

THE FRENCH SURVEYING DISPATCH VESSELS

“ LAPEROUSE ” and “ BEAUTEMPS-BEAUPRE ”

(Communicated by the French Hydrographer).

The French Surveying Vessels *Laperouse* and *Beautemps-Beaupré*, which were put in commission in 1947, are intended to serve as “mother”-ships for the hydrographic parties operating along the Madagascar Coast and along the West Coast of Africa (French West Africa and French Equatorial Africa).

The following are a few of the characteristics of those vessels :—

A) Principal Characteristics.

Length between perpendiculars	89.60 metres
Overall length	95.20 —
Breadth (waterline)	12.10 —
Draught (fore)	2.80 —
Draught (aft)	3.40 —
Displacement W (in metric tons)	1,500 tons (approx.)
Cruising speed	12 knots
Endurance	7,000 miles (approx.)

B) Engines.

Two 1800 H.P. Diesel motors - twin-screw.

C) Auxiliary apparatus.

Three 165 KW electric generators and 35 KW auxiliary convertor.

D) Steering.

Gyroscopic Compass ;
Magnetic Compass ;
Radiogoniometer.

E) Boats.

Four 9.20 m. motor launches (Diesel) ;
One 9 m. whaleboat ;
One 5 m. dingy ;
The launches are lowered by means of two cranes.

F) Sounding equipment.

- a) Wire sounding.—Steel-wire equipment with Warluzel winch aboard the surveying vessel and on each launch.
- b) Echo sounding.—The surveying vessel is fitted with two ultrasonic sounders : one E.L.A.C. optical indicator sounding machine and one Hughes & Sons electrolytic recording sounding machine. The four launches are fitted with two echo-sounders type MS 12, Hughes & Sons, and two S.C.A.M. optical indicator echoscopes.

G) Draughtsmen's Room and other fittings.

One large draughtsmen's room with central drawing-table ;
One roomy hold for large surveying appliances ;
Laboratory for photographic and oceanographical work.

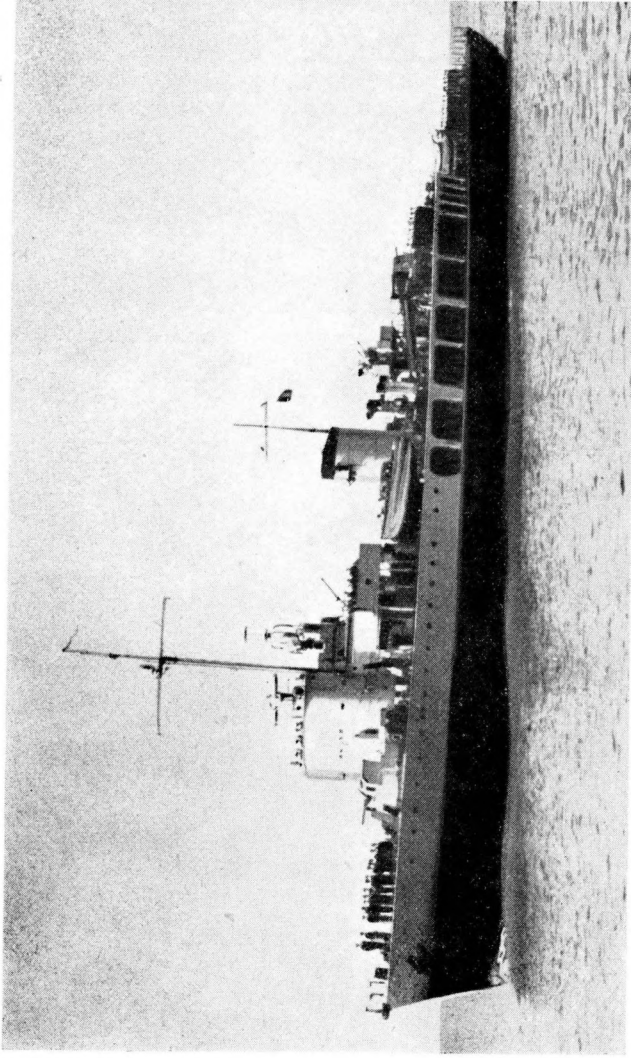
H) Staff.

One Commander (C. O.) ;
One hydrographic Engineer in charge of technical work ;
8 junior officers.

I) Crew.

- a) 27 petty officers, of whom 5 surveying petty officers ;
- b) 118 second-class petty officers and sailors.





The French Surveying Vessel "La Pérouse".