



Visit of  
HRH The Prince of Wales  
to  
HMS Mercury



Saturday 25th July 1981

*HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS  
THE PRINCE OF WALES*

*is*

*visiting HMS MERCURY, in the 40th anniversary year of the establishment, to take the salute at Ceremonial Divisions of the Ship's Company and Kelly Squadron. He will also meet members of the Kelly Reunion Association, of which he is President.*

*The Prince of Wales will be received by the representative of the Commander in Chief Naval Home Command, Rear Admiral A. S. TIPPET, Flag Officer Portsmouth. Flag Officer Portsmouth will present the Captain of HMS MERCURY, Captain G. A. PLUMER Royal Navy to His Royal Highness and will accompany His Royal Highness during his visit.*

*The Parade Commander at Ceremonial Divisions will be Commander D. W. PIKE MVO Royal Navy, the Executive Officer of HMS MERCURY.*



## HMS Kelly



HMS KELLY was built by Hawthorn Leslie of Hebburn on Tyne. She was launched on 25th October 1938 by the daughter of Admiral of the Fleet Sir John Kelly after whom she was named. She was the first of a new class of ship and was commissioned as the leader of the fifth Destroyer Flotilla under the command of Captain Lord Louis Mountbatten. The other seven ships in the flotilla all began with the letter K.

In 1939 she sank 2 U-boats and brought home from France the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. In 1940 she evacuated allied troops from Namsos, the above picture commemorates that action. Later that year she was very nearly sunk in the North Sea in action with an E boat. The twenty-seven men who died in that attack are buried at Hebburn. On 23rd May 1941 HMS KELLY was sunk with the loss of one hundred and twenty-one men at the Battle of Crete.

Those who survived formed the Kelly Reunion Association in 1951 and they continue to meet regularly. Members of the KRA will be present at today's parade. Prince Charles became President of the KRA after the death of Admiral Mountbatten.

## HMS Mercury



The first Signal School was established in HMS VICTORY, one of the accommodation hulks at Portsmouth, in the mid-19th Century. In 1905 the Signal School moved into the Royal Naval Barracks, known today as HMS NELSON. Plans were in hand in 1939 to move the Signal School to Stanshaw Camp but the outbreak of World War II and the advent of bombing precluded this move. Heavy bombing of Portsmouth, including the Barracks, resulted in the decision to requisition Leydene House, and the present day HMS MERCURY was commissioned on 16th August 1941 under the command of Captain G.H. Warner DSC Royal Navy.

Leydene House pictured above was completed in 1925 as the home of the First Earl Peel, Viscount Clanfield, and Countess Peel. The house is little altered from the original.

The present day HMS MERCURY is the 12th to bear the name, the first MERCURY being commissioned in 1592. The only Battle Honour 'HAVANA 1762' was won by the 6th vessel to bear the name, a 20 gun ship. She was also in the fleet helping in the capture of Quebec in 1759.

HMS MERCURY, since commissioning forty years ago, has been responsible for training all men and women in communications by both radio and visual means. In 1975, HMS MERCURY became part of the School of Maritime Operations and in 1977 the Navigation School was transferred here from HMS DRYAD.

## HMS MERCURY OFFICERS AND WARRANT OFFICERS

### Captain G.A. Plumer Royal Navy

#### Commanders

D.W. Pike MVD - Executive Officer  
L.W. Orchard - Commander Trials Section  
C.K.D. Cobley - Training Commander  
R.T. Lane - Training Resources Commander

#### Lieutenant Commanders

P.B. Evershed	B.V.C. Reeves
T.J.W. Sergeant	F.J.C. Bradshaw
A.R. Evans	R.J. Weston
M.A. Davies	P.A. Stanley
C.J. McMullen	P.W.H. Swan
J.C. England	G.E. Hearnden
D.L. Thomas	D.M. Foster
D.C. Irvine	J.R.M. de Halpert
P.G. Quick	M.C. Roberts
R.V. Harding	M. Collingswood
P.J. Stambidge	A.W.R. Wilton
L.G. Foot	M.C. Stringer
J.W. Purvis	P.A. Clark
J.W. Pearson	G.R. Spooner
D.R. Roberts	
E.M. Wagget	

#### Lieutenants

J. Nichol  
D.G. Cooper  
D.A. Andrews  
J.T. Hudson  
G. Atkey - Guard Commander  
T. Graham  
G.J. Perry  
R. Pullen  
G.H.G. Bowen  
G. McAleese  
D. Ingham  
G.J. Jvoil  
R.M. Craig  
P. Vose  
R.N. Corfield - 2nd Guard Officer  
C.R. Graham  
J. Lewis

#### Chaplain

Mr. P.D. Amsley

#### WRNS and QARNNS Officers

Second Officer J.A.P. Cole WRNS  
Second Officer G.M.E. Winder WRNS  
Senior Nursing Sister I.O. Adams QARNNS  
Third Officer L.A. Holdrup WRNS  
Third Officer L.C. Shaw WRNS

#### Warrant Officers

FCCY L. Murrell MBE  
FCRS G. Dykes  
FCRS A. Ficate  
FCCY A. Gore  
FCCT R.E. Williamson  
FMAA D. Mounce  
FCRS J.A. Littlefield  
FCCY A.D. Parkinson  
FCPOJOPS/R R.F. Poulter  
FCCT M. Wilkinson  
FCRS R.C. Batchelor  
FCCT P. Gosling  
FCCA R. Perriam

#### Kelly Squadron

Officer in Charge (K1) Lieutenant Commander M.J.D. Farrow Royal Navy  
Second in Command (K2) Lieutenant B.D. Lloyd Royal Navy  
Training Officer (K3) Lieutenant R.J. West Royal Navy  
Divisional Officer (K4) Lieutenant J. Lisher Royal Navy  
Divisional Officer (K5) Lieutenant J.D. Lawler Royal Navy  
Divisional Officer (K6) Warrant Officer K.A. Brazier  
Divisional Officer (K7) Warrant Officer D.S. Morris

## Programme - Dry Weather

- By 1015 All spectators to be in position
- 1015 Band marches on
- 1039 Flag Officer Portsmouth arrives (by car)
- 1045 Parade marches on, followed by the guard
- 1100 His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales arrives (by helicopter)
- 1110 HRH takes the salute, inspects the Guard and platoons and presents Long Service Medals
- 1125 HRH addresses Divisions
- 1135 Divisions march past
- 1140 HRH walks to the Wardroom
- 1150 HRH attends the Wardroom reception
- 1225 HRH walks to Mountbatten building
- 1230 HRH attends the Senior Ratings Mess reception
- 1300 HRH lunches in the Junior Ratings Mess
- 1351 HRH goes by car to the Wardroom
- 1400 HRH departs from HMS MERCURY

## Programme - Wet Weather

- By 1015 All spectators, who hold the required tickets, to be seated in the Recreation Centre or Drill Shed
- 1015 Band plays in the Recreation Centre
- 1050 Guard marches into Recreation Centre
- 1100 His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales arrives at the Wardroom (by helicopter or car)
- 1110 HRH arrives at the Recreation Centre
- 1111 HRH takes the salute, inspects the Guard and platoons and presents Long Service Medals
- 1130 HRH leaves the Recreation Centre for the Drill Shed
- 1132 HRH arrives at the Drill Shed and inspects platoons
- 1140 HRH addresses Divisions (broadcast live to the Recreation Centre)
- 1145 HRH goes by car to the Wardroom
- 1146 All those attending the Wardroom reception make their way to the Wardroom
- 1155 HRH attends the Wardroom reception
- 1225 HRH goes by car to Mountbatten building
- 1230 HRH attends the Senior Ratings Mess reception
- 1300 HRH has lunch in the Junior Ratings Mess
- 1351 HRH goes by car to the Wardroom
- 1400 HRH departs from HMS MERCURY

## KELLY Squadron Open Day

### Lunch Arrangements For Kelly Parents

Entry to the dining hall will be by ticket only.

Times	Division
1215 - 1230	Norfolk Division and Guests
1230 - 1245	Glamorgan Division and Guests
1300 - 1315	Antrim Division and Guests
1315 - 1330	Fife Division and Guests

### 1400 Saturday 25th July

#### Arrangements for Kelly Parents to meet Divisional Officers

All Divisional Officer interviews will be held in Kemperdelt Block which is next to the Drill Shed.

- Glamorgan - Divisional Office
- Norfolk - Training Office
- Antrim - Interview Room
- Fife - Presentation Room

The Instructors Rest Room will be used as the waiting room.

Families are advised to arrive for their interview at least five minutes beforehand.

## Training Facilities

Open To KELLY Parents After Lunch.

**The Fleetwork Trainer.** An indoor mockup of ship's bridges in which fleet manoeuvres are taught.

**The Visual Signalling Trainer.** An indoor mockup of model ships fitted with remotely operated lights, which are used for flashing light procedure training.

**The Morse Code Trainer.** A classroom fitted with Morse Training Facilities for instruction up to eight words per minute at 90% accuracy.

**The Audio/Video Trainer.** This is a typing trainer where students reach a standard of twenty-five words per minute at 96% accuracy.

**The Message Handling Trainer.** This trainer simulates a ship's communications office where lifelike procedures in handling signals can be practiced. Success in this trainer is the culmination of the Kelly Squadron Communications Training.

### The Training Tasks of HMS MERCURY.

HMS MERCURY houses the Communications and Navigation Facility of the School of Maritime Operations and is responsible for the Communications and Navigation Training given to all Officers and Ratings of the Royal Navy and the Womens Royal Naval Service. In addition, a number of NATO and Foreign Courses pass through the Establishment.

Communications training embraces every aspect, from the basic communications skills, such as morse and teletypewriting, for newly-joined young ratings, to the advanced communications equipment and management skills required by Officers and Senior Ratings of the Communications Branch.

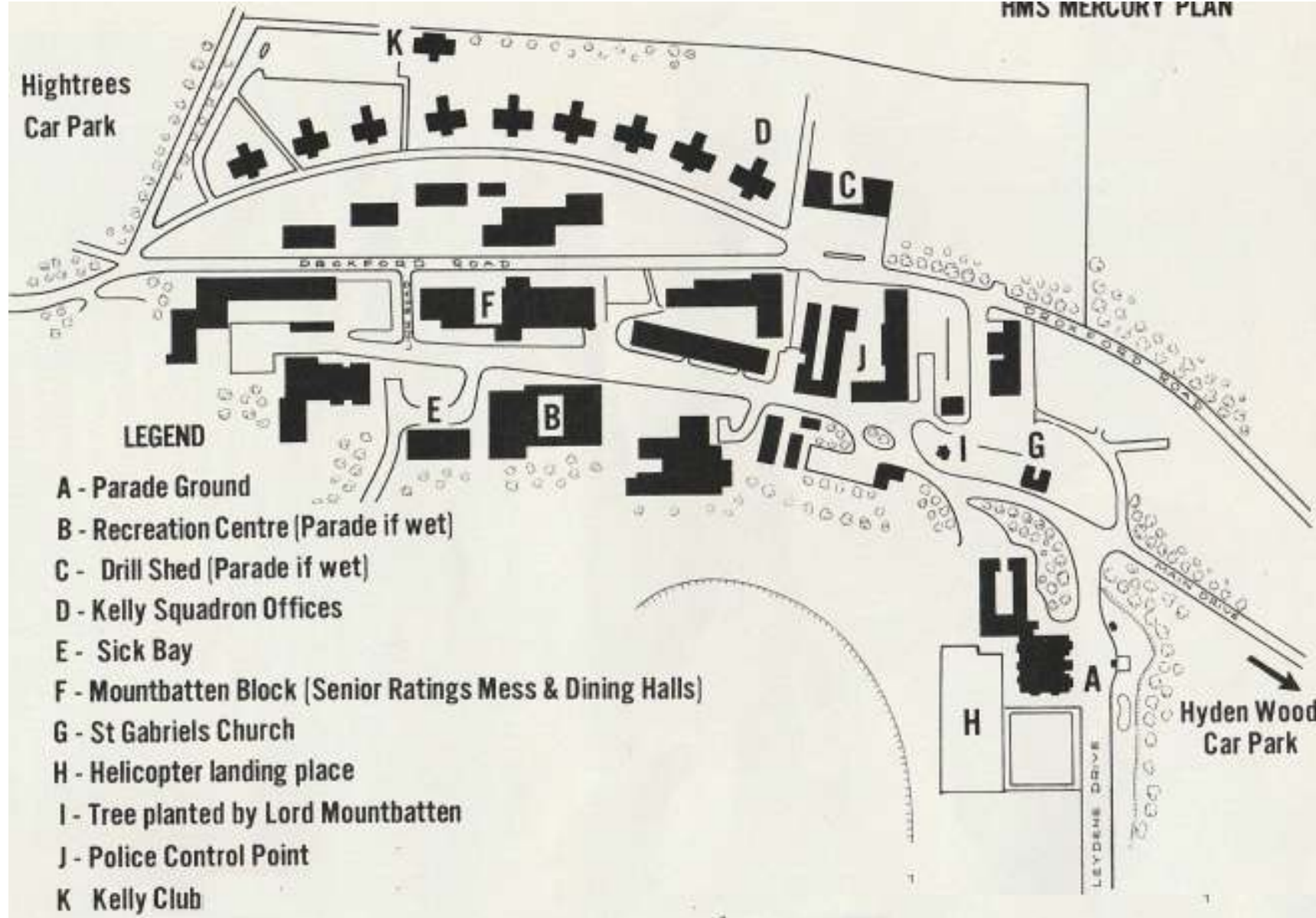
Navigation Training is given to Officers at all levels to fit them for their appointments as Junior Watchkeeping Officers through to those appointments demanding specialist Navigation skills.



In 1925 Lieutenant Lord Louis Mountbatten attended Specialist Communications Courses at the Signal School in Portsmouth and at Greenwich. He came top of his course and qualified as a member of the Institute of Electrical Engineers. In 1927 he became the Assistant Fleet Wireless Officer to the Mediterranean Fleet. After that he was the Senior Instructor at the Signal School where he wrote the first comprehensive textbook on wireless sets used in the Royal Navy. In 1931 he returned to the Mediterranean as Fleet Wireless Officer and was responsible for many inventions and improvements to Naval Communications. His career in the intervening years is well known and included the Command of HMS KELLY. In 1972 Admiral Mountbatten gave the name of his famous ship to the New Entry Training Squadron at HMS MERCURY and he regularly took the Salute at the Annual Open Day Parade. The Senior Naval Signals Officer made his last visit to HMS MERCURY on Friday 27 July 1979 at the annual Signal Officers Reunion. We remember him not only as a great man and an eminent Naval Officer, but also as the best known Communications officer in the Royal Navy.

HMS MERCURY PLAN

Hightrees  
Car Park



LEGEND

- A - Parade Ground
- B - Recreation Centre (Parade if wet)
- C - Drill Shed (Parade if wet)
- D - Kelly Squadron Offices
- E - Sick Bay
- F - Mountbatten Block (Senior Ratings Mess & Dining Halls)
- G - St Gabriels Church
- H - Helicopter landing place
- I - Tree planted by Lord Mountbatten
- J - Police Control Point
- K Kelly Club