

Civic Welcome For Visiting Navy Frigate's Crew

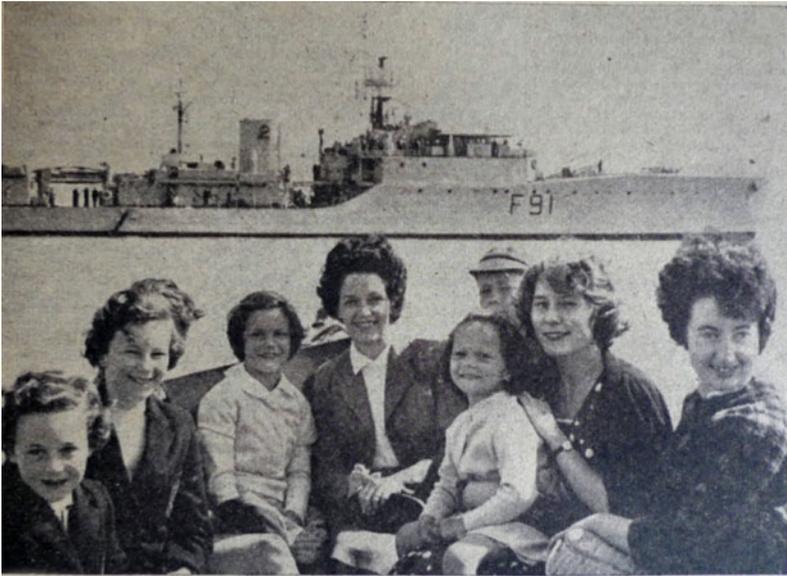
Vessel Open For Public Viewing

Christchurch Times May 6, 1960.

THE anti-submarine frigate, H.M.S. Murray, was due to anchor in Christchurch Bay at 9.30 this morning for the first official visit to the town of a naval vessel since shortly after the last war.

The frigate will remain in the bay, about one mile off shore, until 9.30 on Monday morning, but in the meantime there will be a civic welcome, a number of social activities and an opportunity for Christchurch people to visit the ship. Commanding Officer of H.M.S. Murray, Lieut. Commander J. F. Kidd, and another officer, were to be met at Mudeford Quay this morning and taken by car to the Town Hall for an official welcome by the Mayor and Mayoress, Coun. and Mrs. J. W. Richardson, the Deputy Mayor, Coun. K. L. Smith, and Mrs. Smith, and the Town Clerk (Mr. J. Macfadyen).

The Mayor and Mayoress are to entertain Lieut. Commander Kidd and officers of the ship at the Town Hall tonight, and tomorrow morning Coun and Mrs. Richardson and Mr. Macfadyen will be welcomed on board the ship. They will be taken by naval launch.



A group of sightseers head for H.M.S. Murray during visiting hours on Saturday afternoon. The naval anti-submarine frigate was anchored just over a mile off-shore so the visitors had quite a cruise before boarding the ship. See story p. 6. C.T. Photos

COCKTAIL PARTY

A cocktail party on board H.M.S. Murray will be given Saturday evening for a party of councillors and a number of other guests and on Sunday afternoon a local cricket team will play a team from the ship at the S.R.D.E. ground at Somerford.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are to play for the Christchurch team.

The Mayor will bid farewell to Lieut.

Commander Kidd on Sunday evening.

Parties of schoolchildren and cadet units have been invited to visit the ship today and tomorrow morning and the vessel will be open to the public tomorrow afternoon between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.

During Friday, Saturday and Sunday trips to

the ship are being run from Haven Quay, Mudeford, by Tuckton Riverside Services Ltd.'s "Tuckton Queen" and "Tuckton Belle" under special licence from the Ministry of Transport.

This afternoon, a small party of the ship's company is to visit M.E.X.E. and another party has been invited to de Havilland's tomorrow morning.

LEGION FACILITIES

Christchurch British Legion Club in Bargates has offered the facilities of the premises to members of the ship's company for the duration of the weekend and Christchurch Sailing Club has offered to make officers of the ship honorary members.

Last occasion on which a naval vessel visited Christchurch was shortly after the last war. The ship was H.M.S. Seagull, a minesweeper which was adopted by Christchurch during the war.

H.M.S. Murray is the second ship of this name. The first was a torpedo boat destroyer which saw action in the First World War and in 1916 captured the crew and sank the German destroyer "Otto Rudolph".

The Navy See D.H. Sea Vixens Assembled

Christchurch Times May 13, 1960.

MUDEFORD Quay was a hive of activity during the weekend for the visit of the anti-submarine frigate, H.M.S. Murray. Many boats took out sightseers for trips round the vessel, and on Saturday afternoon it was open to the public.

It was the first visit to the town of a naval vessel since shortly after the last war, and a round of activities was arranged for the ship's crew. H.M.S. Murray was commissioned in 1956 and carries a crew of 137. Their last trip was to Norway where they were on Fishery Protection patrol during the Icelandic dispute. The ship arrived on Friday and left Monday morning at 6 a.m. On arrival she was "dressed" to commemorate Princess Margaret's wedding.

The Commanding Officer, Lieut-Comdr. J. F. Kidd and another officer were met at the Quay on Friday morning and taken to the Town Hall where they were received by the Mayor, Coun. J. W. Richardson, Deputy Mayor, Coun. K. L. Smith and the Town Clerk,

Mr. J. Macfadyen. They were later entertained to lunch at the King's Arms Hotel.

In the afternoon the ship's company visited M.E.X.E. where the party was conducted on a tour of the establishment by Major A. G. Braithwaite. R.E.

They were shown field defences, fixed and floating bridges and the facilities of the laboratories and workshops.

COCKTAIL PARTY

In the evening the Mayor and Mayoress entertained the officers at a cocktail party at the Town Hall. Also invited were local people who have naval connections. On Saturday, a number of the ship's company visited de Havillands and shown round by Mr. J. Davis, assistant work's manager. They were particularly interested to watch the assembly of Sea Vixen naval aircraft. The Mayor and Mayoress, the Town Clerk and Mrs. Macfadyen were invited to lunch on board ship with the Captain. In the evening the Captain gave a cocktail party. It was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress, members of the Council, and other guests who helped in providing hospitality to the crew during their stay.

CRICKET MATCH

On Sunday afternoon a cricket match between a local team and the crew was played at S.R.D.E. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor were in the Christchurch team which won by 120 runs. There was a large number of spectators and a collection was made at the ground in aid World Refugee Year. In the evening S.R.D.E. offered their club facilities to the crew.

Several organised parties visited H.M.S. Murray. These included the children of Marydale School, including the Mayor's daughter, Jennifer; Sea Cadets, members of the Air Training Corps from Homefield School Squadron, Sea Rangers and Sea Scouts.

The anti-submarine frigate left for Portland on Monday where she will be in port for a week before going on trials.