

2-21-2000

## LAUNCH OF HALF A SHIP.

Half a bottle of wine launches half a ship. Down the slipway goes the forepart of a tanker. The story behind this unusual launch is this. The original ship was a twelve thousand ton tanker which struck a mine and was severely damaged. Practically cut in half, the forepart sank, but the after-end was towed into dry dock intact and it was decided to build new bows. This is the new portion which the shipbuilders have constructed.

And here awaiting it is the stern section which survived and is now ready to have the new half joined on. Slowly and with infinite skill the two sections are brought together. When they meet, they will fit into one another as neatly as the pieces of a jig-saw puzzle.

A brilliant piece of shipyard surgery which will result in the rebirth of a valuable ship.