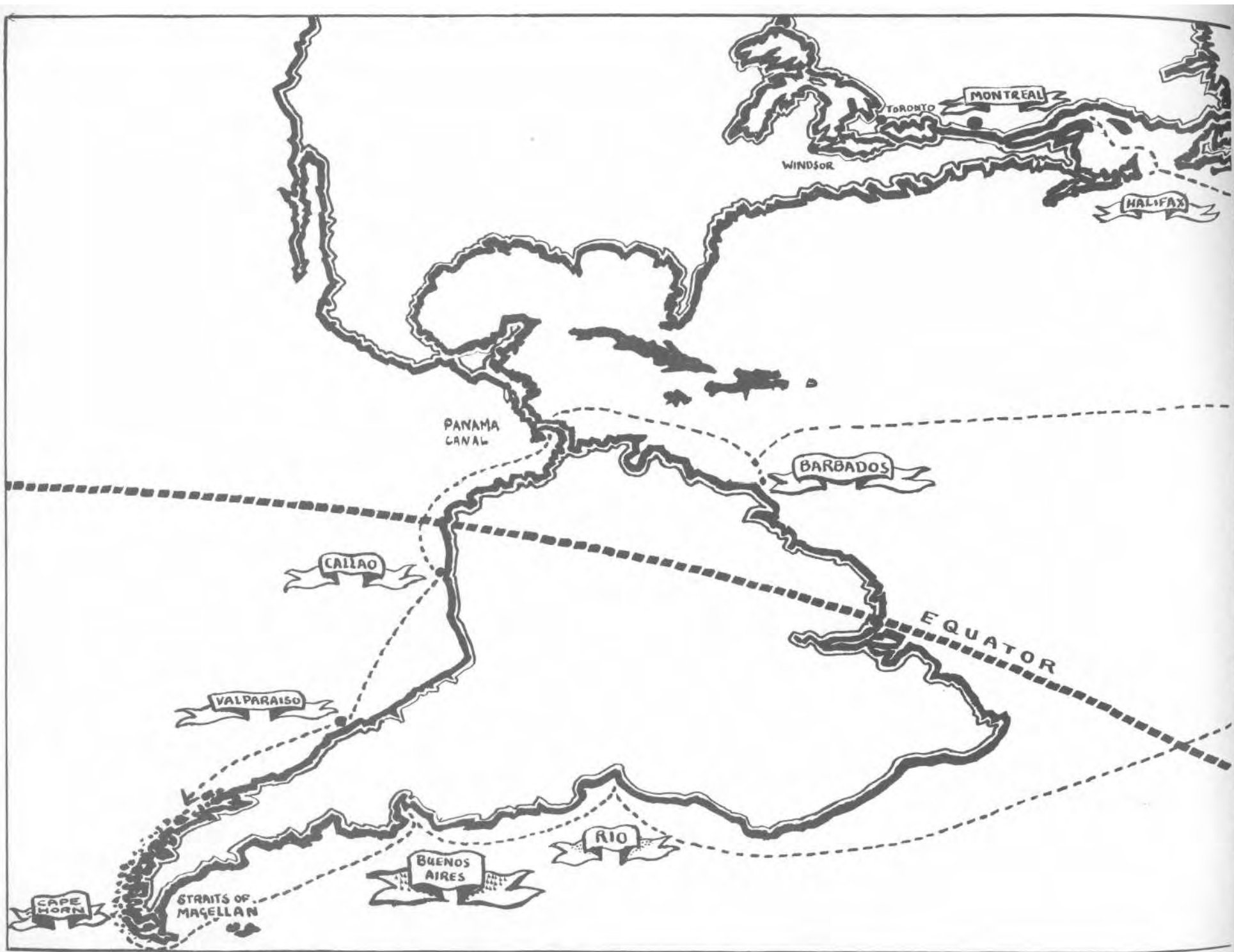
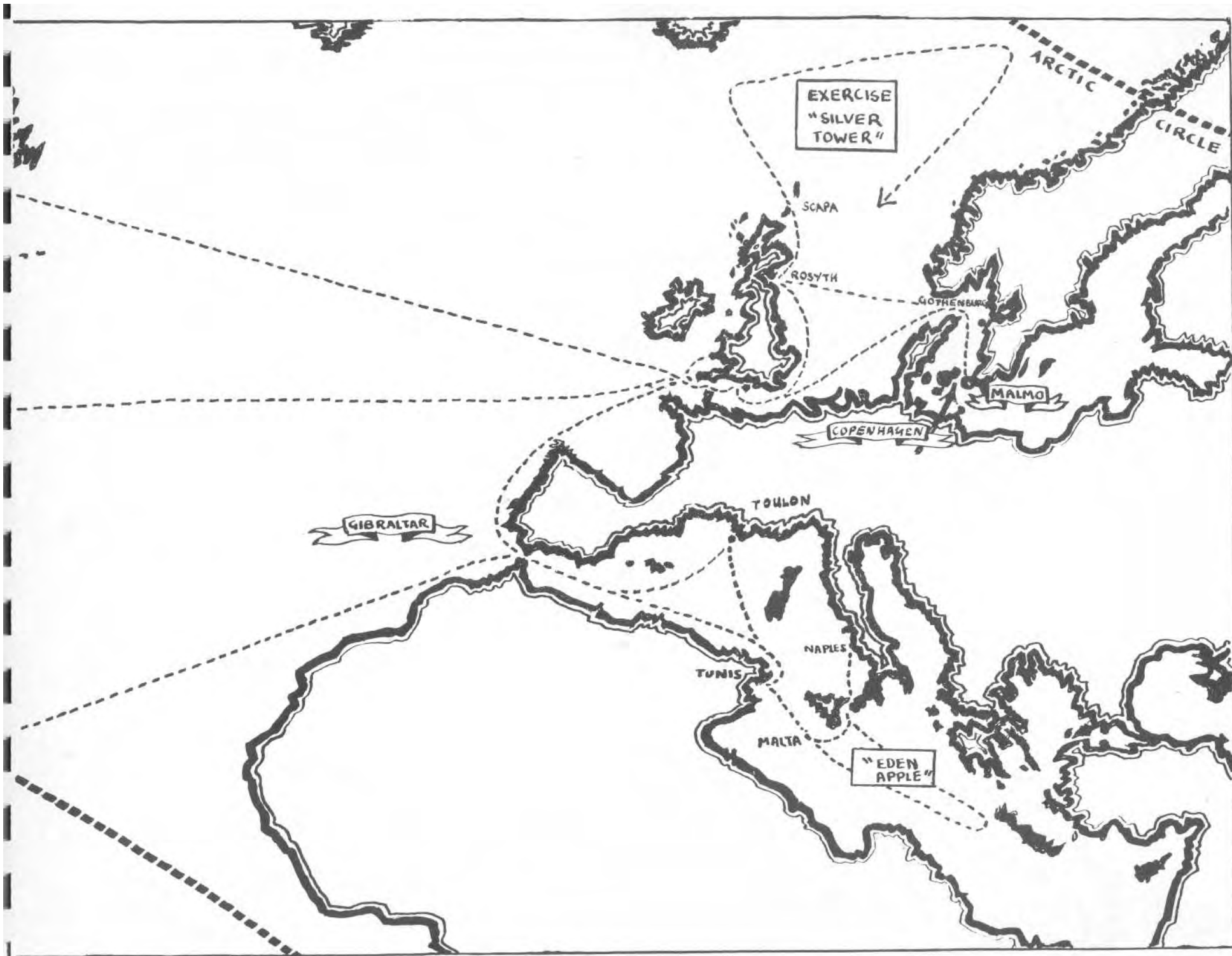


H.M.S. HAMPSHIRE

1967 - 1969



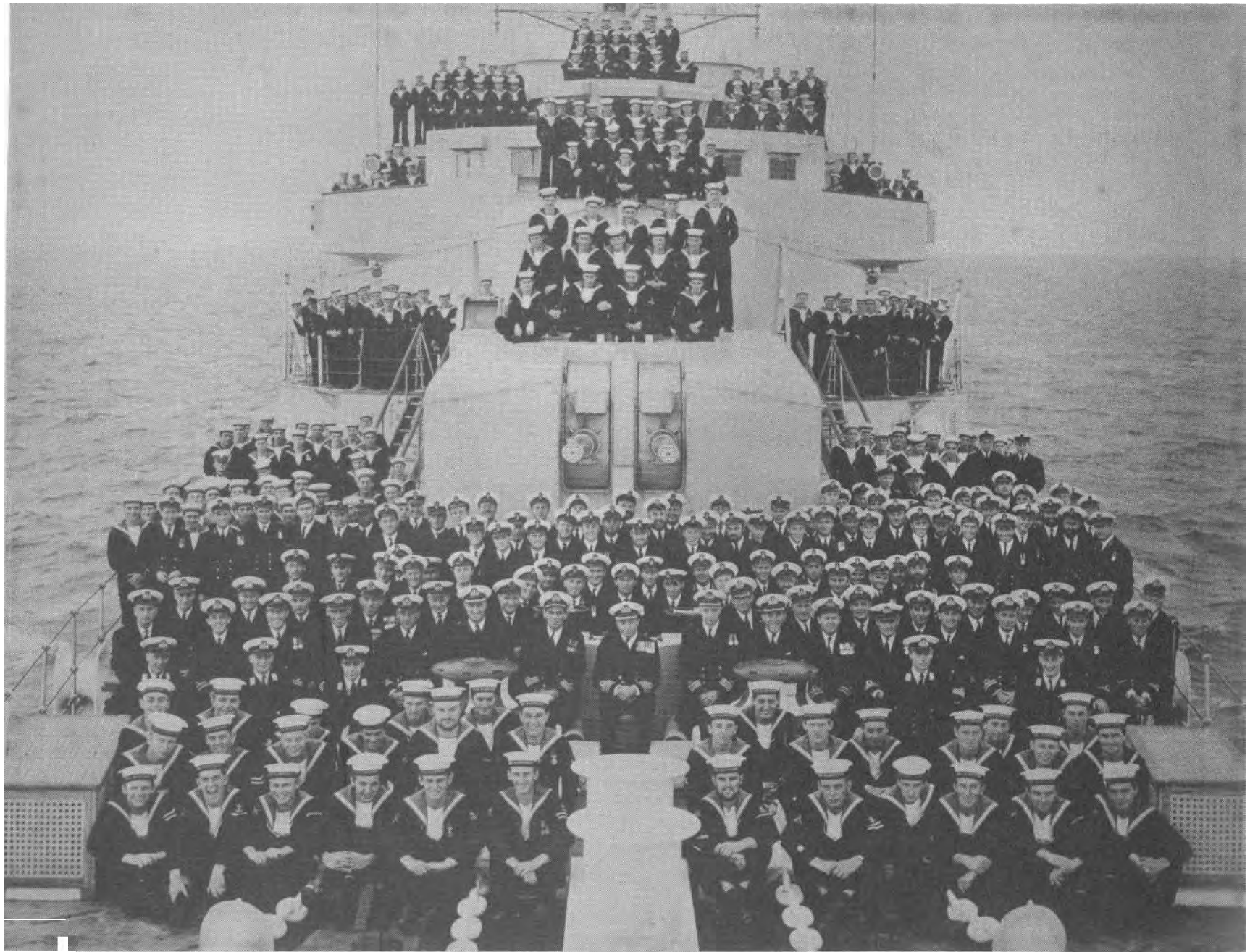




H.M.S. HAMPSHIRE

The Story of the Third Commission

1967 - 1969





FOREWORD

by Vice Admiral A. M. Lewis, C.B.,
The Flag Officer Flotillas Western Fleet 1968 - 1969

It is with pleasure that I write a short foreword to this book of the commission. Such books are, of course interesting at first reading but I have found that this interest increases as time passes; and I am sure that in years to come this record will bring back memories of a commission full of wide and varied experience.

I have been proud to fly my flag in HAMPSHIRE, which has inevitably been to the fore in all aspects of Fleet activity and I wish every one of you success and happiness in your future careers.

A. M. Lewis
Vice Admiral



FOREWORD

by Captain R. J. Trowbridge, Royal Navy,
Commanding Officer from 1967 - 1969

After more than our fair share of frustration in the early months of 1968, the ship really began to tick during the last weeks of our very good work up and from then on we never looked back.

For me the highlights of the first half of the commission were the visit to MALMO, the Fleet Assembly at Rosyth, when we finished up 'Cock of the Fleet', and our trip to the Mediterranean.

The decision in September, 1968 that the ship would not be going to the Far East, was a bitter blow because it meant that instead of remaining as your Captain for the entire commission I had to leave in January, 1969.

Despite this I count myself most fortunate to have commanded a fine ship and an excellent company and I am grateful to you all for making my job so enjoyable and so very rewarding.

Good luck!

Captain

FOREWORD

by R. P. Clayton, Royal Navy,
Commanding Officer throughout 1969

It was my good fortune to take over from Captain Trowbridge for the final year of the commission and to benefit from all the hard work that others had put in earlier on. I also count myself most lucky to have taken part in such a memorable trip around South America. I shall remember my time in HMS Hampshire with pleasure and pride; pleasure at having served with such a fine company and pride at having commanded such a magnificent ship.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. P. Clayton', written in a cursive style.

Captain



EDITORIAL

The purpose of this Book is to remind us of the main events of the last two and a half years in the life of our ship - the lowlights as well as the highlights. Most people's memories are more easily jogged by photographs than by mere words, and so as many photographs have been included as possible. Not everyone will see himself in them, but many will. You may think that some of the explanations and accounts are un-necessarily detailed, but this has been done deliberately so that our families and friends may understand them. Names, on the other hand, have often been discreetly left out; we don't want our families to understand too much!

I am most grateful to those who contributed cartoons, articles and photographs, and especially to Leading Airman McNee, who provided so many photographs of the South American tour.

The story starts early in 1967, when the advance party of the Third commission joined the ship in the Far East. And now, READ ON

CALENDAR

First Phase joined in Far East
 Portsmouth
 Montreal. EXPO '67
 Toronto
 Windsor, Ontario
 Halifax, Nova Scotia
 Portsmouth
 Portland Area and Devonport
 Return Portsmouth
 Second Phase joined
 Commissioning Day
 Sail - Portsmouth area

1967
 February
 April to 18th May
 28th May to 3rd June
 5th to 9th June
 11th to 15th June
 21st to 26th June
 4th to 10th July
 10th to 13th July
 13th July
 7th August
 16th December
 19th to 21st December

`Shakedown', Sea trials
 Operational Date
 Portland Work-Up
 Portsmouth
 Devonport. Embark missiles
 Aberporth. Seaslug firings
 Portland, then week-end at Devonport
 Portland Work-Up continued
 Portsmouth
 Rosyth
 Scapa Flow, ORKEX
 Exercise JUDAN

1968
 22nd January to 15th February
 23rd February
 14th March to 5th April
 6th to 16th April
 17th April
 18th to 24th April
 25th to 28th April
 29th April to 10th May
 11th to 29th May
 30th May to 4th June
 5th to 10th June
 11th and 12th June

Portsmouth
 Seadays, Portsmouth area
 Malmo
 Rosyth, FORTHEX
 Steampast (SEAFORTH)
 Portsmouth
 Moray Firth, passage to Iceland
 Exercise SILVER TOWER
 Portsmouth
 Gibraltar
 Malta
 Exercise EDEN APPLE
 Naples
 Malta
 Gibraltar
 Portsmouth

13th to 16th June
 17th to 28th June
 3rd to 8th July
 9th July to 1st August
 1st August
 2nd August to 9th September
 9th to 17th September
 18th to 27th September
 28th September to 21st October
 26th to 28th October
 1st to 6th November
 7th to 16th November
 16th to 21st November
 22nd to 26th November
 29th November to 2nd December
 5th December to 20th January, 1969

1969

Portland area
 Visit by Mr. Healey
 Exercise FRANCEX
 Barbados
 Transit Panama Canal. Rodman
 Cross the Line
 Callao, Peru
 Exercise with Peruvian Navy (PERBRITEX)
 Exercise with Chilean Navy (ALBION)
 Valparaiso
 Round Cape Horn
 Exercise with Uruguayan Navy (PLATBRITEX)
 Buenos Aires
 Rio de Janeiro
 Gibraltar
 Portsmouth
 Gothenburg
 Copenhagen
 Portsmouth
 Aberporth firings and at Fishguard
 Devonport
 Weymouth Bay - Review rehearsal
 Torbay - Royal Review and Presentation
 of new Colour to Western Fleet
 Brighton
 Arrive Portsmouth

20th to 24th January
 24th January
 25th January
 6th to 13th February
 16th February
 18th February
 21st to 25th February
 25th to 27th February
 3rd to 5th March
 6th to 10th March
 15th March
 19th and
 20th March
 21st to 31st March
 3rd to 9th April
 20th to 22nd April
 25th April to 2nd June
 5th to 9th June
 10th to 15th June
 17th June to 2nd July
 5th to 11th July
 12th to 22nd July
 22nd to 26th July
 26th to 29th July
 30th July to 1st August
 1st August

The programme for the final four months of the commission is expected to include Exercises DEEP FURROW and EMERY CLOTH, and visits to Gibraltar, Malta, Tunis and Toulon.

TRAVELOGUE

The Visit to Canada - 1967

It was with mixed feelings that we First Phasers learned that we were to visit Canada and Expo 67, chosen to replace HMS London after her disastrous fire. The news came during our passage home from the Far East and we immediately increased speed. There was still time for the Gully Gully Man during our Suez Canal transit. Incidentally, we must have been one of the last ships through the Canal before the Arab - Israel War. We had time for brief calls at Malta and Gibraltar before arriving home in Portsmouth to a warm welcome from families and friends.

How we ever managed to sail on time for Canada was just short of miraculous! The ship had to be painted and spring-cleaned, the wardroom was gutted, we embarked the flag of Vice Admiral Pollock, all the messes had new furnishings, a marquee was erected on the flight deck for trials, we changed Flights and the ceremonial guard had a week's drill at Whaley, besides all the necessary repairs and maintenance.



'Berthing at Montreal'



'A lock in the Welland Canal'

We made it gleaming like a new pin. We were joined by the RFA's Lyness and Tidepool and the Dartmouth Training Squadron. At dusk off Land's End came a touch of drama; Torquay reported men swept overboard from her forecastle, and in the prevailing weather they were extremely lucky to have been rescued. Two of them were badly injured, and were transferred to us. The weather didn't moderate until we reached Newfoundland, where it became ghostly calm, cold and foggy. There was a day to paint ship at Sept Isles (what a mess we looked then!) and then on down the St. Lawrence to Montreal. Passing under Jaques Cartier Bridge, we fired our gun salute and slid alongside our grandstand berth overlooking Expo, opposite Habitat 67.

Montreal

Most of us had the choice of visiting Expo or journeying some distance to 'downtown' Montreal. Both had much to offer, but our reception in Montreal, the second largest French-speaking city after Paris, seemed a bit reserved. EXPO was vast, and we spent many hours on foot around the Exhibition inspecting samples of the cultures