



HMS Devonshire showing her paces, May 1973 (MoD).

Updating Devonshire

Modifications to the Airfix 1:600 scale kit described by **Paul E. Beaver**

TERMED A Guided Missile Destroyer (GMD), HMS *Devonshire* DO2 was Britain's first operational guided missile ship, laid down in March 1959 at the yards of Cammel Laird and Co Ltd at Birkenhead; she was launched by HRH Princess Alexandra in June 1960 and commissioned in November 1962. She was also chosen by Airfix for a 1:600 scale kit in their Warship Series, but naturally, since the kit was released certain changes have appeared and these changes (or some of them) will be corrected here.

Seaslug SAM

Since completion, HMS *Devonshire* has had her Seaslug medium range beam riding surface-to-air missiles updated to Mk 2 standard similar to later GMDs. This, however, is of no great importance to the modeller because the two marks seem identical. Drill rounds are painted in red or dark blue, and certain operational missiles have been seen in dark blue with yellow boosters (see illustration).



Seacat SAM

No external change appears to have taken place to this short range system, 2/4 launchers of which equip the County Class GMDs. Both practice and operational missiles appear to be dark blue with a red cone, the launcher being sea grey with a gold centre boss.

Wessex helicopter

HMS *Devonshire* now carries a Westland Wessex HAS 3 'Camel' anti-submarine helicopter instead of the HAS 1 type portrayed in the kit. Naturally, a little sanding and tidying-up must be done and a hump added to the fuselage (see illustration) to give an accurate picture of the current machine. Painting instructions are given later.

Guns

The two 4.5-inch gun turrets have not altered, but two 20 mm Oerlikon general-



Left Starboard side deck detail: Seacat launcher, motor launch, liferafts and general detail of this part of the ship. **Above** The Seaslug guidance radar above the hangar. Note the various lights and aerials that can be seen. Both photos taken at Portsmouth Navy Day, August 23 1975.

purpose guns were fitted to all the County Class GMDs during Police Duties in SE Asia. These are aft of the bridge, just behind the line of the foremast.

Other modifications

Various whip aerials, ECM aerials and other 'bits and pieces' have been added to the *Devonshire* as she has progressed through RN service. These additions can occasionally turn into subtractions as and when the need arises. Therefore, these small modifications will not be noted here; the whip aerials can be seen in the illustrations.

However, the foremost radar is not now semi-circular but is straight and standard Surface/Air Warning radar antenna; the single bedstead AKE-1 Long Range Air Warning radar remains and is characteristic of the first four vessels of the County Class (ie those without Exocet SSM).

Details

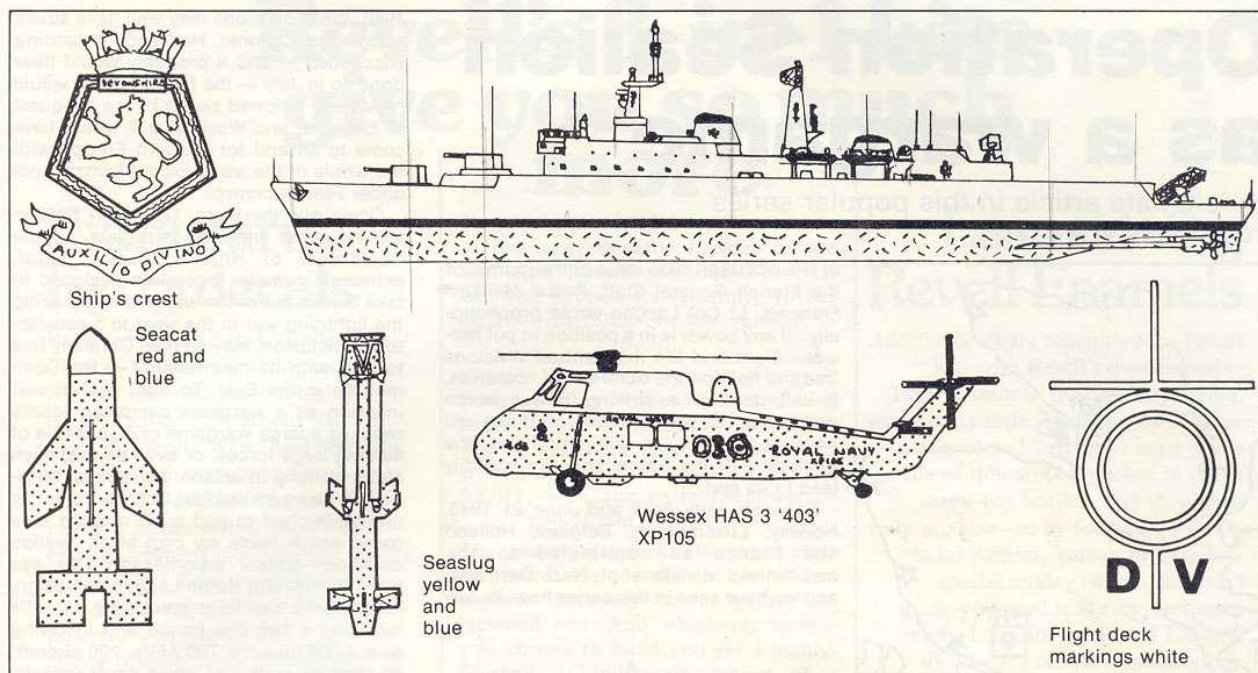
The positioning of the various bollards, capstans and fairleads can be seen from the detailed photographs. It will be seen that there are numerous liferafts in canisters around *Devonshire* (in common with all warships), they are in single or double units and tend to be situated on the main deck. A dory or gemini is sometimes positioned on the main deck directly aft of the motor launch with its own davit. The gemini is available from the HMS *Amazon* kit or similar.

The various portholes and windows are shown in the illustration and in the photographs, the portholes on the hull should be sanded off. The main navigation bridge (uppermost) should be moved forward as shown. The port side motor launches should be moved aft so that the second one is parallel to the after funnel, as shown. The starboard boats can be left as they are.

Two black searchlights should be added to either side of the first funnel, slightly forward of the leading edge of the funnel. The various smaller details can be modelled from the photographs as necessary.

Painting instructions

Mid-grey Superstructure, turrets, hull



above waterline, radars, anchors, Seaslug launcher. **Dark grey** Flight deck area to just forward of the Seacats, after deck. **Dark green** Starboard navigation light, upper decks, forecastle, including bridge top. **Dark blue** Helicopter, hull of launches, Seacat and Seaslug missiles. **Yellow** Upper part of helicopter, rotor blade tips, Seaslug boosters, Seacat launcher boss, practice sonar floats. **Black** Funnel tops, rotor blades, boot topping, gun barrels, gemini, portholes, windows, searchlights. **Brick red** Anti-fouling under water line. **Red** Port navigation light, Seacat noses, red lion emblem either side of the forward funnel, whip aerial bases. **Silver** Gun barrel tips. **White** Dory, superstructure and below waterline of launches, stays on the staffs, flight deck markings, bollards, fairleads, chains, capstans on forward deck: port one striped red, starboard one striped green — vertically. **Brown** Jack staff, ensign staff, decking forwards of bridge around 'B' turret and aft to Seacats, decking around 'A' turret. **Bronze** Propellers.

General notes

This account has tried to show *Devonshire* in 1975, the other three first series Counties — *Hampshire*, *Kent* and *London* are similar except for colour scheme and pennant numbers. References used were:

Jane's Fighting Ships, *Navy News* (various), *Navy News* postcards, MOD/RN information and photographs, and the author's own notes, photographs and slides. My grateful thanks to W. Nutt, Esq, MOD PR.

Above The after end showing the Seaslug launcher, fairleads, bollards, practice sonar floats, hoists and ensign jack. **Below** *Devonshire* entering Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in June 1973 (Royal Navy).

