



HMS FLYING FOX

SEVERN DIVISION ROYAL NAVAL RESERVE

COMMISSIONING SERVICE OF HMS CARRON

ON

SATURDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 1984

PRINCIPAL GUESTS

SERVICE:

THE LORD TREFGARNE

Permanent Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces

REAR ADMIRAL M A VALLIS

Director General Marine Engineering

REAR ADMIRAL H L O THOMPSON

Director General Surface Ships

COMMODORE J W WIGHTMAN ROYAL NAVAL RESERVE

Commodore List 3 Royal Naval Reserve

CIVIL:

COUNCILLOR AND MRS C DRAPER

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Bristol

SIR JOHN WILLS

The Lord Lieutenant of Avon

MRS J P EDWARDS

Launched HMS CARRON

SERVICE CONDUCTED BY:

THE REVEREND K G WYER ROYAL NAVAL RESERVE

THE REVEREND A PUDNER ROYAL NAVY

REVEREND FATHER M MORRISSEY ROYAL NAVY

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER J H DINNIN ROYAL NAVY

Commanding Officer HMS CARRON

COMMANDER I R PEMBERTON RD ROYAL NAVAL RESERVE

Commanding Officer of Severn Division Royal Naval Reserve

PROGRAMME

- 1015 Ship's Company Muster at Queen's Square
- 1045 Ship's Company march off to 'V' shed, Guard and Band leading. Personal Guests of Ship's Company start assembling at 'V' shed
- 1105 Ship's Company arrive at 'V' shed and fall in for Commissioning Ceremony
- 1105 – 1115 Official Guests arrive
- 1115 – 1120 Principal Guests arrive
- 1123 Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Bristol arrive
- 1125 The Lord Trefgarne arrives and inspects guard
- 1130 The Commissioning Ceremony. Reading of Commissioning Warrant by the Commanding Officer, HMS CARRON. The Ceremony of Colours. Act of Dedication.
- 1150 Official Guests and Hosts retire
- o/c Parade Dismissed
- o/c The Ship's Company and all guests assemble for the cutting of the Commissioning Cake and a toast to HMS CARRON
- o/c Official guests and hosts retire for a buffet lunch. Ship's Company and private guests disperse
- 1315 Official Guests tour ship
- 1400 Special Sea Duty men and Harbour Stations aboard HMS CARRON
- 1415 HMS CARRON moves to MARDYKE WHARF

HMS CARRON

One of the primary tasks of the Royal Naval Reserve is to provide trained crews to man Mine Countermeasures Vessels (MCMV's). In past years, Severn Division had, as its tenders, a succession of Coniston Class MCMV's. However, in the changing pattern of war, new techniques are under development involving deep armed team sweeping, a method which was improved by HMS VENTURER and ST DAVID, two chartered stern trawlers operated by Severn and South Wales Divisions of the RNR in the five years prior to December 1983, and has been incorporated in the design of this new class of ship.

Twelve River Class Fleet Minesweepers (MSF's) were ordered in 1982. The first, HMS WAVERNEY, is already being operated by South Wales Division. HMS CARRON the second, was built by Richard's (Shipbuilders) Ltd at Yarmouth and launched by Mrs J P Edwards, the wife of Rear Admiral Edwards, on 23 September 1983. She was accepted by the Ministry of Defence in June this year and has, until recently, been undergoing trials manned by an RN Crew.

A further 9 MSF's will be brought into service with the remaining RNR Divisions within the next two years to join the Tenth Mine Countermeasures Squadron. Each ship is 47.6 metres long displaces 890 tons and has accommodation for a crew of 30.

HMS CARRON is the eighth ship to serve in the Royal Navy bearing this name. The first was a 20 gun sloop, built in 1813 at Beaulieu, which served in the American war in 1814. She was wrecked in Indian waters in 1820.

The second was built as a paddle wheel vessel in 1827 but converted into a tug ten years later.

The third was a screw driven vessel built in 1855 which saw action in the Baltic during the Crimean war.

The following two HMS CARRON's launched in 1867 and 1888 respectively, were paddle tugs at Devonport and Sheerness whilst the sixth as a motor vessel commissioned into the Royal Navy for the duration of the first world war.

The seventh HMS CARRON, a 'C' Class destroyer of 1710 tons, was completed at Greenock in 1944 and saw action with the 6th Destroyer Flotilla in the North Atlantic and off Norway. After being placed in reserve shortly after the end of the war, she was modernised and served in the Dartmouth Training Squadron and as a navigational training ship between 1956 and 1963 before being placed, once again in reserve. She was scrapped in 1967.

