

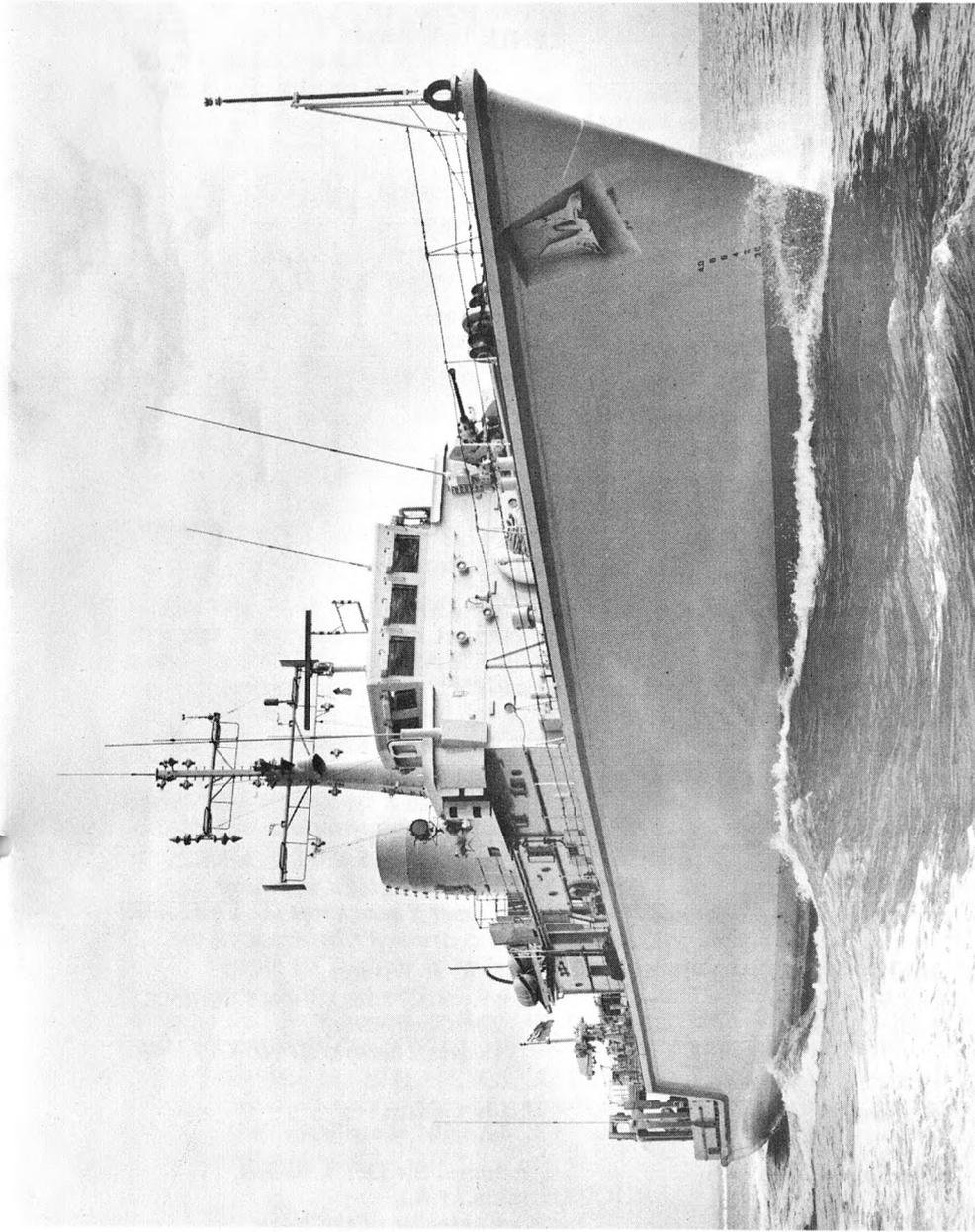


THE LAUNCH OF  
HER MAJESTY'S SHIP  
**BERKELEY**



BY  
**LADY GERKEN**  
ON  
WEDNESDAY, 3rd DECEMBER, 1986

VOSPER THORNYCROFT (UK) LIMITED  
WOOLSTON SHIPYARD  
SOUTHAMPTON



*Hunt Class Mine Countermeasures Vessel*

## LUNCHEON

### MENU

Smoked Salmon

Noisettes of Lamb Chasseur  
Whole French Beans  
Baton Carrots  
Cauliflower  
Parisienne Potatoes

Belgian Apple Flan and Cream

Cheese Board

Coffee and Mints

Wine: Gamage 1983 Bordeaux  
1985 Saumur

### TOAST LIST

*The Queen*

Mr. P. J. Usher  
O.B.E., C.ENG., F.R.I.N.A., R.C.N.C.  
*The Managing Director of  
Vosper Thornycroft (U.K.) Limited*

*H.M.S. BERKELEY  
and her Sponsor  
Lady Gerken*

Mr. R. J. Withers,  
C.B.E., M.A., F.ENG., HON.F.I.CHEM.E.,  
*The Chairman of  
Vosper Thornycroft (U.K.) Limited*

*Response*

Lady Gerken

*The Shipbuilders*

Admiral Sir Derek Reffell,  
K.C.B., F.N.I.  
*Controller of the Navy*

*Response*

Mr. P. J. Usher

## H.M.S. BERKELEY

*H.M.S. BERKELEY* is the twelfth of the new HUNT Class Mine Countermeasures Vessels and the second ship of this name to be built for the Royal Navy.

*H.M.S. BERKELEY* is one of two ships ordered by the Ministry of Defence on Vosper Thornycroft (U.K.) Limited in June, 1985, and is the tenth ship of the Class to be built by the company. Vosper Thornycroft have been able to apply the vast experience gained from building the previous multi-ship programme in terms of planning techniques, advanced outfitting, material control and equipment delivery, to achieve unequalled results in terms of over 50% reduction in the build time of the HUNT Class since the completion of the First of Class Vessel in 1980.

The HUNT Class represents the culmination of more than twenty years of research and development carried out in close collaboration with the Ministry of Defence (Navy) on the applications of glass-reinforced plastics to shipbuilding. The material used is non-magnetic and particularly suitable for vessels which have to find and destroy mines.

With a length of 60 metres (197 feet) and displacement of 625 tonnes, the HUNT Class are the largest glass-reinforced plastic vessels afloat. The ship carries a complement of 45 men.

The first *H.M.S. BERKELEY* was a Type I "Hunt" Class Destroyer. She was completed on 6th June, 1940. She was of 1,000 ton displacement and armed with 4 × 4" HA/LA guns and 4 × 2 pdr pom-poms in quadruple mounting, which in 1941 was increased by 2 × 20 mm Oerlikon guns, and she was equipped for anti-submarine warfare with 1 rail and 2 throwers for which she carried an outfit of 50 depth charges.

*BERKELEY* went in to action on 7th June, 1940, searching for a U-Boat which had torpedoed a merchant ship off Ireland, and followed this by assisting in and covering the evacuation of Allied Troops from the west coast ports of France which was being over-run.

Following the fall of France, *BERKELEY* was engaged in giving cover to convoys in the Channel and North Sea. She also took part in anti-ship sweeps off the north coast of France and Belgium. In February, 1942, *BERKELEY* took part in the unsuccessful attempt to intercept the German battle-cruisers *SCHARNHORST* and *GNEISENAU* in their passage up the Channel. After this operation *BERKELEY* continued with her previous duties of convoy escorting and anti-shipping sweeps.

On 19th August, 1942, *H.M.S. BERKELEY* took part in Operation Jubilee—the raid on Dieppe—giving covering fire to the troops ashore. During the withdrawal *BERKELEY* came under attack by enemy aircraft and was sunk.

### BATTLE HONOURS

English Channel	1942
North Sea	1942
Dieppe	1942



VOSPER THORNYCROFT (UK) LIMITED

LAUNCH

of

H.M.S. BERKELEY

from

WOOLSTON SHIPYARD, SOUTHAMPTON

on

WEDNESDAY, 3rd DECEMBER, 1986, at 1149

## TRAVELLING ARRANGEMENTS

- (a) **TRAIN:** For guests travelling by train from London to Southampton and return, convenient trains would be 0844 departing Waterloo arriving Southampton 1014, and for the return journey the 1508 from Southampton arriving Waterloo at 1618. Transport will meet guests at Southampton Station, convey them to Woolston Shipyard and return them to Southampton Station.
- (b) **CAR:** Guests travelling by car should arrive Woolston Shipyard between 1035 and 1045, enter the Yard by the first main gate and park cars as directed by Yard Police. After parking cars, guests walk (3 minutes) to the Sports and Social Club (north door) in Obelisk Road for pre-launch reception. Guests who signify on the reply card their intention to travel by car will be sent labels which should be fixed to car windscreens.

**NOTE:** When replies to invitations have been received those persons who will be in the Official Party will be notified by separate letter of the special arrangements that concern them.

## OUTLINE PROGRAMME

- 1045 to: Pre-launch reception in the Sports and Social Club.  
1115
- 1045: Band marches from Sports and Social Club (north entrance) to position by H.M.S. BERKELEY and plays incidental music until 1132.
- 1115: Main party of guests walk to the launching area (5 minutes) and assemble there leaving clear the front central area. All guests to be in position by 1127.
- 1122: The Official Party proceeds to the launching area. All guests to be in position by 1127.
- 1127: The Sponsor's Party proceeds to the launching area. On her arrival Lady Gerken will be presented with a bouquet.
- 1132: Lady Gerken is shown the slipway and launch arrangements and introduced to shipyard personnel.
- 1137: The Sponsor arrives on the dais.  
"Alert". Band plays the Salute. "Carry On".

- 1139: Introductory speech by Mr. P. J. Usher, Managing Director, Vosper Thornycroft (UK) Limited.
- 1141: Religious service conducted by the Reverend P. Matthews, M.A., Vicar of St. Mark's, Woolston. On conclusion there will be a brief pause while the launch procedure is explained to the Sponsor and then the Band sounds "The Alert".
- 1149: Naming and launching of H.M.S. BERKELEY. As the ship begins to move down the slip, the Band plays "Rule Britannia".
- 1152: When the Ship is afloat, three cheers will be given for H.M.S. BERKELEY and her Sponsor, Lady Gerken. Band plays the National Anthem to signify the completion of the ceremony. "Carry on". Guests remain in their places while the Sponsor's Party, followed by the Official Party leave.
- 1200: Guests leave platform and proceed to Sports and Social Club.
- 1210: Guests arrive at the Sports and Social Club for Reception.
- 1240: Guests take their places for luncheon and remain standing until the Top Table are seated. When seated, the Reverend Matthews will say Grace.
- 1250: Luncheon, followed by toasts and speeches.
- 1420: Luncheon ends.
- 1430: Guests for the 1508 train leave by coach for Southampton Station. Other guests depart by car.

## NOTES:

1. Would all guests please bring their invitation card with them.
2. Cameras must not be brought into the Shipyard.



*The Chairman and Directors of Vosper Thornycroft (U.K.) Limited  
request the pleasure of the company of*

*Lt. Col. & Mrs. R. J. Hoole.*

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*at the Launch of Her Majesty's Ship "Berkeley"  
(the twelfth of the Hunt Class Mine Countermeasures Vessels for the Royal Navy)*

*by*

*Lady Gerken*

*(Wife of Vice-Admiral Sir Robert Gerken, K.C.B., C.B.E., M.N.I. Flag Officer, Plymouth)*

*from Woolston Shipyard, Southampton  
at 11.49 on Wednesday, 3rd December, 1986  
and to Luncheon afterwards*

DRESS: SERVING OFFICERS - NO. 5  
CIVILIANS AND RETIRED OFFICERS -  
LOUNGE SUITS

DETAILS OF TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS  
AND OUTLINE PROGRAMME ARE ENCLOSED  
R.S.V.P. USING ENCLOSED CARD

PLEASE BRING THIS INVITATION CARD WITH YOU