

BRITISH PARAMOUNT NEWS

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

12th February, 1953.

To: Mr. E.J.H. Wright.  
Mr. J. Stagg.  
Mr. E. Hall.  
Mr. A. Stockwell.  
Mr. E. Cohen.

LAUNCH OF AIRCRAFT CARRIER,  
BARROW -in- FURNESS,  
MONDAY, 16th FEBRUARY, 1953.

This is to advise you that we are covering rota for all Companies the launch by Mrs. Winston Churchill of the aircraft carrier, H.M.S. Hermes, at Barrow-in-Furness on Monday next, 16th February. Coverage will be by Mr. Hawkins with Mr. Hubbard sound and Mr. Somers silent, but in addition to this there will also be negative in to these labs. from Mr. Carrington and Mr. Sansom of Vickers, Ltd.

It has been arranged with Vickers that we may keep their negative, but we must supply them with a blueprint of this plus a blueprint of the coverage by Hawkins and Somers. Vickers will pay for this.

Blueprints of the entire coverage by all four men are to be made for Gaumont, Movietone and Pathe. Mr. Hawkins has been warned to get all the negative back to the labs. for night development, so that the rota prints can be ready first thing on Tuesday morning. I calculate that the negative should be in by mid-night.

Release date for this story is Thursday 19th February.

  
G. E. MILLER.

GEN/PEW.

Supply facilities

26/1/53 - No.3

No. 26/53

MONDAY

LAUNCH OF H.M.S. HERMES

H.M.S. HERMES will be launched at the Barrow-in-Furness yard of Messrs. Vickers-Armstrongs Ltd. at 12.20 p.m. on the 16th February, 1953.

Mrs. Winston Churchill, the wife of the Prime Minister, will perform the naming ceremony.

The HERMES gives her name to the class of four light fleet aircraft carriers. Three of these have already been launched, the ALBION, BULWARK and GENTAUR.

In a number of ways the HERMES will be better than the earlier ships of her class, since she will incorporate new equipment and arrangements.

An important feature being embodied in the HERMES is the Angled Deck, which enables aircraft to land without any possibility of overrunning the catapult operating positions or aircraft parked at the forward end of the flight deck.

The HERMES is a ship of 741' 6" in extreme length: 650 ft. between perpendiculars. Her beam (extreme breadth) is 90 ft. Her main machinery, consisting of geared steam turbines, is by Messrs. Vickers-Armstrongs Ltd.

The ship has both steam and diesel driven electric generators, connected to a ring main system, from which supplies for power and lighting are distributed throughout the ship.

The standard of illumination will conform with the best practice on shore. Illumination of living spaces and offices will be effected by fluorescent lighting.

The ship will be fitted with an automatic telephone system and a broadcast system to cover all living and working spaces.

## EMPIRE TO HAVE 25 CARRIERS

### GROWING STRENGTH

By Our Naval Correspondent

The announcement that the aircraft carrier *Hermes*, 18,300 tons, is to be launched at the Barrow-in-Furness yard of Vickers-Armstrongs on Feb. 16 (not Feb. 13, as stated in error on Tuesday) is a pointer to steadily increasing carrier strength. When ships now being built are completed Britain, Canada and Australia will have no fewer than 25 carriers.

The ships building, all of which will have been launched, are the *Ark Royal*, 36,800 tons, which may be ready late next year; the *Hermes*, *Albion*, *Centaur* and *Bulwark*, the last three nearly finished; the *Powerful*, for Canada, and the *Majestic*, for Australia. I do not include the *Hercules* and *Leviathan*, on which work has been suspended.

Now operating with the Royal Navy are the *Eagle*, *Indomitable*, *Glory*, *Ocean*, *Theseus*, *Illustrious*, *Triumph*, *Implacable* and *Indefatigable*; the *Sydney* and *Vengeance* (Royal Australian Navy) and the *Magnificent* (Royal Canadian Navy).

In addition, two maintenance ships, the *Perseus* and *Unicorn*, are in commission and two more carriers, the *Campania* and *Pioneer*, are in reserve. The *Warrior* and *Victorious* are undergoing big refits.

D. Tel.

29  
1  
83.