walker JRO G.  
Stocker JRO

B. Johnson R02  
M. Fowler R02  
A. Mathewson R02  
G. Nurse R02  
S. Bolton R02

## *Engine Room*

T. Newall CMEA(P)  
A. Tuthill CMEM  
C. Thurtell MEA(H)1 R.  
Adams MEA(P)1 R.  
Thompson M EA(P) 1I  
V. Williams MEA(P)1  
O. Dyer MECH I  
J. Thompson MECH1  
A. Riley POMEM J.  
Sheldon MECH1  
B. Daniels MEA(P)2  
D. Perfect MECH2

R. Rigby POMEM R.  
Williams POMEM R.  
Betts POMEM F.  
Booth POMEM  
C. Jarman POMEM B.  
Newberry PO M E M J.  
Barker MECH I  
R. Whitehead MEA(P)3  
T. Colligan MEA(P)3  
A. Suggitt M EA(P)3 T.  
Houghton MEA(H)3

S. Chapman LMEM  
S. Roebuck LMEM  
D. Fox LMEM  
D. Stewart LMEM  
J. Ebsworth LMEM  
B. Nash LMEM J.  
Day MEM I  
R. Hughes MEM 1  
D. Kennedy MEM 1  
A. Morrison MEM 1  
D. Maher MEM 1

D. Long MEM1  
R. Hamblin MEM 1  
J. Staples MEM 1  
K. Dudley MEM 1I  
D. Hartharn MEM 1  
I. Phillips MEM 1  
M. Pendlebury MEM I  
S. Thompson MEM I R.  
Canton MEM I K.  
Metcalf MEM I A.  
Feaver M EM 1

D. McMahon MEM I  
A. Dewey MEM 1  
N. Meek MEM1  
A. Milne MEM I  
P. Western MEM 1  
S. Ridley MEM2  
D. Clarke MEM2  
E. Barlow JMEM  
S. Hole JMEM  
T. James MEM I  
A. Scarfe MEM1  
J. Chalke MEM1

## *Flight*

A. Ritson AA1  
G. Lane EA 1

M. Bowman CREL(A)  
K. Coucill POAF

C. Kitchener POAF  
D. Lennon LAM

C. Seed LEM(A)  
W. Ward NAM

### *Gunnery*

D. Byron CPO GI  
P. Larsen PO FC1  
K. Meek PO QR1  
A. Jaconelli PO GA1  
R. Johnstone LS QR2  
G. Binningsley LS GA2  
R. Wetherick LS GL2

D. O'Connor LS GA2 B.  
Cole LS FC1  
D. Preston LS QR1 B.  
S. Letman LS FC2  
D. Stonehouse AB SG\*  
D. Brownrigg AB GL2 B.  
J. Walker AB GL2

W. I. Walker AB SG\*  
K. Merkitt AB QR2  
D. Gardner AB SG\*  
C. Hannington AB SG\*  
G. Payne AB GL2  
D. G. Warburton AB FC2  
V. A. F. McCleave AB FC2

T. Waite OS SG\*  
K. McQuillan AB QR2  
P. J. Law AB SG\*  
M. Drury AB SG\*  
M. Staunton OS SG\*  
R. Czarnecki OS SG\*

D. Thorne OS SG G.  
Jefferies AB SG\*  
R. Hall AB GL2  
B. Phillips JS SG J.  
Cullen OS SG\* R.  
Burtonshaw OS SG\*

### *Radar Plot*

J. Peskett PO PRI  
P. Skilton PO RP2  
T. Dougherty AB RP2  
J. Osmond LS RP2 P.  
Cooch AB RP\*

T. Tew AB RP\*  
A. Woodard AB RP\*  
R. Chapman RP\*  
D. Chapman RP\*  
M. Court AB RP2

G. Peck AB RP2  
M. Burgess LS RP1  
K. Betteridge AB RP\*  
W. Turner AB RP\*  
F. Hook AB RP\*

M. Murphy JS RP\*  
R. Hackett AB RP\*  
M. Lindopp AB RP\*  
D. Curtiss OS RP\*  
T. Todd OS RP\*

P. Taylor OS RP\*  
D. Cartwright OS RP\*  
D. Downey LS RP2  
C. Riley OS RP\*

### *Supply and Secretariat*

T. Hayden CPOSA  
H. Coppenhall CPOSA  
R. Harris PO WTR  
J. Brown PO CK  
K. Fitch PO STWD  
D. Hutchinson PO CK  
S. Hall PO CA

S. Kirk L/WTR  
J. Hardwick LSA  
A. S. Fox SA  
M. Mason SA  
B. Noton LSA  
P. Doyle SA P.  
Page L/CK

K. Dutton L/CK  
J. Moran L/CK  
A. Burrows CK  
J. Underwood CK  
P. West CK  
C. Gildroy CK  
R. Gray CK

E. White L/STWD  
D. Thompson L/STWD  
W. Law L/STWD  
J. Cowper STWD  
F. Hooper STWD  
T. Monohan CK  
G. Davison CK

N. Walke L/CK  
B. Woods L/CK  
R. Clarke L/CK  
J. Dadd LMA  
H. Osborne L/REG  
J. Stokes PO CK

### *Torpedo and Anti Submarine*

P. Hancock CPO TASI1  
P. Pope PO TASI R.  
Barnard PO UC1  
D. Francis PO TASI R.  
McClellan PO UC 1 A.  
Chattington OS UC  
L. Greenlees AB UC

S. Andrew OS UC\*  
K. Moss AB UC\*  
C. Rowbury AB UC\*  
R. Hughes OS UC\* A.  
Gorton LS PTI J.  
Pillinger AB UW2  
M. Hutton AB UW2(A)

M. Snelling LS UC2  
D Anderson LS UC1  
B. Dudley OS UW\*  
S. Kirwan OS UW\*  
G. Cadwell AB UC\*  
C. Johnson OS UC\*  
B. Henley OS UC\*

P. Black JS UC\*  
T. Pordage AB UC  
K. Brett OS UC\*  
J. Knight AB UC2  
R. Sexton LS UW1  
A. Stewart LS UC2  
D. Rigley AB UC2

J. Gamble AB UC2 J.  
Mooney AB UC2  
J. Hayes AB UC M.  
Thraves AB UC\*  
K. Thomas AB UC  
B. Owen AB UW\*  
A. Maskell AB UC

### *Weapon and Electrical*

J. Buckley CCEMN  
G. Gash COEA  
D. Neville CCEL  
R. Josey CREA  
A. McCallum CRE1  
W. Allen COEL  
R. McLean CEA(0)1 P.  
Warsop OEMN1 A.  
Rice REA1  
1. Burvill OEA(O)1

R. Whitwell OEMECH1  
P. Prigg POOEL  
G. Nunn RMECHI  
G. Powell RMECH2  
M. Barker RM ECH2  
J. Woolley REA2  
A. Babb CEA2  
R. Miles CEA2  
F. Casson CEA2  
W. Higgins OEMECH2  
R. Cheadle RM ECH3

T. Bateman POOEL  
H. Edwards CHOEL  
B. Holmes POOEL  
B. Smith LREM R.  
Magee LOEM A.  
Wood POREL J.  
Cook REA/APP P.  
Timney LREM W.  
Hudson REM1  
A. Grigg CEM 1  
B. MacMillan OEM1

S. Allen LREM  
W. Park CEM1  
M. Ballingall LOEM  
D. Ricketts LOEM  
M. Mundell LOEM  
G. Ryal REM1  
B. Frost LCEM  
J. Hall REMNA  
S. Hicks CEA/APP  
J. Hacking REM I  
A. Renouf REA/APP

P. Dunford OEA/APP  
J. Hands LREM  
C. McNab CEM2 M.  
Gamble OEM2 P.  
Slynn REM2 R.  
Cummings CEM2  
A. Hitchin OEM2  
Witt OEMN(O)1  
Creswell OEMN(O)  
2 Trippas OEA(O)1

### *NAAFI Staff*

R. Cameron *Canteen Manager*

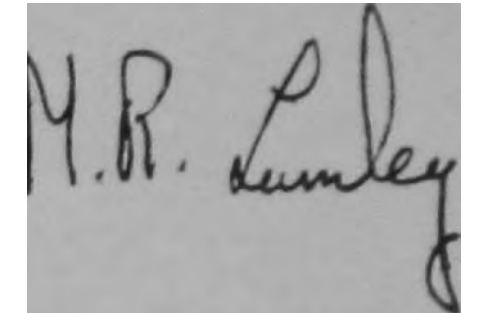
F. C. Roberts *Canteen Assistant*



*Hong Kong, March 1971,  
with an Irish Guardsman on loan draft*

# BY THE EDITOR

This booklet has been produced for you the Ship's Company, your families and friends. We have tried to provide you with a souvenir which in time to come will remind you of your time in *Dido*. I hope that over the next few pages we have managed to remind you of the things which you would like to remember as well as those you would perhaps prefer to forget !



## 'THE HOME LEG'

The Ships Company this commission joined in three phases, the first at Norfolk, Virginia in June 1969, the second and by far the largest number, at Chatham in September 1969 and the third in November 1969. For the first few months our lives revolved around Chatham, chipping hammers, dry docks and an almost unrecognisable pile of steel with a white ensign on top. But after a large amount of discomfort, many evenings in Chatham pubs and for some, plenty of R.A. time, we emerged with an almost new *Dido*.

On 15 September, we officially recommissioned but as the ship was still refitting the commissioning ceremony was not held until 7 February; when at the Dockyard Church in Chatham the Captain read the Commissioning Warrant and amid a snow storm the Ship's Company marched to the ship. We sailed for trials on the following Monday.

Our first step, as with most other ships, was a work-up at Portland. This passed to everyone's satisfaction including FOST's, surprisingly, and we returned to Chatham for some leave.

Gibraltar came next and we arrived there on 26 May. For a large percentage of the Ship's Company this was their first time 'foreign'. We were in Gibraltar as Guardship and this tended to cut down on some of our social activities but not to any disastrous extent!

We held a ship's sports day on the playing field opposite HMS *Rooke* which was very successful and helped to restore the balance between blood and alcohol for most of us.

On 20 June we were in Faslane, some 'Southerners' still thought we were foreign but soon learnt when they tried to buy a drink on Sunday. We were sent to Scotland to operate as one of two target ships for the Submarine Commanding Officers' qualifying course and our time was spent doing high speed runs up and down the Clyde. Each evening we anchored in Rothesay Bay. This period for *Dido* was really quite quiet as the Ship's Company were still getting to know each other and the jobs the ship was given to do were in the main routine ones for an escort at home.





*Chippy surveying the 'unrecognisable pile of steel'*

Summer leave was spent at our home port, Chatham, and for a little over a month the ship became part of the dockyard again. The big difference this time was that we were an operational ship, we had worked together at sea and we knew each other.

On 4 August we were again in Scotland, this time on the east coast at Rosyth to take part in Exercise 'Oceanex' off the north coast. After the wash-up again in Rosyth, we sailed in very thick fog for Portsmouth, Families Day and to give the Portsmouth natives a chance to see us.

As the ship was anchored in Spithead families were brought out by boat and when they had embarked we sailed for a trip around the Isle of Wight. A full programme of exercises was laid on for our guests and they were able to see the guns, mortars and helicopter perform. We returned to Portsmouth and landed our guests at tea time.

Then followed a frantic week alongside in Portsmouth preparing the ship for duty as escort to the Royal Yacht. Much polishing and painting to ensure that we were not only the best ship in the Western Fleet but also the smartest. We joined *Britannia*, with the Royal Family embarked, off Southampton on 10 August and sailed down the Channel in the Royal wake for a week's cruise off the Scottish Coast.

This period in our lives was marked by two events. On the night of 13 August, whilst operating South of the Mull of Kintyre, our helicopter piloted by Lieutenant Commander David Carr crashed into an unlit hillside. Lieutenant Commander Carr lost his life. Our very deepest sympathies go to his widow and family.



*Chef praying in the direction of Mecca Pembroke probably reading the 'Thoughts of a Cookery officer'*



*Families Day, Portsmouth, August 1970*

On 16 August Her Royal Highness Princess Anne and her brother Prince Andrew visited the ship whilst at anchor off Scrabster. We had earlier in the week had the honour of firing a Royal Salute to Anne on her birthday and her visit to the ship at this time made it all a very personal affair.

We left *Britannia* off Aberdeen on 17 August and went back to Rosyth to de-ammunition. The following signal was received from the Royal Yacht: 'I am commanded by Her Majesty the Queen to convey the following message : Thank you for your escort during the past seven days and for arranging such an interesting tour yesterday, which was much appreciated. I was much impressed by the way you carried out your escort duties. My family and I thank you.' The signal was signed by the Queen.

Copenhagen with HMS *Cavalier* for an official visit came next and on 21 August we tied up alongside in the inner harbour and prepared to meet the Danes. The Danes were very pleased to see us and we were well entertained. They were especially pleased to see our Chief Shipwright who can't wait to get back there later this commission ; and LMA *Dadd* who returned their hospitality in a big way!

Copenhagen proved to be an expensive city but a very gay one. The Tivoli Gardens and the two famous lager breweries were quite an attraction and so were some of the 'cinemas'.

We sailed from the Danish capital for Chatham on our own as *Cavalier* had a spot of engine trouble; rumour had it that a bit of string had come undone and her funnel was about to fall off.

28 August. At Chatham. This time to prepare the ship for deployment to the Far East and to give leave. We took part in the Chatham 'Navy Open Days' and were quite the smartest ship in the basin.

During one of the basin displays we nearly turned into a Submarine when three hundred or so visitors onboard all walked to the starboard side at the same time for a better view. In all, over the three open days the ship had about 7000 visitors and four dogs.

We left Chatham on 7 October and called in at Portsmouth for our ammunition and a weekend of saying goodbyes. Miss Jean Harrington (the Colgate Ring of Confidence), *Dido's* selected 'pin up' visited the ship on Monday, 12 October. Earlier in the week some of the Ship's Company had attended the premiere in London of the film 'TORA, TORA, TORA,' with Jean and had lots of photos taken of them quite unbearable for weeks after.

*Dido* left Portsmouth on 13 October for Gibraltar and the Far East.

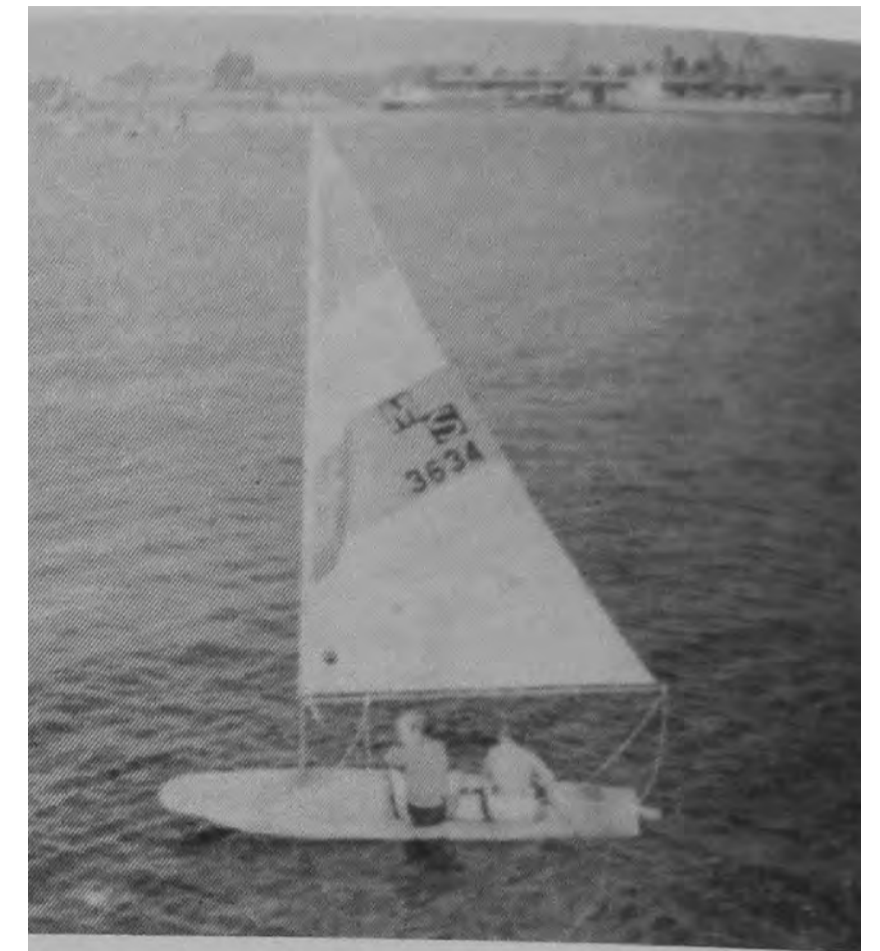
## 'THE FOREIGN LEG'

From Pompey to Gibraltar not once did we falter, to quote the words of a well known song. The boys of the Dickie Dido arrived in Gib on 17 October for a very quick weekend. The only event of note at this point was our introduction to HMS *Naiad*, our sparring partner for the next two and a half months.

The passage from Gibraltar to Simonstown was our first long spell at sea and also our first taste of flight deck sports. Before we had turned left by Cape Trafalgar our 'Club Swinger' was already a deep shade of brown and several people began to wonder whether he would be allowed to go ashore in South Africa when we got there.

On 28 October we crossed the equator and on the following afternoon 'King Neptune and his Court arrived onboard to extract their dues :

Heard on the bridge from one young ordinary



'Hey Lads, wait for us'

seamen : 'I wonder what silly old Bastard is playing Neptune?'

Reply from the Coxswain standing behind him: 'Wait and see son !

Neptune's court had a most successful afternoon and the flight deck ended up looking like the 'oggin' either side of it.

LREM Woods became famous at this time with his evening quizzes and the Yeoman and his team produced the first edition of the Ship's newspaper 'Times 104'. The K.D.K. campaign started to keep most of the hot air outside.

A RAS from *RFA Blue Rover* off the West coast of South Africa enabled us to make Simonstown on 5 November where we changed into Whites Blues — Whites — Blues etc. to conform with the South African Navy.

Editor's Note: Overheard on the flight deck: L. S. Burgess 'When do I get my trip in the "Chopper"?' P.O. Bowman — 'We haven't got a flying suit to fit you, but don't worry we've written to Action Man for one.'