



## Adding detail to HMS Apollo

The penultimate 'Leander' described and photographed by **Paul E. Beaver**

THE GOOD SEAKEEPING ability of the 'Leander' Class general purpose frigate has been a feature which has made these vessels the largest warship class in the Royal Navy

since World War 2. 26 'Leanders' can be modelled from Airfix's 1:600 scale kit because 26 'Leanders' have been commissioned in the Fleet from HMS *Leander* in

March 1963 to HMS *Ariadne* in December 1972. Also a number of Foreign and Commonwealth Navies have bought the Class.

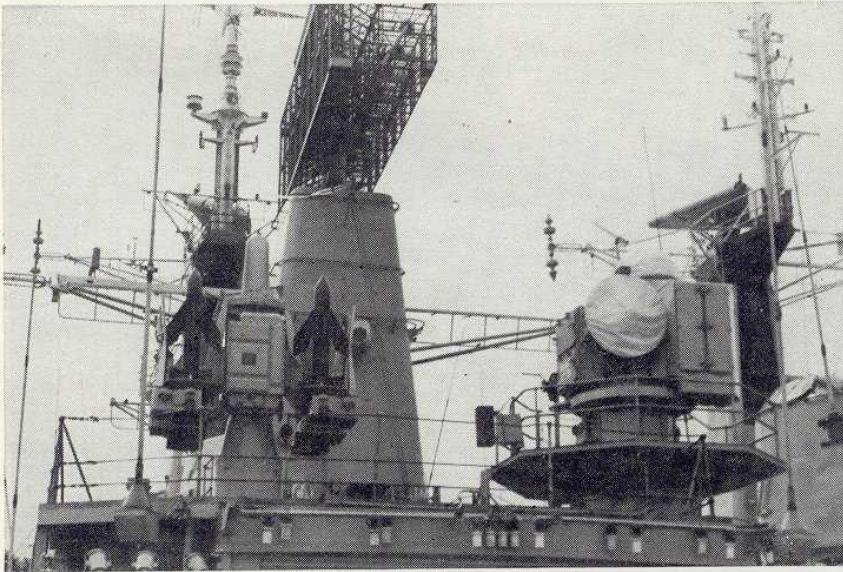
HMS *Apollo* (F70) was commissioned in May 1972 and carries the same weaponry as her forerunners although the last ten 'Leanders' have a beam some 1.5 m wider than the first 16; HMS *Apollo* is the penultimate 'Leander'.

New weapon systems such as *Ikara* and *Seawolf* are now being fitted to some of the older ships in the class.

During her service to date *Apollo* has visited many parts of the world including



**Top of page** HMS *Apollo* on left berthed next to HMS *Londonderry* of the 'Rothesay' Class. Both vessels have similar dimensions, the former being developed from the latter. **Left** Foremast and bridge detail looking aft from foredeck. Note aeriels, radars and director. **Above** Deck detail right forward. Note capstans painted red/white, white bollards and fairleads. Deck itself is dark green.



The view from the Flight deck looking forward. Note especially the Seacat launcher and director on top of the hangar, also Flight deck floodlights and whip aerials.

most of the NATO countries, being in Norway during the summer. This Clyde-built ship (motto 'Strong and Kind') is the ninth *Apollo* in the Royal Navy and at the moment is Portsmouth based and serves with F4 Squadron; hence the red '4' on her funnel. She also wears the black funnel topping of a Leader.

Her Wasp helicopter is coded 470 at the present time and its pilot can recognise his ship by the flight deck code of AP.

**Technical data:** Length 113.4 m; Beam 14 m; Cruising speed 30 knots; Range 4,500 naut miles at 12 knots; Displacement 2,450 tonne (standard), 2,860 tonne (maximum).

**Armament:** Seacat AAM launcher for anti-ship and anti-aircraft defence; Wasp HAS 1 with homing torpedoes or missiles; Two 114 mm (4.5-inch) general purpose guns; Limbo AS mortar aft; and two 20 mm Oerlikon guns.

**Sensors:** Radars include Types 995, 993, 978, 903, 262; Sonars include Types 171 and 184 plus a Variable Depth Sonar (VDS) Type 199.

## Colour scheme

**Mid-grey** Superstructure, hull, turret, breakwater, fittings including winches,

anchor and mortar, deck plates under anchor cables. **Dark grey** Flight deck (mortar well to hangar). **Dark green** Decking, bridge top, starboard navigation light, mortar well. **Black** Funnel cap, back of foremast, band on front of foremast, boot topping, gun barrels, signal lamps, searchlights, bridge windows, Gemini. **White** Bollards, fairleads, capstans (red/white striped) on foredeck, cables, liferafts, Dory, deck and cabins of boats, under waterline of boats. **Dark blue** Boats above waterline, Bosun dinghy, Seacat missile bodies. **Red** Seacat missile noses, port navigation light, base of whip aerials, '4' on funnel. **Yellow** VDS buoys, Seacat launcher boss. **Silver** 114 mm gun muzzles. **Bronze** Propellers. **Brown** Ensign staff and jackstaff.

**Wasp helicopter** Dark blue overall, black rotors and wheels, yellow rotor tips, white lettering ROYAL NAVY and 470 on fuselage and HMS APOLLO and 470 on nose, standard FAA roundels, red danger panel near tail.

## References

Airfix Magazine Guide 7: *Warship Modelling*, by Peter Hodges (section on modelling 'Leander' Class frigates) and *Navy News*, August 1975. □

20 mm Oerlikon GP gun, starboard mounting. Gun is mid-grey with black breech and barrel. Note black funnel cap denoting a Leader.

