

VIKING INVASION

A Viking invasion, but a friendly one - the 22nd Squadron of the Royal Norwegian Navy on a visit to Britain, showing their paces in the English Channel off Gosport. And those handsome craft they're equipped with are called, rather surprisingly, NASTY-class motor torpedo boats.

Well, they may be called, Nasty, but they look and handle like real ladies; and their designer, Jan Lange (that's him) has every reason to be proud of them. They pack quite a punch too, four 21-inch torpedoes, one 40-millimetre Bofors gun, and one 20-millimetre Oerlikon.

They're built at Oslo, but their engines are British - 3,100 horsepower Napier-Deltic Diesels, remotely controlled from the bridge. One reason the Norwegian Navy chose these engines is because they start quite happily even when it's freezing outside. Very important if you're a Viking.