



ADMIRALTY

NEWS RELEASE

Sept 27
NO. 116/61

Launch of the Guided Missile Destroyer KENT *Sk.*

One of the oldest ship names in the Royal Navy will be brought back into service this month when Her Royal Highness Princess Marina Duchess of Kent, launches the KENT, the third of the Royal Navy's guided missile destroyers, at the Belfast shipyard of Harland & Wolff Ltd. *L - PRO -*

The launch will take place at 1 p.m. on Wednesday 27th September, the religious ceremony being conducted by the Reverend R. Kilpatrick, *W. Murphy.*
M.A., Vicar of Ballymacarrett.

The KENT, a County class destroyer, was laid down in March 1960. She is expected to join her sister ships the HAMPSHIRE and the DEVONSHIRE in the Fleet in 1963.

Besides providing guided weapon anti-aircraft defence for task groups, the County class destroyers will be able to fulfil all the operational roles expected of conventional ships of this size.

With a standard displacement of over 5,000 tons, an overall length of 520 feet and a beam of 54 feet the KENT will carry the following armament:

- One "Seaslug" guided weapons system with a twin launcher.
- Four radar controlled 4.5 inch guns in twin mountings situated forward.
- Two "Seacat" close range guided weapons systems fitted abaft the after funnel.

For anti-submarine work the ship will be fitted with the latest underwater detection equipment and a Westland Wessex Helicopter carrying dipping asdic and homing torpedoes.

The propulsion machinery consists of two sets of geared steam turbines for normal steaming conditions, with gas turbines to provide additional boost for high speeds and for getting quickly under-way in harbour. The steam turbines were manufactured by Messrs. Harland and Wolff and Associated Electrical Industries, and the gas turbines by Messrs. Harland and Wolff. Stabilisers will be fitted which, among their uses, will facilitate the operation of the helicopter in adverse weather conditions.

The KENT will have the latest air and surface warning radars. Her bridge will afford the Captain a clear all round view combined with the best possible weather protection. The combined operations room and weapon direction room is fitted with electronic plotting facilities.

/Accommodation

Accommodation for her complement of about 32 officers and 400 ratings will be at a very high standard. The mess decks are fitted with bunks arranged so as to provide the maximum recreation space in each mess, while allowing for such fittings as card and writing tables and cupboards.

The whole ship will be air conditioned and have large dining halls served by a modern galley, capable of providing varied meals on a self-service system.

This will be the ninth ship to bear the name KENT. The eighth, broken up in 1948, was one of the famous County class, 8 inch gun cruisers which served with such distinction during World War Two.

During their long histories the KENTs have acquired the following Battle Honours:

PORTO FARINA 1655;	VELEX MALAGA	1704;	ATLANTIC	1940;
LOWESTOFT 1665;	PASSERO	1718;	MEDITERRANEAN	1940;
ORFORDNESS 1666;	USHANT	1747;	ARCTIC	1942-3;
BARFLEUR 1692;	EGYPT	1801;	NORWAY	1944.
VIGO 1702;	FALKLAND ISLANDS	1914;		

18th September, 1961

HARLAND AND WOLFF
LIMITED

THE GOVAN SHIPBUILDING YARD, GLASGOW.

DIESEL ENGINE WORKS, FINNIESTON, GLASGOW.

ENGINEERING WORKS, SCOTSTOUN, GLASGOW.

CLYDE FOUNDRY, GOVAN, GLASGOW.

SHIP REPAIRING & ENGINEERING WORKS,
LONDON, LIVERPOOL & SOUTHAMPTON.

LONDON OFFICE:
9, WHITEHALL, S. W. 1.

TELEGRAMS: HARLANDIC, BELFAST.
TELEPHONE: BELFAST 58456.
CODES: A.B.C. (10TH EDITION) AND BENTLEY'S.

*Shipbuilding & Engineering Works,
Queen's Island,
Belfast, 3.*

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE COMPANY.

22nd September 1961.

REF: 0.

Dear Sir,

LAUNCH OF H.M.S. KENT
WEDNESDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER 1961.

In accordance with Admiralty instructions representatives of the Press may be admitted to the naming ceremony and launch of the above mentioned vessel, on the distinct understanding that photographs of the vessel are strictly limited to views from the position of the launching platform, and photographs must not be taken from any other position.

Copies of the official Press release in connection with the launch, which will give the maximum information concerning the vessel which may be made public at this stage of construction, will be obtainable from our Secretary's Office on the morning of the launch.

A model and an Artist's impression of the vessel will be on display in our Luncheon Suite for the benefit of guests invited to luncheon, on condition that representatives of the Press who will also be attending the luncheon will not make any mention of the model in their reports which must be strictly limited to the technical information contained in the Press handout. Under no circumstances can permission be granted for photographing the model or the Artist's impression.

Please let us have your confirmation that these directions will be strictly adhered to, so far as your representatives are concerned, otherwise the facilities being granted to them will have to be withdrawn.

Yours faithfully,
For HARLAND AND WOLFF, LIMITED.

Kear

HARLAND AND WOLFF, LIMITED, BELFAST

LAUNCH OF H.M.S. KENT

ON WEDNESDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER, 1961

PROGRAMME FOR ROYAL PARTY

11.40 a.m. HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS MARINA, DUCHESS OF KENT, and HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF NORTHERN IRELAND will leave Government House and drive to the Shipyards of Harland and Wolff, Limited, Belfast.

12.20 p.m. On arrival at the Luncheon Suite HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR will Present -

Lieut.-Col. The Rt. Hon. The Lord Glentoran,
Her Majesty's Lieutenant of the County of the
City of Belfast.

The Rt. Hon. The Viscount Brookeborough, C.B.E.,
M.C., D.L., M.P., Prime Minister of Northern
Ireland, and The Viscountess Brookeborough.

Alderman Martin K. Wallace, The Rt. Hon. The Lord
Mayor of Belfast.

Sir Kenneth Sinclair, D.L., Chairman of the Belfast
Harbour Commissioners.

HIS EXCELLENCY will then Present -

Sir Frederick Rebbeck, K.B.E., D.Sc., D.L., J.P.,
Chairman and Managing Director of Harland and
Wolff, Limited.

The Rt. Hon. The Lord Carrington, K.C.M.G., M.C.,
First Lord of the Admiralty.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS will be conducted to the Lounge by
Sir Frederick Rebbeck and The First Lord of the Admiralty.

(Note:- The Lord Glentoran, Alderman Martin K. Wallace
and Sir Kenneth Sinclair will proceed to the Launching
Platform).

The First Lord of the Admiralty will Present -

The Lady Carrington.

Admiral Sir Peter Reid, G.C.B., C.V.O., Third Sea Lord and Controller of the Navy.

Sir Clifford Jarrett, K.B.E., C.B., Secretary of the Admiralty.

Sir Alfred Sims, K.C.B., O.B.E., Director General Ships, Admiralty.

A.N. Harrison, Esq., C.V.O., O.B.E., Director of Naval Construction, Admiralty, and Mrs. Harrison.

Rear Admiral F.R. Twiss, D.S.C., Naval Secretary to First Lord of the Admiralty.

Captain E.N. Sinclair, D.S.C., R.N., Senior Naval Officer, Northern Ireland, and Mrs. Sinclair.

P.T. Williams, Esq., Director of Contracts, Admiralty, and Mrs. Williams.

Captain I.A.P. Macintyre, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., R.N., Admiralty Regional Officer, North-Western Region.

Sir Frederick Rebbeck will Present Mrs. Hoskins and the following Directors of Harland and Wolff, Limited and their ladies -

Dr. Denis Rebbeck, C.B.E., M.A., M.Sc., D.L., J.P., Deputy Managing Director.

N. McCallum, Esq., T.D., M.A., and Mrs. McCallum.

C.C. Pounder, Esq.

R. Newell, Esq., and Mrs. Newell.

Sir Andrew McCance, D.Sc., LL.D., F.R.S., D.L. and Lady McCance.

W.T. Underwood, Esq., M.A., F.C.A., and Mrs. Underwood.

J.H. Crossey, Esq., and Mrs. Crossey.

R.R.G. Cameron, Esq., B.Sc., and Mrs. Cameron.

J.A. Watt, Esq., M.B.E., and Mrs. Watt.

A.O. Milne, Esq., and Mrs. Milne.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS will be conducted by Sir Frederick Rebbeck, Dr. Rebbeck, and The First Lord of the Admiralty to her private room.

12.30 p.m.

(The Admiralty representatives and the Directors of Harland and Wolff, Limited and their ladies will proceed to the Launching Platform).

12.40 p.m. HER ROYAL HIGHNESS accompanied by Dr. Rebbeck will proceed by car to No. 8 Slipway, Abercorn Shipyard. The remainder of the party will follow by car, (Programme for order of departure and car seating arrangements attached). Part of the route, at No. 8 Slipway, will be lined by a detachment of Sea Cadets from FORMIDABLE, EAGLE and WARRIOR Units.

12.43 p.m. On the arrival of HER ROYAL HIGHNESS at the Slipway the Band of the 1st Battalion The Royal Sussex Regiment will play the National Anthem.

Dr. Rebbeck will Present the following members of the Management and employees of Harland and Wolff, Limited directly associated with the construction of the ship -

D. Hoskins, Esq., Shipyard Management.

R.M. Wright, Esq., O.B.E., Engine Works Management.

J.H. Saunders, Esq., M.B.E., Electrical Department Management.

T. Magahy, Esq., Foreman Plater, Shipyard Department.

W.A. Johnston, Esq., Foreman Fitter, Shipyard Department.

J. Downey, Esq., Assistant Foreman, Electrical Department.

S. Bell, Esq., Foreman Fitter, Engine Works Department.

T.H. Baker, Esq., Foreman Boilermaker, Engine Works Department.

T.H. Mawhinney, Esq., Foreman Labourer, Shipyard Department.

The Third Sea Lord and Controller of the Navy will Present -

H.R. Mason, Esq., R.C.N.C., Warship Production Superintendent, Northern Ireland Area.

Mr. Mason will then Present -

Commander J.B.L. Gilmore, R.N., Admiralty Engineer Overseer, Belfast.

D.F. Hinchley, Esq., Warship Electrical Superintendent, Northern Ireland Area.

Lieutenant Commander R.R.W. Rumble, R.N., Assistant Admiralty Weapons Overseer, Belfast.

Commander W.T. Lock, R.N., Senior Officer H.M.S. KENT.
N.G. Allison, Esq., Shipwright Overseer.
H.W.P. Hill, Esq., Engineering Inspector.
R.W. Curragh, Esq., Electrical Overseer.
E. Spence, Esq., Weapons Inspector.

Thereafter HER ROYAL HIGHNESS, accompanied by
HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, Dr. Rebbeck, The First Lord
of the Admiralty, and The Controller of the Navy, will
walk down the Slipway and inspect the launching gear.

Dr. Rebbeck will Present -

J. Bryce, Esq., M.B.E., Shipyard Plant Manager.
H. Archer, Esq., Foreman Shipwright.

- 12.50 p.m. HER ROYAL HIGHNESS will proceed to the Launching Platform. Apprentice Caulker Robert France will have the honour of presenting a bouquet to HER ROYAL HIGHNESS on the Launching Platform.
- 12.55 p.m. The Rev. R.W. Kilpatrick, M.A., Vicar of St. Patrick's Church of Ireland, Ballymacarret, Belfast, will conduct a short religious service.
- 1.00 p.m. HER ROYAL HIGHNESS will name and launch the ship.
(As soon as the ship is safely waterborne there will be three cheers for HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS MARINA followed by three cheers for H.M.S. KENT).
- 1.05 p.m. HER ROYAL HIGHNESS will return by car to the Luncheon Suite. (Programme for order of departure and car seating arrangements attached).
- 1.30 p.m. HER ROYAL HIGHNESS will honour Harland and Wolff, Limited by her presence at luncheon.
- 2.45 p.m. (approx.) HER ROYAL HIGHNESS will leave the Luncheon Suite.

LAUNCH OF H.M.S. KENT
PROGRAMME FOR ORDER OF DEPARTURE
AND CAR SEATING ARRANGEMENTS

1. Police escort car.

2. Her Royal Highness Princess Marina.
Dr. Rebbeck.
Sir Philip Hay (in front seat).

3. His Excellency the Governor of Northern Ireland.
Lady Rachel Davidson.

4. The Prime Minister of Northern Ireland.
The Viscountess Brookeborough.

5. The First Lord of the Admiralty.
The Lady Carrington.

6. The Third Sea Lord and Controller of the Navy.
Mrs. Hoskins.

7. Major Robert Stephens.
Mr. T.E. Murphy.

GOVERNMENT OF NORTHERN IRELAND *Information Service*

STORMONT CASTLE - BELFAST - TELEPHONE BELFAST 63210

POINTS WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER PROPOSES TO MAKE AT THE LUNCHEON
FOLLOWING THE LAUNCH OF H.M.S. KENT ON WEDNESDAY, 27th SEPTEMBER,
1961, AT 1.30 p.m.

On behalf of the Government I am delighted to welcome H.R.H. Princess Marina and to thank her for honouring us with her presence here to-day, which is in accord with the high sense of public service we always associate with members of the Royal Family. It is a pleasure to have the First Lord of the Admiralty and Lady Carrington and all the other guests who have come from England for this happy occasion.

There is no one in Northern Ireland who is not well aware of the tremendous importance of the sea lanes leading to the United Kingdom. The struggle to keep them open during the last war was a bitter one with heavy casualties among ships and seamen. We all hope that we shall never have to face in the future a similar conflict. But we must be prepared. The armed services must be equipped with the best possible weapons.

It is particularly appropriate that anti-submarine destroyers should be built in Northern Ireland because here we also have the anti-submarine Training School used by the Navies of the N.A.T.O. powers. Our shipyards have valuable experience of building ships for the Royal Navy, the Royal Canadian Navy and the Indian Navy - aircraft carriers, cruisers, destroyers, frigates, corvettes and minesweepers.

We are proud of the great naval ships built here, proud of our association with the Royal Navy and proud that H.M.S. Kent, the ninth ship in naval history to bear the name, is being built by Ulster hands and with Ulster skill.

H.M.S. Kent embodies many of the latest developments in air and surface warning radar and in underwater detection equipment. At the same time the comfort and well-being of the ship's company have not been forgotten. The crew of the first Kent built nearly 300 years ago would be surprised to see the modern crew's quarters.

During the two hundred years or so in which Britain fought in Europe to preserve the balance of power, successive Kents in the Royal Navy won resounding battle honours - in the war in which Master Jenkins found an effective if macabre way of advertising naval grievances by sending his severed ear, wrapped in cotton wool, to Members of Parliament, in actions against the Spaniards in the West Indies, and in the Mediterranean during the long campaign against Napoleon in the China seas and in the first and second world wars.

We hope that this modern Kent - whose name will always be associated with that of Her Royal Highness with us to-day - will add to the store of naval tradition and service and lustre to the name she bears.

Your Royal Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen, I ask you now to join me in the toast -

"HER MAJESTY'S SHIP KENT"

Launch of the Guided Missile Destroyer KENT

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VELEX MALAGA	1704	ARTIC	1942-3
PASSERO	1718	NORWAY	1944