

CENTRAL OFFICE OF INFORMATION

TEL:  
BRISTOL 37026

30, TYNDALLS PARK ROAD,  
BRISTOL, 8.

3rd October, 1957

TO: The News Editor.

Dear Sir,

Enclosed are details of the visit of H.M.S. SHRIMP - an "X" type five-man midget submarine - to Bristol and the River Severn between 13th and 30th October, 1957, and I hope that you will find it possible to cover some parts of the visit.

As the visit is classed as "Operational", only limited time is available for Press visits, but at the following times both the escort vessel, H.M.S. SHALFORD, and the midget submarine, H.M.S. SHRIMP, will be open to the Press:-

Avonmouth	Monday, 14th October.	1400.
Sharpness	Tuesday, 15th October.	1300.
Gloucester	Wednesday, 16th October.	1800. —
Tewkesbury	Monday, 21st October.	1200.
Worcester	Tuesday, 22nd October.	1430.
Bristol	Sunday, 27th October.	1130.

Photographers can also be provided with facilities aboard H.M.S. SHALFORD during any of the dives to be made by H.M.S. SHRIMP, or during the frogmen displays. /ok.

It might be possible to arrange for one or two reporters to be accommodated in the midget submarine during programmed diving demonstrations at Gloucester and Bristol. Will you please let me know by 10th October whether, if this facility is approved, you would wish one of your reporters to be included in the party. If, as seems possible at the moment, only two Press representatives can dive in the midget submarine at each of the two places (Gloucester and Bristol), selection may have to be made by ballot. /ok.

It should be noted that although both H.M.S. SHALFORD and H.M.S. SHRIMP will be open to inspection by organised parties of schoolboys and Sea Cadets, and by the Press, only H.M.S. SHALFORD (and NOT H.M.S. SHRIMP) will be open to the public.

If you intend to be represented at any one of the press visits, it would be appreciated if you would let me know in order that the necessary arrangements can be made.

Yours faithfully,

*R. R. Boyce*

R. R. BOYCE,  
Press Officer.

*Went to Plymouth  
Sped west  
COB*

*4/10/57*

*Seems good  
for facilities  
Gloucester  
Seems best - bel*

*10/10/57*

*12/10/57*

*[Signature]*

ISSUED ON BEHALF OF ADMIRALTY BY THE CENTRAL OFFICE OF INFORMATION,  
30, TYNDALLS PARK ROAD, BRISTOL, 8 (TELEPHONE: BRISTOL 37026).

MIDGET SUBMARINE TO SAIL UP RIVER SEVERN

FIRST VISIT TO THE PROVINCES

One of the Royal Navy's midget submarines - H.M.S. Shrimp - will be paying an operational visit to the River Severn from 13th to 30th October, and will be visited by hundreds of schoolboys, Sea Cadets and Naval Reservists, at Sharpness, Saul Junction, Gloucester, Tewkesbury, Worcester, Upton on Severn, and Bristol.

In addition the ship escorting H.M.S. Shrimp - the Seaward Defence Boat, H.M.S. Shalford - will be open to the public at both Gloucester and Bristol, and there will be demonstration dives by H.M.S. Shrimp, and displays by Frogmen at Gloucester and Bristol.

One of these midget submarines visited the Thames in June 1957, but this is the first time one of them has sailed as far inland as Worcester. In fact, it is believed to be the first time an H.M. ship has visited Worcester.

H.M.S. SHALFORD, the escorting vessel, was the first of a new class of Seaward Defence Boats. There are now three such ships in commission in the Royal Navy (Shalford, Aberford, and Camberford) as well as some in the Commonwealth Navies, some acting as tenders to R.N.V.R. Divisions, and some in reserve.

Ships of this class are 117 ft. long, 20 ft. wide, with a draught of 8 ft. and a displacement of 110 tons. The Shalford has a complement of three officers and 18 ratings.

Built primarily to patrol harbour approaches and anchorages, the role of Seaward Defence Boats is to seek out and destroy midget submarines and underwater saboteurs, and generally to protect shipping from any underwater attack in confined coastal waters.

H.M.S. Shalford is fitted with radar, a small gun, Asdics, depth charges, and the Squid Ahead Throwing Mortar, and can be used as a small escort vessel for convoys.

This class is named after English villages, and the Shalford has been officially adopted by the village of the same name near Guildford.

H.M.S. Shalford is commanded by Lieutenant Commander L. A. W. Pease, R.N. - Transferred to the Royal Navy from the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve as a Lieutenant in January, 1947. He was granted a permanent commission in the Executive Branch in April, 1952, and was promoted to Lieutenant Commander in January, 1953.

In January, 1947, he was serving in Malta on an Extended Service Commission, and in November, 1950, was appointed to H.M.S. Lochinvar, the Naval Base at Port Edgar.

He was later appointed to the Aircraft Carrier Indefatigable and the Aircraft Carrier Ocean, followed by a shore post in H.M.S. Blackcap, the Royal Naval Air Station Stretton. He became Commanding Officer of H.M.S. Shalford, and Senior Officer of the 1st F.B. Squadron in November, 1956.

H.M.S. SHRIMP is one of a class of midget submarines whose role is to attack enemy shipping in harbours and anchorages. Known as "X" Craft, they have a length of 53 ft. 10½ ins., and a beam of 6 ft. 3½ ins. Their small size greatly aids them in making an underwater approach and withdrawal undetected.

Designed to be towed to within striking distance of their target by a large submarine, they are manned during the passage by a crew of four men in order that the operational crew of five who relieve them before the craft is slipped to proceed under her own power may be as fresh as possible for the actual attack.

"X" Craft played an important role in the last war.

It was two midget submarines - X6 and X7 - which, out of an attacking force of four, succeeded in seriously damaging the German battleship Tirpitz in Alten Fiord, Norway, on 22nd September, 1943.

The attack was one of the most remarkable of the war. The midgets were towed by large submarines 1,000 miles and left to negotiate the last few miles to their formidable target under their own power through confined waters protected by mine-fields, nets, searchlights, and patrol boats with depth charges.

Lieutenants D. Cameron, R.N.R. and B. C. G. Place, R.N. were awarded Victoria Crosses for this action.

The crew of one of the midget submarines were prisoners on board the Tirpitz when the battleship was lifted about five or six feet out of the water by the explosion of one of the charges released under her hull.

H.M.S. Shrimp is commanded by Lieutenant B. O. Forbes, R.N., who joined the Royal Navy in September, 1947. He was promoted to Midshipman in September, 1948, Sub Lieutenant in January in 1950, and Lieutenant in December, 1951.

He commenced his career in submarines in the summer of 1950 after earlier service in the Battleship H.M.S. Vanguard and the Aircraft Carrier H.M.S. Illustrious.

He was appointed to the Depot Ship Maidstone, and H.M.S. Dolphin, the submarine base at Gosport for training, and joined his first "boat" - H.M.S. Springer - in January, 1952.

Since that time he has served also in the submarines H.M.S. Trespasser and Taciturn, and in March, 1956 he became First Lieutenant of H.M.S. Sleuth.

He was appointed to "Midgets" in May, 1956, and commanded H.M.S. Sticklebat until October, 1956, when he took command of H.M.S. Shrimp.

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VISIT OF H.M. SHIPS SHALFORD AND SHRIMP TO THE RIVER  
SEVERN AREA. 13th to 30th OCTOBER, 1957

Saturday 12th October. 0800. Sail from Portland in company with H.M.S. Keppel.

Sunday 13th October. 1400. Arrive Breaksea Light Vessel, and detach from Sea Escort.  
1830. Lock into Avonmouth (Royal Edward Dock).

Monday 14th October. At Avonmouth.  
1400. OPEN TO PRESS.

Tuesday 15th October. 0800 Unlock at Avonmouth and proceed up River Severn.  
1030 Arrive Sharpness.  
1100 Lock into Sharpness-Gloucester Canal and berth in Sharpness Dock.  
1300 OPEN TO PRESS.  
P.M. Open to Cadets from the Training Ship Vindicatrix.

Wednesday 16th October. 0715 Sail from Sharpness.  
0930 Arrive Saul junction.  
1000 )  
to ) School visits.  
1500 )  
1515 Sail from Saul junction.  
1730 Arrive Gloucester (Quay near South Entrance to Gloucester Docks).  
1800 OPEN TO PRESS

/contd.

Thursday 17th October.

At Gloucester.  
 1000 )  
     to ) School visits.  
 1230 )  
 1315 ) Static dive by HMS Shrimp and Frogmen  
 1345 ) Display.  
 1415 )  
     to ) School visits.  
 1645 )  
 1900 )  
     to ) Sea Cadet and Naval Reserve visits.  
 2100 )

Friday, 18th October.

At Gloucester.  
 1000 )  
     to ) School visits.  
 1230 )  
 1415 )  
     to ) School visits.  
 1645 )  
 1900 )  
     to ) Sea Cadet and Naval Reserve visits.  
 2100 )

Saturday 19th October.

At Gloucester.  
 1000 )  
     to ) School visits.  
 1300 )  
 1500 ) Static dive by H.M.S. Shrimp and  
     to )  
 1530 ) Frogmen display.  
 1400 )  
     to ) H.M.S. Shalford open to the public.  
 1600 )

Sunday 20th October.

At Gloucester.  
 1400 )  
     to ) H.M.S. Shalford open to the public.  
 1600 )  
 1500 ) Static dive by H.M.S. Shrimp and Frogman  
     to )  
 1530 ) displays

Monday 21st October.

H.M.S. Shalford remains at Gloucester until  
H.M.S. Shrimp returns to Gloucester.  
 0800. H.M.S. Shrimp locks into Severn.  
 1130. Arrive Tewkesbury (Healing & Sons, Burroughs Mill).  
 1200. OPEN TO PRESS.  
 1415 )  
     to ) School visits.  
 1645 )  
 1900 )  
     to ) Sea Cadet and Naval Reserve visits.  
 2100 )

Tuesday 22nd October.

0900. Sail from Tewkesbury.  
 1300. Arrive Worcester. North Quay. (Press facilities at Worcester are being arranged by the Midland Region of the Central Office of Information at Birmingham, and are being notified to newspapers and organisations concerned).  
 1430. OPEN TO PRESS.

Wednesday, 23rd October.

1000 )  
to ) School visits.  
1630 )  
1900 )  
to ) Sea Cadet and Naval Reserve visits.  
2100 )

Thursday, 24th October.

1000 )  
to ) School visits.  
1600 )

Friday 25th October.

0700 Sail from Worcester.  
0930 Arrive Upton-on-Severn.  
1000 )  
to ) School visits.  
1100 )  
1115 Sail from Upton-on-Severn.  
1530 Arrive Gloucester, and rejoin H.M.S. Shalford.  
Lock into the Gloucester-Sharpness canal.  
1830 Arrive Sharpness.

Saturday 26th October.

0800 Unlock at Sharpness.  
1100 Lock into Avonmouth docks.

Sunday 27th October.

0730 Unlock from Avonmouth docks.  
1030 Berth at Broad Quay. Bristol.  
1130 OPEN TO PRESS.  
1400 )  
to ) H.M.S. Shalford. open to the public.  
1800 )  
1500 ) Demonstration dive by H.M.S. Shrimp and  
to )  
1530 ) Frogmen displays.

Monday 28th October.

At Bristol.  
1000 )  
to ) School visits.  
1230 )  
1315 ) Demonstration dive by H.M.S. Shrimp and  
to )  
1345 ) Frogmen displays.  
1400 )  
to ) School visits.  
1630 )  
1900 )  
to ) Sea Cadet and Naval Reserve Visits.  
2100 )

Tuesday 29th October.

At Bristol.  
1000 )  
to ) School visits.  
1230 )  
1315 ) Demonstration dive by H.M.S. Shrimp and  
to )  
1345 ) Frogmen displays.  
1400 )  
to ) School visits.  
1630 )

Wednesday 30th October.

0800 Unlock from Bristol docks.  
1000 Avonmouth.  
1300 Rendezvous with Sea Escort at Breaksea Light Vessel,  
arriving at Portland at 1800 on Thursday, 31st  
October.

3rd October, 1957

Oct 16 + 17. X-FOFQ

GE/TB

R.R. Boyce, Esq.,  
Press Officer,  
Central Office of Information,  
30, Tyndalls Park Road,  
BRISTOL 8.

4th October, 1957.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for the details regarding the visit of H.M.S. SHRIMP to Bristol and the River Severn between 15th and 30th October.

We would like one of our cameramen to be included in the Press Party at Gloucester on Wednesday, October 16th. We would also like a position aboard H.M.S. SHALFORD as mentioned by you.

In addition to the foregoing if it is possible to arrange for a cameraman to be accommodated in the midget submarine during diving demonstrations, we would also be glad to avail ourselves of this facility.

Thanking you, and look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely,  
ASSOCIATED BRITISH-PATHE LIMITED.

GRACE FIELD.  
NEWS EDITOR.  
PATHE NEWS

Check letter  
Boyce.

dm contact  
Mr Boyce p17 16/10/57

*Oct 16/17*



CENTRAL OFFICE OF INFORMATION

SOUTH WESTERN REGION  
30 TYNDALLS PARK ROAD, BRISTOL, 8  
Telephone: Bristol 37026-7  
Telegrams: Centroform, Bristol

7th October, 1957.

Your reference GE/TB  
Our reference HRB/FG

*5-30 Fleet Hotel  
Photo floods  
210 v a  
C.C.O.*

Miss Grace Field,  
News Editor,  
Pathe News,  
Pathe House,  
133/135, Oxford Street,  
LONDON, W.1.

Dear Miss Field,

Thank you for your letter of 4th October, from which I am pleased to note that you intend covering the visit of H.M.S. "SHRIMP" to Gloucester on Wednesday, 16th October, at 6 p.m.

I have noted the facilities which you require, and if your cameraman contacts me at Gloucester, I will endeavour to give him every assistance.

In the course of the next day or so, we shall be sending a note to all newspapers, the B.B.C. and Newsreels, stating that the Naval authorities cannot grant permission for Press representatives to dive in H.M.S. "SHRIMP". I thought you might like to have this early notification.

Yours sincerely,

*20% 14 no diving.  
course cannot work*

*R. R. Boyce*  
R. R. BOYCE,  
Press Officer.

*during 17<sup>th</sup>*

*interview > 16<sup>th</sup> - 6pm.  
during 17*

X 50 P T O

CENTRAL OFFICE OF INFORMATION



*With the Compliments  
of the Chief Regional Officer,  
South-Western Region*

30 TYNDALLS PARK ROAD, BRISTOL, 8

Telephone 37026/7





# CENTRAL OFFICE OF INFORMATION

SOUTH WESTERN REGION

30 TYNDALLS PARK ROAD, BRISTOL, 8

Telephone: Bristol 37096-7

Telegrams: Centroform, Bristol

8th October, 1957.

Your reference.....

Our reference.....

The News Editor.

Dear Sir,

With reference to my letter of the 3rd instant regarding the visit of the midget submarine H.M.S. Shrimp to Bristol and the River Severn, I regret to have to inform you that the Naval authorities have been unable to grant permission for Press representatives to dive in H.M.S. Shrimp, and my request that newspapers should inform me if they would be interested in this facility should, therefore, be disregarded.

Some newspapers have already notified me of the Press Visits which they will be covering, but it would be of assistance if any other newspaper or organisation which has not done so could let me know by 11th October which Press Visits they wish to cover.

For your information, I enclose details of the courtesy calls which are to be made during the visit of H.M. ships Shalford and Shrimp, and a list of towns from which organised parties of school-boys and/or Sea Cadets have been invited to visit H.M.S. Shrimp.

Yours faithfully,

R. R. BOYCE,  
Press Officer.

Encs.

VISIT OF H.M.S. SHALFORD AND H.M.S. SHRIMP  
TO BRISTOL AND THE RIVER SEVERN 13th to 30th  
OCTOBER, 1957.

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- Thursday 17th October. At Gloucester.
- 1100 Commanding Officers of H.M.S. Shalford and H.M.S. Shrimp call on the Mayor of Gloucester (Councillor Gordon Payne).
- 1430 Commanding Officers call on the Divisional Manager, British Transport Waterways (Mr. G. H. Hughes) and Divisional Traffic Officer (Mr. J. E. Oxley).  
(Time for return calls will be arranged).
- Monday 21st October. At Tewkesbury.
- 1415 Commanding Officer of H.M.S. Shrimp will call on the Mayor of Tewkesbury (Alderman F. H. Knight).
- Tuesday 22nd October. At Worcester.
- 1530 Commanding Officer of H.M.S. Shrimp will call on the Mayor, Sheriff, Chief Constable and Town Clerk of Worcester.  
(Time for return calls will be arranged).
- Friday 25th October. At Upton-on-Severn.
- 0945 The Chairman and Clerk of Upton R.D.C. will meet the Commanding Officer of H.M.S. Shrimp on the Quay.
- Monday 28th October. At Bristol.
- 1100 Commanding Officers of H.M.S. Shalford and H.M.S. Shrimp call on the Lord Mayor and Sheriff, accompanied by the Admiralty Regional Officer (Captain G. French) and Havenmaster.
- 1130 Commanding Officers call on the Chief Constable.
- 2000 Commanding Officers call on the Commodore R.N.V.R. and Commanding Officer of "Flying Fox" in "Flying Fox".
- Tuesday 29th October. At Bristol.
- 1100 Commanding Officers call on the Chairman and General Manager, Port of Bristol Authority, accompanied by Havenmaster and Admiralty Regional Officer.
- 1215 The Lord Mayor of Bristol returns call in H.M.S. Shalford.
- 1230 The Chief Constable, the Chairman and the General Manager of the Port of Bristol Authority return call in H.M.S. Shalford.

Schoolboys and/or Sea Cadets from the following towns are among those who have been invited to visit H.M.S. Shrimp:

Bristol Avonmouth, Sharpness, Stonehouse, Dursley, Stroud, Gloucester, Cheltenham, Whaddon, Northleach, Chipping Campden, Winchcombe, Tewkesbury, Upton-on-Severn, Ross-on-Wye, Worcester, Redditch, Droitwich, Malvern, Wolverhampton, and Birmingham.

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8th October, 1957

ISSUED ON BEHALF OF ADMIRALTY BY CENTRAL OFFICE OF INFORMATION,  
30, TYNDALLS PARK ROAD, BRISTOL, 8 (TELEPHONE: BRISTOL 37026).



# CENTRAL OFFICE OF INFORMATION

SOUTH WESTERN REGION

30 TYNDALLS PARK ROAD, BRISTOL, 8

Telephone: Bristol 37026-7

Telegrams: Centroform, Bristol

8th October, 1957.

Your reference.....

Our reference.....

The News Editor.

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Some newspapers have already notified me of the Press Visits which they will be covering, but it would be of assistance if any other newspaper or organisation which has not done so could let me know by 11th October which Press Visits they wish to cover.

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Yours faithfully,

*R R Boyce*

R. R. BOYCE,  
Press Officer.

Encs.