

1-215MPO

COMPLETION OF TURBINE-DIESEL MOTOR TORPEDO BOATS

The first two Motor Torpedo Boats of the Royal Navy to be powered by gas turbines in combination with Diesel engines will be completed for service shortly. They are Her Majesty's Motor Torpedo Boat BOLD PIONEER, launched in August, 1951, at the Cowes, Isle of Wight, Yard of Messrs. J.S. White and Co., Ltd., and Her Majesty's Motor Torpedo Boat BOLD PATHFINDER, launched in September, 1951, at the Portsmouth Yard of Messrs. Vosper, Ltd.

It is expected that the BOLD PATHFINDER will be accepted into Her Majesty's service to-morrow (7th November), and the BOLD PIONEER next month.

Both craft are fitted with gas turbines made by Messrs. Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Co., Ltd., of Manchester, the main machinery installation having been undertaken in each case by the shipbuilder. The turbines have been developed from the Gatric engine which operated so successfully in M.G.B. 5559 (ex 2009) in 1947.

The craft are largely sister vessels and both will carry a peacetime complement of two officers and sixteen ratings, and be armed with four 21" torpedo tubes and one small gun.

The principal dimensions of the craft and the details of the machinery installations differ slightly because the boat built by Messrs. White is of Hard Chine, and that built by Messrs. Vosper of Round Bilge form.

The principal dimensions of Messrs. White's boat BOLD PIONEER are:-

Length extreme	121 ft.
Length between perpendiculars	116 ft. 3 ins.
Beam	25 ft. 6 ins.

whilst those of Messrs. Vosper's boat BOLD PATHFINDER are:-

Length extreme	122 ft. 8 ins.
Length between perpendiculars	117 ft.
Beam	20 ft. 5 ins.

Admiralty, S.W. 1.  
6th November, 1952.