



# **H.M.S. EAGLE**



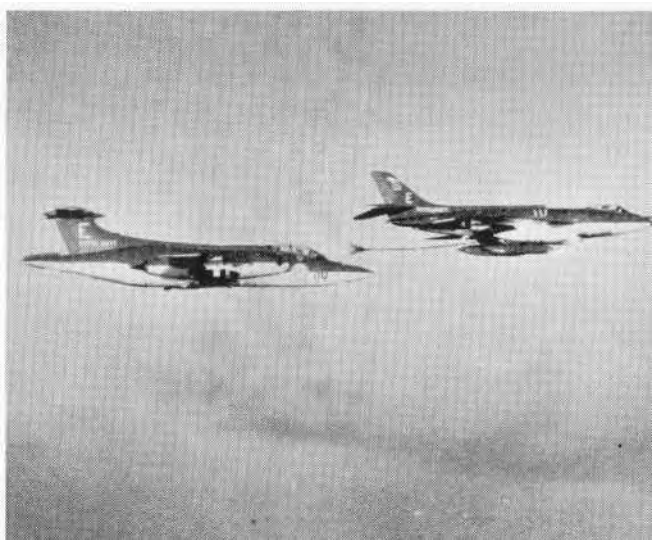
**1964-1966**

# THE SHIP AND

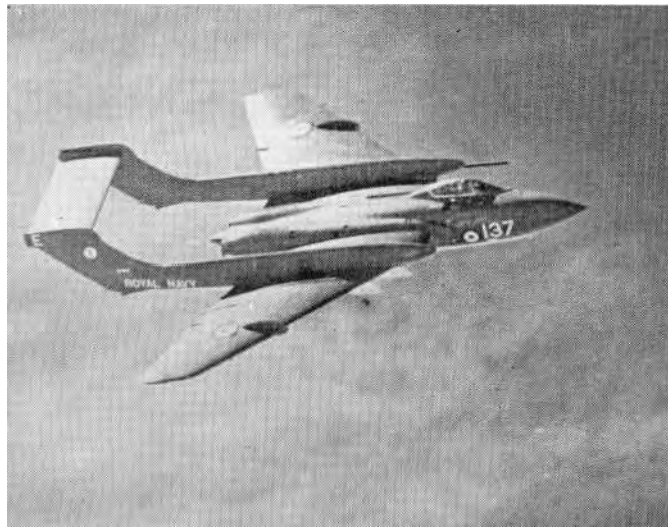


# HER AIRCRAFT

The stars of the modernised  
EAGLE'S first commission



*Scimitar 800E Squadron*



*Vixen 899 Squadron*



*Buccaneer 800 Squadron*



*Gannet 849D Squadron*



*Wessex 820 Squadron*



*Captain  
J. C. Y. Roxburgh  
DSO. DSC.\**

*I FEEL honoured to be asked to write the forward to this book. I am sure that Captain Empson will agree with me that the second leg has been a little more rugged than the first but both had their disappointments and triumphs.*

*It must have given great satisfaction to you as it has to me, at the way both you and this magnificent ship have met the heavy demands which the world situation has imposed. I share with you the disappointments of visits not made and dates not kept which this work has*



*It's a deal*

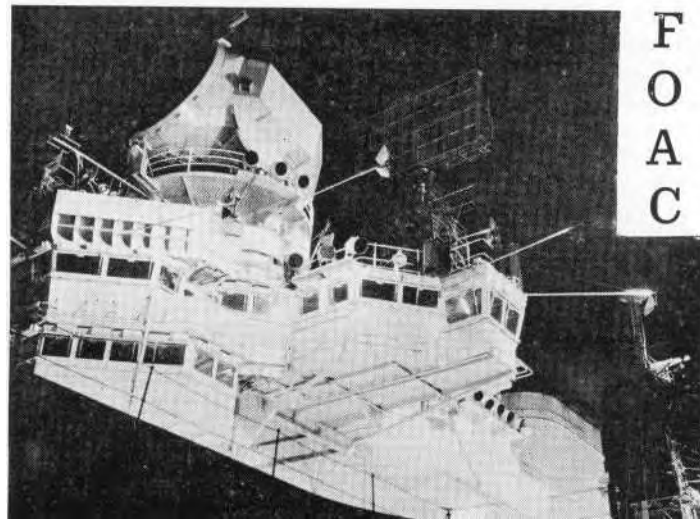
*Captain L. D. Empson*

*involved. In spite of that I am sure that in the future you will remember the EAGLE and this commission with great pride and treasure this book as a souvenir of the association.*

*May good luck be with you wherever you go.*



*Rear Admiral H.R.B. Janvrin  
CB., DSC.*



F  
O  
A  
C



*Rear Admiral W.D. O'Brien DSC.*

# IN THE BEGINNING



**H**. M.S. EAGLE, the fifteenth to be so named, was built by Messrs. Harland and Wolff at Belfast and launched by Her Majesty The Queen, then Princess Elizabeth, in the Spring of 1946. She was commissioned in 1952 and remained in continuous operational service until 1959. She was then taken in hand at Devonport for an extensive modernisation.

The modernisation of H.M.S. Eagle, which was completed in under five years increased her standard displacement to well over 50,000 tons and her length by a few feet to 811 feet 3¾ inches making her the largest ship in the Royal Navy.

The aim of the modernisation was to extend the life of the ship well into the 1970's. Extensive changes were made to the ship's equipment to allow for the introduction of new aircraft, weapons and techniques. At the same time the opportunity was taken to make necessary and notable improvements to living and working conditions for the Ship's Company.

Full air conditioning now supplies all accommodation and most working spaces with cooled, dried air.

The ship is now fitted with bunks throughout, and each man has his own air punka and reading light. New galleys with the most up to date equipment provide a full cafeteria service and multi-choice messing. A N.A.A.F.I. canteen, shop, beer-bar, soda-fountain, ice-cream bar and a barber's shop are provided as part of the amenities of the ship.

A large extension has been built onto the Port side of the flight deck to provide a fully angled deck for flying operations. The aircraft parking area has been further enlarged by another extension forward of the island on the Starboard side and the removal of the Starboard catapult.

Two new steam catapults have been fitted on the Port side. The `Waist' catapult on the angled deck has an extra long stroke and is capable of launching modern aircraft loaded to full capacity in reduced wind conditions.

A new and larger Island was built to house the operational compartments and the electronic equipment required in modern warfare.

Type 984, the so called 3D radar was fitted plus A.D.A. Action Data Automation, an automatic computer system which sorts and displays the information provided by the radar and performs operational and control calculations required by the complexity of modern warfare.

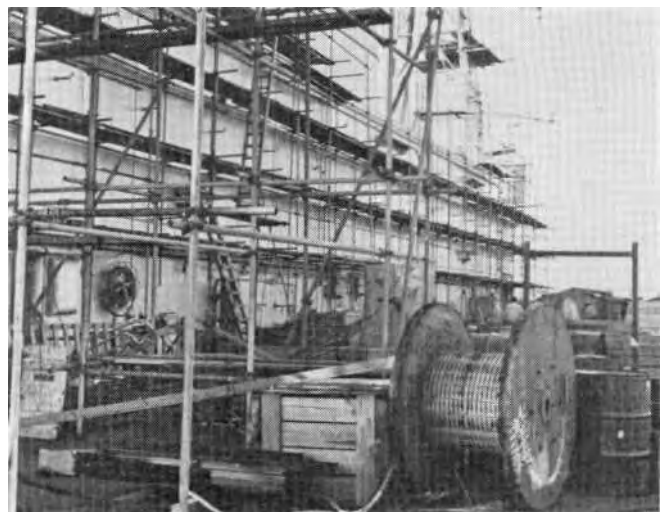
## THE DOCKYARD

An integrated communication system has been installed, which has a very accurate frequency standard and allows the most advanced modulation techniques to be used to give greater ranges of reliable communication in the HE and ME frequency bands. The funnel and both mast structures act as HE Aerials.

The ship is now fitted with the 184 sonar. This set is the first British all round scanning active/passive medium range sonar and will detect submarines or torpedoes in any direction from the ship in time for the ship to take the appropriate counter action.

Six Seacat guided missile systems, each loaded with four missiles have been added to the original eight 4.5" guns mounted in 4 twin turrets.

The weapon maintenance spaces and handling arrangements for air weapons have been extensively revised to allow all the most modern air to air and air to surface weapons to be carried.

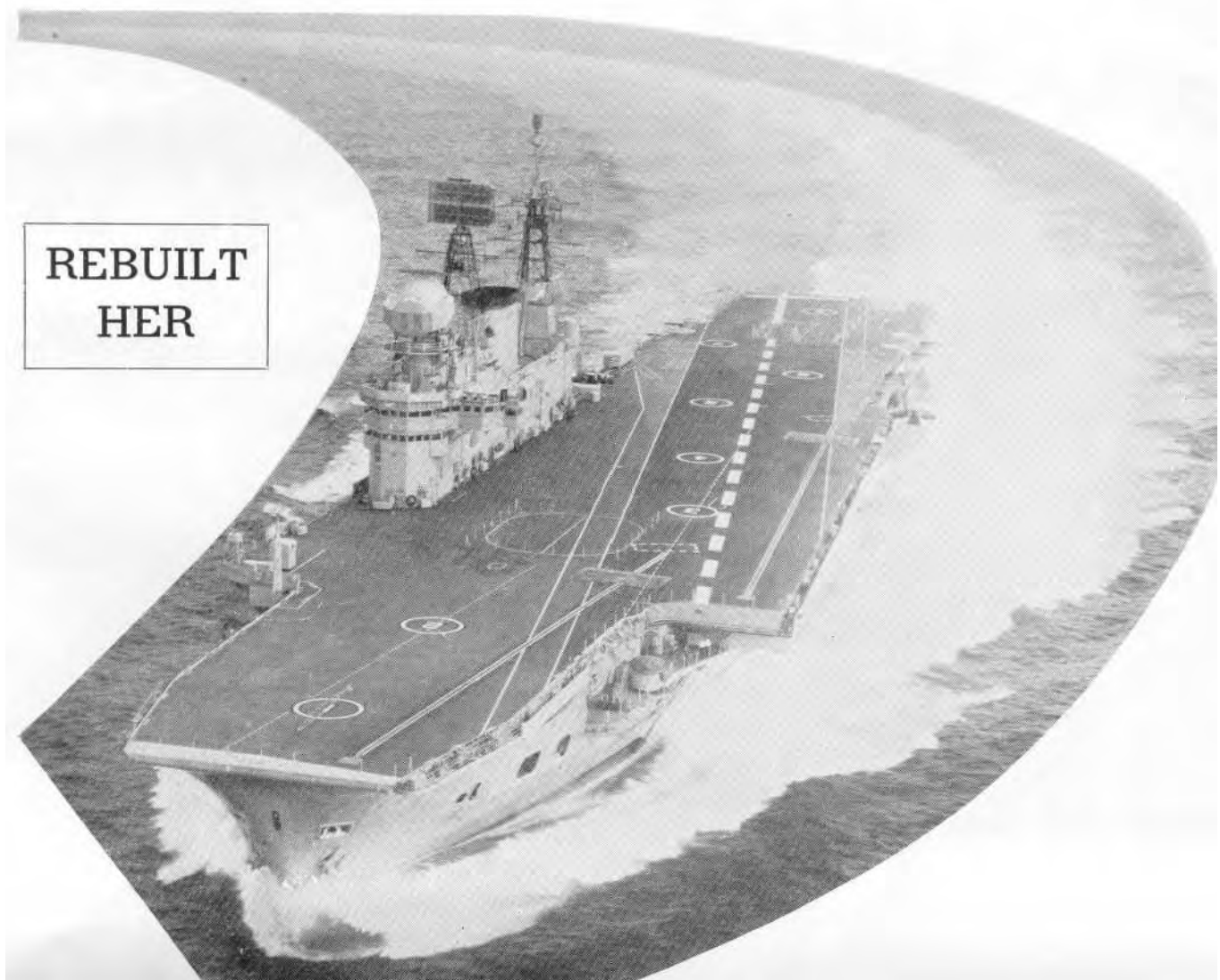


*I'll buy her*



The conventional propulsional equipment remains, but a system of remote control of the engines and boilers has been added so that it is now possible to control the whole machinery from the Machinery Control Room.

The ship is steered by means of a new type of steering console which allows "Power Steering" and employs a small joystick in place of the conventional ships wheel.



**REBUILT  
HER**

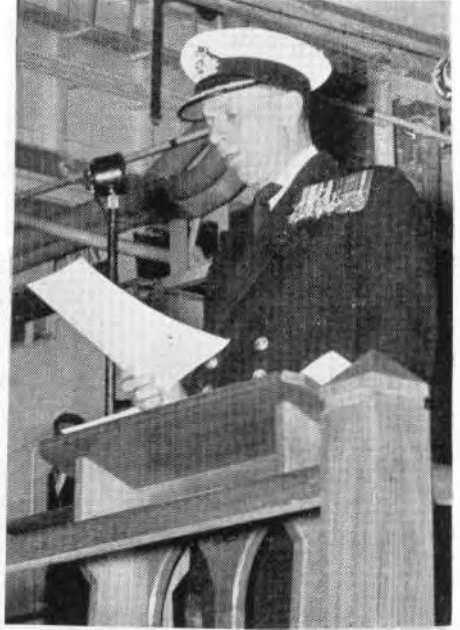


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# THE SHIP'S COMPANY

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*Captain  
L. D. Empson  
reads the  
Commissioning  
Warrant*



*The Master-At-Arms  
reads the  
Naval Prayer*



*Lady Henderson wife  
of C-IN-C Plymouth  
cuts the Cake*

*Admirals  
Henderson,  
Smeeton and Gick  
Mayors of Exeter  
and Plymouth*



**WITH LOTS  
OF  
ASSISTANCE**



*Comforters  
from  
Barracks*

*Static Display*

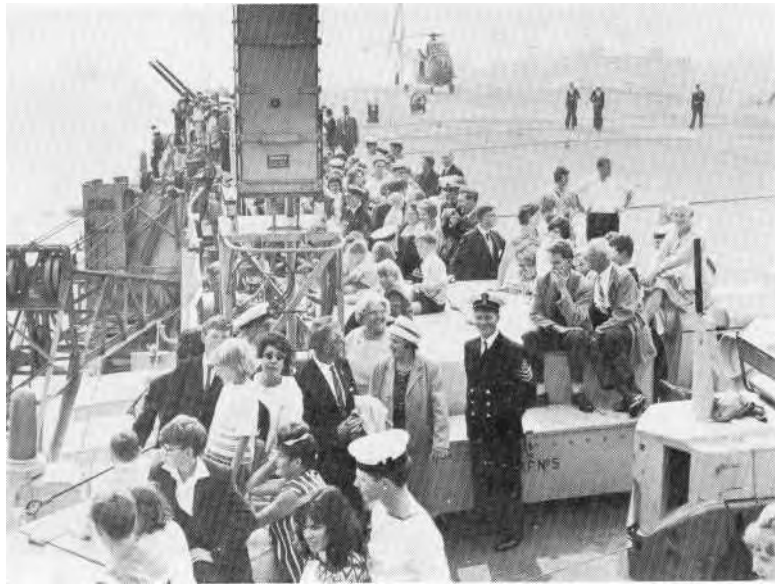


*Beating Retreat*



**COMMISSIONED HER**

# THEIR FAMILIES



*Mum dad and the kids*



*sweethearts and wives*



*the unbelieving*



*taste*



*and enthusiasm*



*for fun and*



*laughter*

**APPROVE HER**

**VAL DOONIGAN AND  
H.M.S. PARADISE**



*What a  
Red Cross  
parcel!*



**PUT HER  
ON T.V.**



*The Ladybirds*

**AND SEALED HER FAME**

*Mind my tot!*



AIDED BY VIPS



*Exhorting*



*Courting*



*Pleading*



*Pushing*



*Dazzled*



*Delightful*

and