

DUKE STEERS JOHN ASHLEY.

Sailors whose ships are berthed in London River and on the Medway have new cause to thank the Missions to Seamen. For men who are moored a long way from facilities ashore its providing a new recreation vessel. Life in these waters will be much more enjoyable as a result.

Well upstream, at Westminster Pier, lay the Motor Vessel, JOHN ASHLEY, built by Thornycroft, costing 31-thousand. And the Duke of Edinburgh, President of the Missions to Seamen, went aboard to receive the little ship on behalf of the Mission. After his acceptance speech, the John Ashley was dedicated in a service performed by the Bishop of London. Then, with the Duke at the wheel, the vessel headed downstream, to begin its work.

The recreation room boasts a cinematograph, plenty of books, and T.V., There's an almost homely atmosphere. The chapel, where the Reverend Frederick Leight will hold services, is a reminder that John Ashley, after whom the boat is named, was a person himself. His little son asked him how sailors in the Bristol Channel could go to church? That was 123 years ago,. Ashley resolved to give up his living and devote himself to work among seamen. Sailors today bless the name, John Ashley.