

HALL RUSSELL REMEMBERED



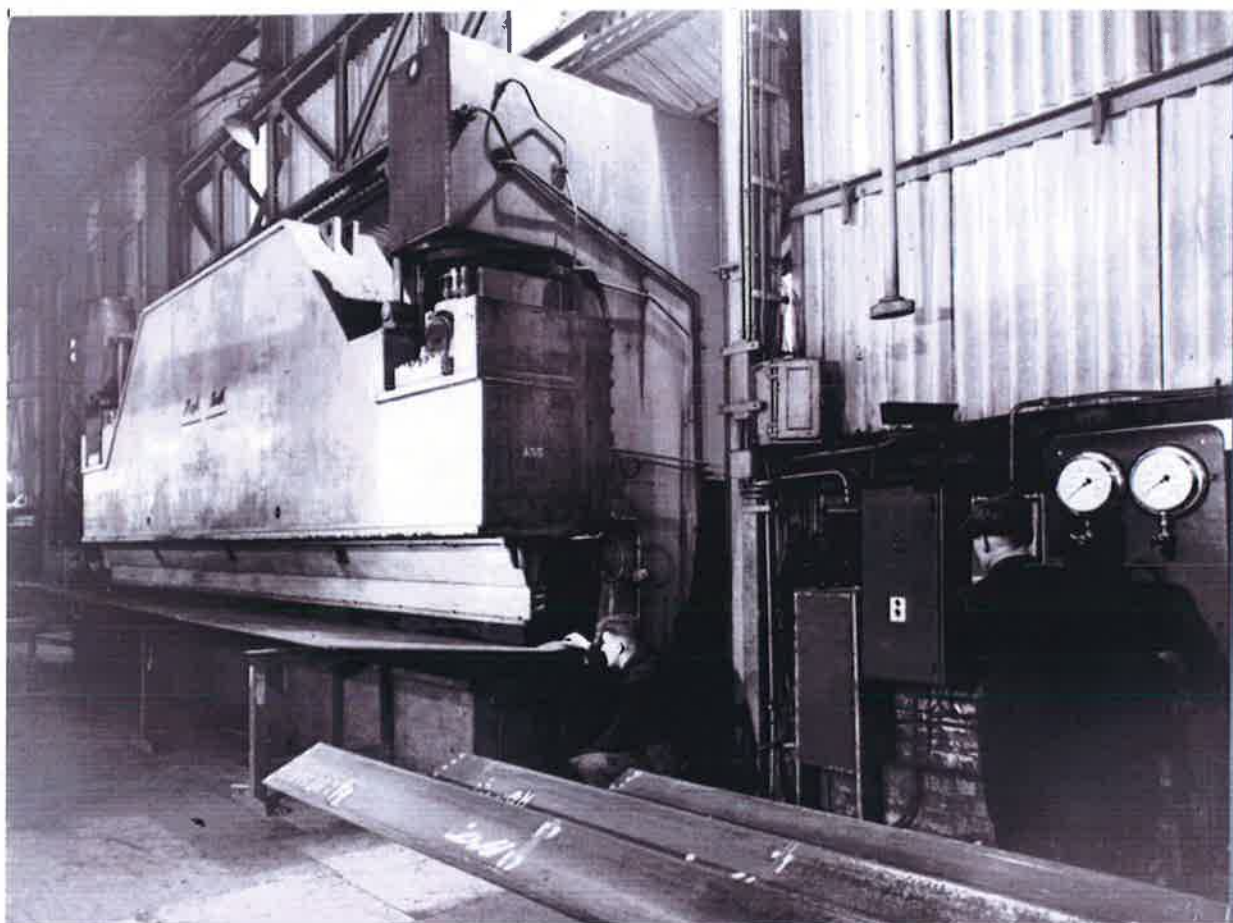
STANLEY BRUCE

BANFFSHIRE MARITIME HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

£4.00

Front cover 'FRV Clupea' built by Hall Russell in 1968 and still sailing, see page 21 for further details.

(Photo by S. Bruce).



Forming plates in the 'Plater's Shed'.

(Photo Hall Russell).

Hall Russell Remembered

**By
Stanley Bruce**

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A view of Hall Russell Outfitting Quay (Photographer unknown).

Foreword

The company of Hall Russell & Co was set up in 1864 to build engines and boilers however it wasn't long after in 1867 that they commenced to build their first ship. The company grew to be one of the most successful shipyards in the UK and built an amazing variety of ships. Under nationalism in 1977 the company came under the umbrella of 'British Shipbuilders' and had great success in building offshore patrol craft for the Ministry of Defence (MoD), however under the Tory government in 1986 the yard was de-nationalised and due to the work carried out in previous years was designated a warship building yard. Being designated a warship building yard meant that it was very difficult for Hall Russell's to compete in other markets and the yard was not eligible for any government subsidies. After de-nationalisation the yard won no further warship work and struggled until a lifeline was thrown with ship number 1000 the £19 million 'St Helena' contract; however the 'St Helena' contract was actually the beginning of the end, receivership, new owners (A&P Appledore) and mounting costs (£32 million) meant a loss of over £1 million for the new owners. A further contract for a n offshore supply vessel hull (ship no 1001) was completed but nothing else.

125 years after the first ship was built in 1992 they closed the yard gates for good and the equipment was auctioned off. It wasn't long after that the Aberdeen Harbour Board moved in with the bulldozers and reclaimed the site, a total of 15 acres. Now to anybody traveling along York Street or York Place who doesn't know the history of the area could quite easily pass through with no idea of the shipbuilding history that was made here.

I'm Prood!

I'm prood tae hiv worked in the yards,
I'm prood o' fit I did an' saw,
I'm prood tae hiv brought a ship tae life,
but noo I'm sad that it's a' been taken awa!

Taken awa,
niver tae be seen again,
like an anchor drapped an' forever lost,
due tae a faulty link in the chain.

Stanley Bruce



Adam Leiper (centre) and Stanley Bruce on deck of the refurbished 'MV Lissa'.

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*Hall Russell building hall and Ship No 996 'Ballantine' alias 'The Hulk'.
(Photo S.Bruce).*

Introduction

This book gives a small selection of the wide variety of ships built by Hall Russell basically as displayed in the 'Visitors Corner' of the 'Banffshire Maritime Heritage Association' exhibitions held in Macduff in 2006 and 2007.

From a 100 ton steam drifter fishing boat to the mighty 'Thameshaven' cargo ship of 10,493 tons deadweight the biggest ship ever built in Aberdeen; Hall Russell built them all large or small. Among the 1001 ship numbers allocated by the yard Hall Russell's built an amazing variety of ships including yachts, dredgers, fishing boats, tankers, whaling boats, frigates, corvettes, mine sweepers, patrol craft, mooring and salvage vessels, fisheries research vessels, offshore supply vessels, ferries etc.

Some of the Hall Russell ships are more famous than others, but none can compare with the fame of 'Sir William Hardy' she was rescued by Greenpeace and became their flagship the 'Rainbow Warrior'; she became known all over the world during their campaigns to save the world.

Special thanks is given to Adam Leiper who spent 47 year at Hall Russell latterly known as the Electrical Manager who saved many of these photos from the skip when Hall Russell closed, without them this publication would not have been possible.

Stanley Bruce; BSc; I.Eng; MIMarEST.

***Chairman, Banffshire Maritime Heritage Association, 6 & 8 Duff St, Macduff.
Hall Russell employee 1980 to 1991.***

Key Dates In The History Of Hall Russell (1864 to 1992)

1864 - Founded by William Hall, James Hall, Thomas Russell (a Port Glasgow engineer) and John Cardno Couper from Sussex when they purchased the 'Aberdeen Ironworks' they set up initially to build engines and boilers.

1867 / 8 – Built their first iron hulled ship the 'Kwang Tung' a gunboat for the Chinese Navy.

1972 – The 112.8m long dry-dock was built.

1977 – Hall Russell became part of 'British Shipbuilders'.

1982 – The building hall was erected.

1986 – The yard was privatised when sold to a consortium known as 'Aberdeen Shipbuilders'.

1988 – Nov / Dec the company went into receivership.

1989 – The yard was taken over by A&P Appledore.

1990 – Ship number 1000 the 'St Helena' was built.

1992 – The yard closed, equipment was auctioned 11th March 1992.

Launch Days

Launch days were always a great occasion in Hall Russell, it was the first time that this great mass of steel would move, gracefully under its own weight entering the water of Aberdeen's Harbour, it was like a birth, it's first sign of life and we the workers had all contributed our part in her creation.

The occasion was always marked with the naming of the ship by smashing a bottle of champagne on her bow, this ceremony normally carried out by a woman, usually chosen by the owners of the ship, the naval ships we built were often named by royalty. (e.g. - Princess Anne named HMS Jersey in 1976).

A few hours before the official launch time the keel blocks, bilge and side shores were removed, the ship was now only being held by two triggers (wooden poles lashed with rope) underneath the hull of the ship, one on each side of the well greased launch-ways. On hearing the bottle smash, the ropes were cut and the poles moved to the side. Most of the times the ship would just sit there, being held only by the stickiness of the grease, but gradually she would slowly move accelerating as she hit the water to a great cheer from the visiting crowd and the workers. On the slip-way aside the ship there were large mounds of chain (Drag chains) these were attached to the side of the ship's hull and as the ship entered the water these began to be pulled down the slip, screeching and squealing under a great cloud of dust as they made their way to the water. Their function was to stop the ship in the middle of the harbour so she did not crash into the quay at the other side. Usually after the ship was in the water some of the crowd would venture down the slip to catch a better view of her afloat. It was then that someone always got caught out with the returning wave which entered the building hall and soaked a few, usually apprentices or visitors the others knew to keep back!



*A group of proud Hall Russell workers on a launch day (Thought to be in 1948).
(Photo Hall Russell).*

Peggy (1907)



*PD149 Peggy.
(Photo courtesy Steve Bruce, Peterhead).*

Ship Name:	Peggy
Builders	Hall Russell & Co
HR Build Numbers	421
Date Built:	1907
Ship Type:	Steam Drifter
Owners:	John Buchan, Peterhead.
Registered Number:	PD149
Port of Registration:	Peterhead
Length overall:	86 feet
Beam:	18 feet 6 inches
Draft:	9 feet 10 inches
Gross Tonnage:	100 tons
Other information:	Sister ships – Hall Russell built 13 similar ships between 1907 and 1910, ship numbers/names: 419 'Jeannies' / 420 Expert / 422 'Guide Me II' / 424 'Rosebud' / 427 'Oceanic' / 428 'Pitullie' / 429 'Enterprise' / 430 'Industry' / 433 'Swift' / 438 'Kimberley' / 447 'Lass o' Doune' / 448 Loch Craig
Date scrapped:	Unknown

Flower Class Corvettes (1940 to 1941)



Flower class corvette - HMS Betony built by A.Hall & Co launched 22-4-1943.

Ship Name:	Flower Class Corvettes
Builders	During World War two eighteen corvettes were built in Aberdeen - Hall Russell & Co Ltd built five off, Alexander Hall & Co built seven off and John Lewis built six off.
HR Build Numbers	754, 755, 756, 760 and 761.
HR Date Built:	1940 -1941
Ship Type:	Single screw Corvette (Max speed 16 knots)
Owners:	Royal Navy
Registered Number:	See below
Port of Registration:	N/A
Length overall:	205 feet
Beam:	33 feet
Depth:	15 feet 6 inches
Gross Tonnage:	Displacement 925 tons, 1,180 tons after modifications.
Other information:	Hall Russell built five Flower class corvettes during WW2: 754 - HMS Marguerite K54 – launched 1940 755 - HMS Marigold K87 – launched 1941 756 - HMS Mignonette K38 – launched 1941 760 - HMS Coriander K183 - launched 1941 761 - HMS Loosestrife K105 - launched 1941
Date scrapped:	Unknown

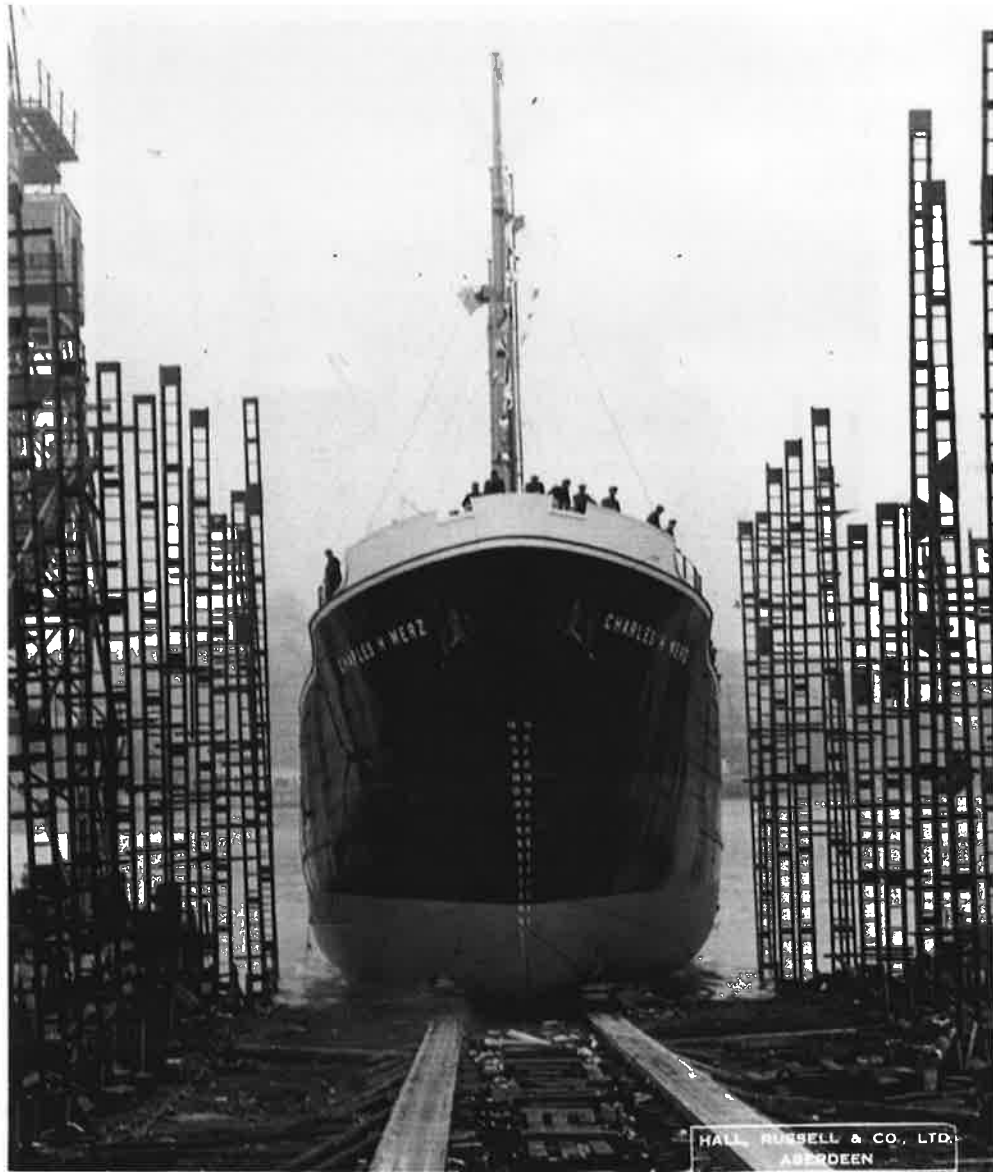
Star VI (1948)



*The launch of the Star VI.
Painting by marine artist Robert Andrew.*

Ship Name:	Star VI (Clupea) (Vestfart)
Builder	Hall Russell & Co Ltd
Build Number	812
Date Built:	1948
Ship Type:	Steam driven whaling ship
Owners:	Hvalfangeraktieselskapet "Rosshavet", Sandefjord, Norway.
Registered Number:	Unknown
Port of Registration:	Sandefjord, Norway
Length overall:	147 feet 8 inches
Beam:	29 feet 6 inches
Draft:	18 feet
Gross Tonnage:	591 tons
Other information:	Built as a whale chaser. Renamed 'Clupea' in 1965, renamed 'Vestfart' in 1967.
Date scrapped:	Still sailing as per 2003 / 2004 Lloyds Register.

Charles H. Merz (1955)



*Launch of the 'Charles H. Merz',
(Photo Hall Russell).*

Ship Name:	Charles H. Merz
Builder	Hall Russell & Co Ltd
Build Number	842
Date Built:	1955
Ship Type:	Collier (Coal boat)
Owners:	Central Electricity Generating Board, London.
Registered Number:	Unknown
Port of Registration:	Unknown
Length overall:	323 feet
Beam:	43 feet
Draft:	20 feet
Gross Tonnage:	2947 tons
Other information:	Sister ships James Rowan (840) and Sir John Snell (841).
Date scrapped:	Unknown

Sir William Hardy (1955)



*Top left -the 'Sir William Hardy' launch.
Main picture shown as the Greenpeace 'Rainbow Warrior'.*

Ship Name:	Sir William Hardy (Rainbow Warrior)
Builder	Hall Russell & Co Ltd
Build Number	846
Date Built:	1955
Ship Type:	Fishery Research Vessel based on the lines of a Stern Trawler.
Owners:	MAFF
Registered Number:	N/A
Port of Registration:	Aberdeen - D.S.I.R Torry Research Station.
Length overall:	127 feet 6 inches
Beam:	27 feet 6 inches
Draft:	15 feet
Gross Tonnage:	418 tons
Other information:	She was the first diesel electric ship built in the United Kingdom. Refurbished by Greenpeace and re-launched 29 th April 1978, renamed the 'Rainbow Warrior'. Her masts currently stand outside the Dargaville Museum, located in the upper North Island of New Zealand.
Date scrapped:	Bombed by French agents in New Zealand 10 th July 1985.

Sugar Refiner (1958)



Sugar Refiner.

(Photo courtesy www.photoship.co.uk)

Ship Name:	Sugar Refiner
Builder	Hall Russell and Co Ltd
Build Number	866
Date Built:	1958
Ship Type:	Cargo ship
Owners:	Silvertown Services Shipping Co. Ltd, London
Registered Number:	Unknown
Port of Registration:	London
Length overall:	370 feet 11 inches
Beam:	53 feet 2 inch
Depth:	28 feet 1 inch
Gross Tonnage:	5104 tons
Other information:	One of six 'Sugar boats' built by Hall Russell. Sister ships being: Yard no 847 'Sugar Importer' built 1955. Yard no 848 'Sugar Exporter' built in 1955. Yard no 858 'Sugar Producer' built 1957. Yard no 859 'Sugar Transporter' built in 1957. Yard no 871 the 'Sugar Carrier' built 1959.
Date scrapped:	Unknown

Admiral Hawke (1961)



*Launch of the 'Admiral Hawke', seen here with Aberdeen Harbour tug 'Danny'.
(Photo Hall Russell).*

Ship Name:	Admiral Hawke. (Diane Elizabeth) (Breydon Eider)
Builder	Hall Russell & Co Ltd
Build Number	893
Date Built:	1961
Ship Type:	Diesel driven trawler
Owners:	Parbel-Smith Ltd.
Registered Number:	A520
Port of Registration:	Aberdeen
Length overall:	106 feet
Beam:	23 feet 9 inches
Draft:	12 feet
Gross Tonnage:	225 tons
Other information:	Renamed 'Diane Elizabeth' in 1983 (LT43) and 'Breydon Eider' in 1984. Similar design as ship number 884 - 'Maureen Croan' (1960), 886 - 'Granton Merlin' (1960), 887 - 'Star of the Isles' (1960), 888 - 'Star of Scotland' (1960), 889 - 'Glengairn' (1960), and 898 - 'Mannofield' (1961).
Date scrapped:	1992

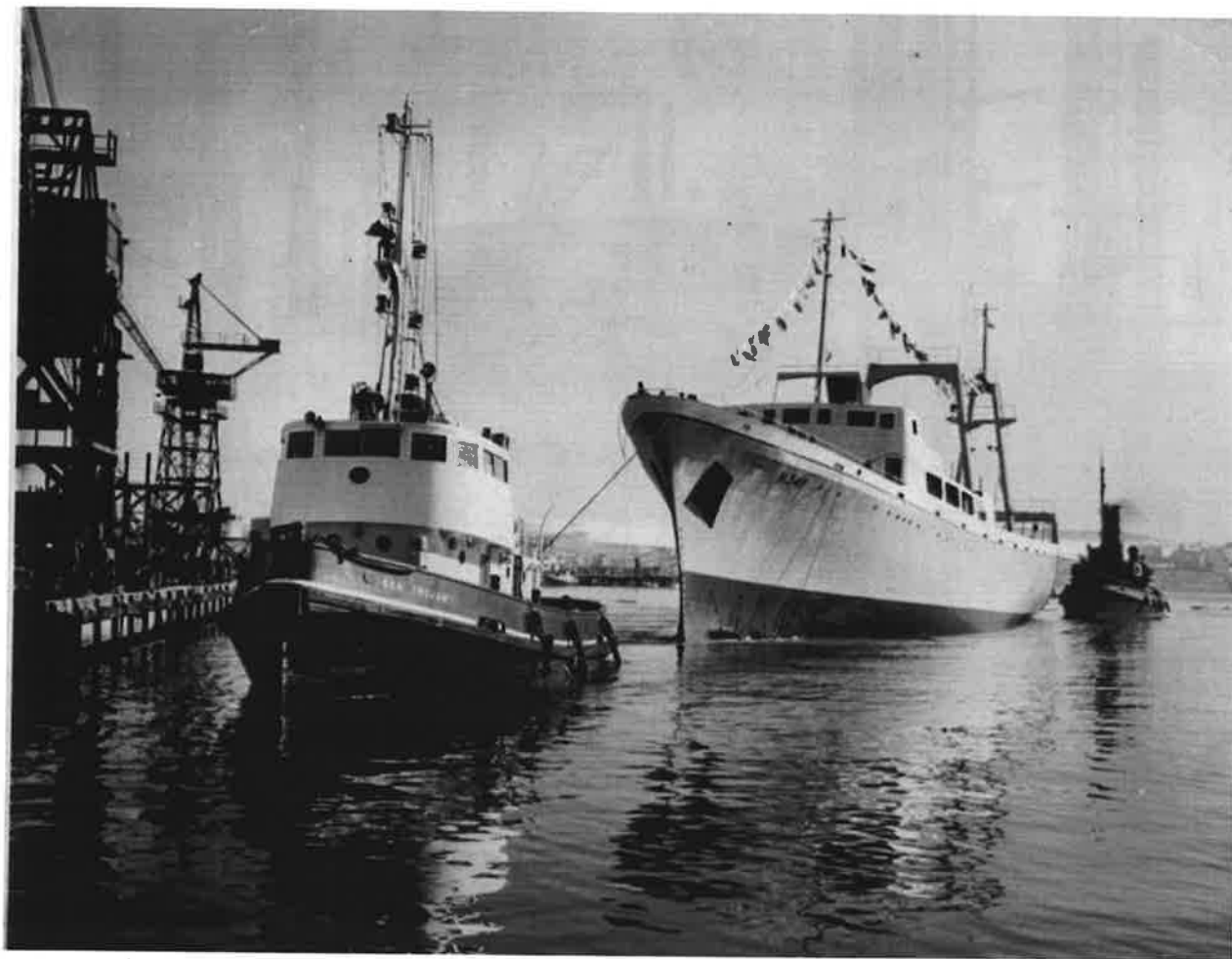
Gosforth (1961)



*Launch of the Gosforth 27th September 1961. (Photo Hall Russell).
In the background of this photo note the coal filling station for steam ships.*

Ship Name:	Gosforth (Thorold (3)) (Catherine Desgagnes)
Builder	Hall Russell & Co Ltd
Build Number	894
Date Built:	27 September 1961, delivered in 1962.
Ship Type:	Motor Cargo Vessel
Owners:	Burnett Steamship Co Ltd; Newcastle.
Registered Number:	Unknown
Port of Registration:	Originally Newcastle (Now in Canada)
Length overall:	383 feet increased to 410 feet in 1968
Beam:	55 feet 6 inches
Draft:	31 feet
Gross Tonnage:	7580 dwt increased to 8350 dwt in 1968
Other information:	The Quebec & Ontario Transportation Co. Ltd., Montreal, bought her in 1972 renaming her the 'Thorold'(3). She was then sold to Transport Desgagnes Inc., Quebec City early 1984 after the Q. &O. ceased operations. She was renamed 'Catherine Desgagnes' in 1985.
Date scrapped:	Still sailing on the great lakes and east coast waters of Canada.

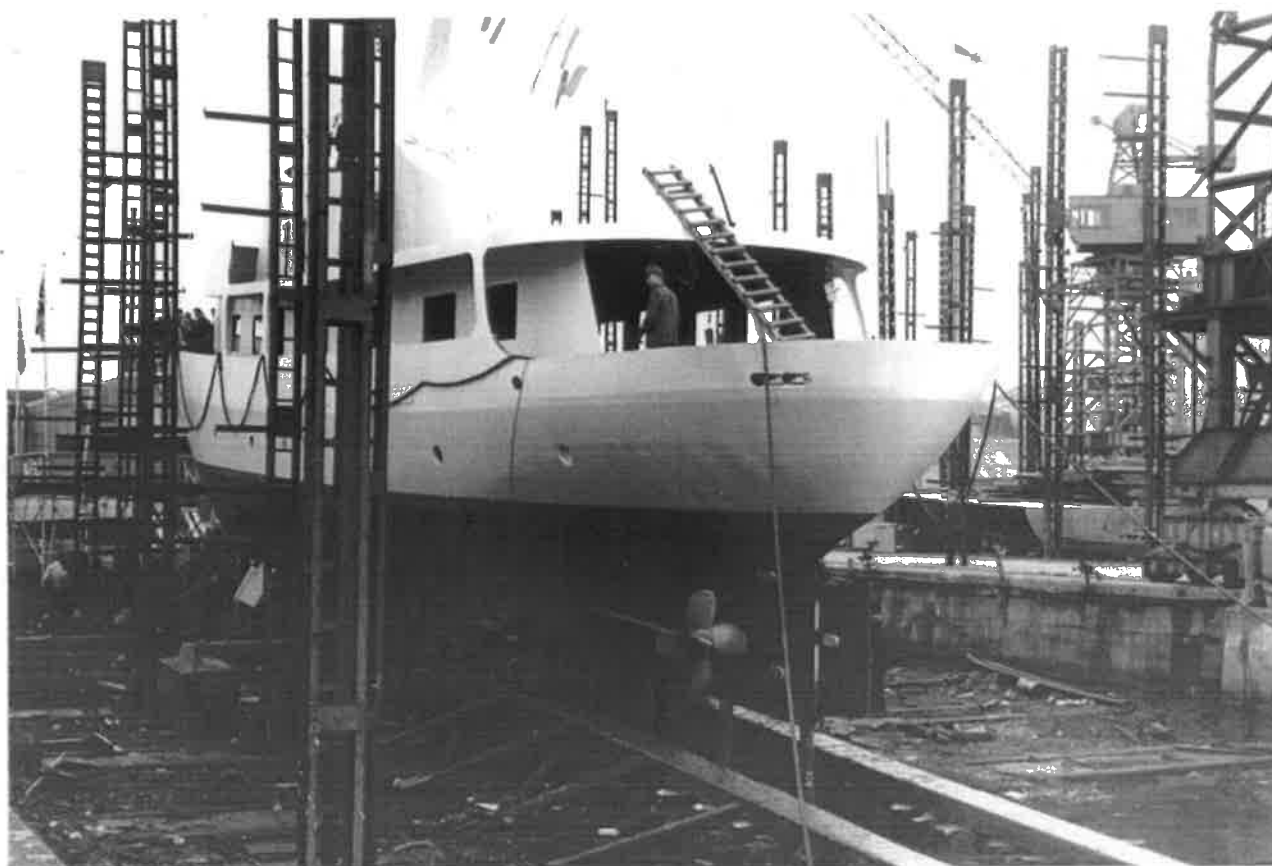
Junella (1962)



Launch of the stern trawler 'Junella'. Pictured her being towed to the outfitting quay by the Aberdeen harbour tugs 'Sea Trojan' at the bow and 'Danny' at the stern. (Photo Hall Russell).

Ship Name:	Junella (HMS Junella)
Builder	Hall Russell & Co Ltd
Build Number	900
Date Built:	1962
Ship Type:	Stern Trawler – factory freezer trawler.
Owners:	J. Marr & Son Limited, Hull.
Registered Number:	H 347
Port of Registration:	Hull
Length overall:	240 feet
Beam:	39 feet
Draft:	26.3 feet / 18.6 feet
Gross Tonnage:	1615 tonnes
Other information:	HMS Junella - In 1982 she was requisitioned for use as a minesweeper by the UK navy in the Falklands war.
Date scrapped:	Accidentally caught fire in March 2001 and was beached on the Uruguayan coast.

Walanka (1963)



*'Walanka' yacht on the slip.
(Photo Hall Russell).*

Ship Name:	Walanka
Builder	Hall Russell & Co Ltd
Build Number	906
Date Built:	1963
Ship Type:	T.S. Motor Yacht
Owners:	Hall Russell and Co Ltd
Registered Number:	N/A
Port of Registration:	Unknown
Length overall:	106 feet 6 inches
Beam:	23 feet
Draft:	11 feet 6 inches
Gross Tonnage:	170 tons
Other information:	This was one of the ships that Hall Russell built 'on spec', meaning they saw a market for this type of ship but did not have an order to build one so they designed it, financed it and built it in the hope that they could sell it once complete. Likely to have been built during a period where the yard had no orders. Hall Russell built three yachts in 1963, others were the 'Tyger' and the 'Pilgrim'.
Date scrapped:	Unknown

Inverness (1967)



*'Emergency stern light'
(Photo S. Bruce).*



The 'Inverness' at sea. (Photo courtesy of Bob Rait, Macduff, ex ships captain).

Ship Name:	Inverness (BP Battler)
Builders	Hall Russell & Co
Build Number	936
Date Built:	1967
Ship Type:	Tanker
Owners:	Shell-Mex and BP Ltd, London.
Registered Number:	IMO 6803375
Port of Registration:	London
Length overall:	249 feet 2 inches
Beam:	40 feet 8 inches
Draft:	16 feet 10 inches
Gross Tonnage:	1529 tons
Other information:	Renamed 'BP Battler' in 1976 and then the 'Border Battler' in 1997. Her sister ships were yard no 935 'Point Law' 1967, the slightly shorter (235 feet long) 937 'Ardrossan' 1968 and 938 'Grangemouth' 1968, and the even shorter (202 feet) 944 'Dublin' 1969. All built for Shell-Mex and BP Ltd.
Date scrapped:	Unknown

Grangemouth (1968)



(Photo S. Bruce).



*The 'Grangemouth' at sea as the 'Border Warrior'.
(Photo courtesy of Bob Rait, Macduff, ex ships captain).*

Ship Name:	Grangemouth (BP Warrior) (Border Warrior).
Builders	Hall Russell & Co
Build Number	938
Date Built:	1968
Ship Type:	Tanker
Owners:	Shell-Mex and BP Ltd, London.
Registered Number:	IMO 6814740
Port of Registration:	London
Length overall:	235 feet
Beam:	40 feet 8 inches
Draft:	16 feet
Gross Tonnage:	1529 tons
Other information:	Renamed 'BP Warrior' in 1976 and then the 'Border Warrior' in 1997 Her sister ships were the slightly longer (249 feet) yard no 935 'Point Law' 1967, 936 'Inverness' 1968, 937 'Ardrossan' 1968 and 938 'Grangemouth' 1968, and the slightly shorter (202 feet) 944 'Dublin' 1969. All built for Shell-Mex and BP Ltd.
Date scrapped:	Unknown

Shearwater (1968)



*Shearwater dredging Macduff Harbour (2004).
(Photo S. Bruce)*

Ship Name:	M.V. Shearwater
Builder	Hall Russell & Co Ltd
Build Number	939
Date Built:	1968
Ship Type:	Dredger
Owners:	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland.
Registered Number:	N / A
Port of Registration:	Leith, but currently works out of Buckie, Moray.
Length overall:	112 feet
Beam:	29 feet 6 inches
Draft:	10 feet
Gross Tonnage:	342 tons
Other information:	Now owned by the Moray Council.
Date scrapped:	She is still operating and is seen regularly all around the North East of Scotland dredging the harbours.

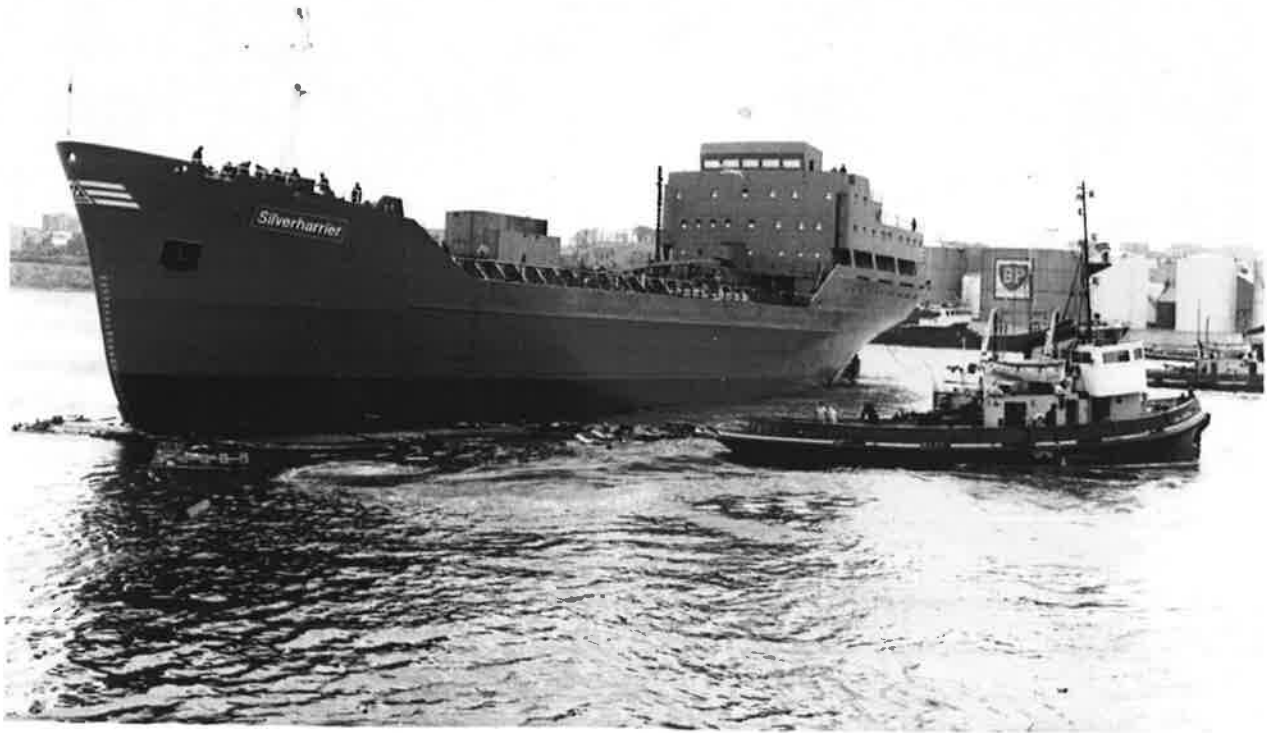
Clupea (1968)



*Fisheries Research Vessel 'FRV Clupea'.
(Photo S. Bruce)*

Ship Name:	FRV Clupea
Builder	Hall Russell & Co Ltd
Build Number	940
Date Built:	1968
Ship Type:	Fishery Research Vessel based on the lines of a Stern Trawler.
Owners:	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland.
Registered Number:	335167
Port of Registration:	Registered in Leith but currently operates from Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire.
Length overall:	90 feet
Beam:	26 feet
Draft:	13 feet 6 inches
Gross Tonnage:	176 tons (<i>Displacement 381.7 tons</i>)
Other information:	Her new sleeker and more modern replacement is currently being built by Macduff Shipyards for delivery in 2007.
Date scrapped:	Still operating

Silverharrier (1970)



*Launch of the 'Silverharrier'.
(Photo Hall Russell).*

Ship Name:	Silverharrier (Kyrgo)
Builder	Hall Russell & Co Ltd
Build Number	948
Date Built:	1970
Ship Type:	Chemical Tanker
Owners:	Ship Mortgage Finance Co. Ltd, London
Registered Number:	Unknown
Port of Registration:	London
Length overall:	330' 10"
Beam:	54' 3"
Draft:	29' 7"
Gross Tonnage:	4622 tons
Other information:	Sold to Univan Ship Management, Hong Kong and renamed Kyrgo in 1981.
Date scrapped:	Unknown

Thameshaven (1971)



*The 'Thameshaven'.
(Photo Hall Russell).*

Ship Name:	Anemone
Builder	Hall Russell & Co Ltd
Build Number	949
Date Built:	1971
Ship Type:	Cargo Vessel
Owners:	Haven Lijnen N.V. Rotterdam
Registered Number:	7046314
Port of Registration:	Rotterdam
Length overall:	143m
Beam:	20.76m
Draft:	8.53m
Gross Tonnage:	8992 tons (10,493 deadweight)
Other information:	The Thameshaven was the largest ship built by Hall Russell and also the largest ship ever built in Aberdeen, the yard boundary wall at York Street had to be knocked down to accommodate her bow which stuck halfway across the road which was closed to traffic. Her aft hold was refrigerated for the transport of perishable goods. And her forward hold had cargo ISO castings fitted so she could carry freight containers.
Date scrapped:	Unknown

Anemone (1971)



*Launch of the 'Anemone'.
(Photo Hall Russell).*

Ship Name:	Anemone
Builder	Hall Russell & Co Ltd
Build Number	950
Date Built:	1971
Ship Type:	Stern Trawler with freezing capabilities.
Owners:	Irvin and Johnston
Registered Number:	CTA59 (350660)
Port of Registration:	Cape Town, South Africa
Length overall:	172' 11" (56m)
Beam:	38' 7"
Draft:	16' 3"
Gross Tonnage:	802 tons
Other information:	Sister ship 'Azalea' also built by Hall Russell in 1971. Call sign ZTHG, hold capacity 509 tons, no of crew = 40.
Date scrapped:	Unknown

Azalea (1971)



*Stern trawler 'Azalea' on sea trials 1971.
(Photo Hall Russell).*

Ship Name:	Azalea
Builders	Hall Russell & Co
HR Build Numbers	951
Date Built:	1971
Ship Type:	Stern Trawler with freezing capabilities.
Owners:	Irvin and Johnston Ltd, South Africa.
Registered Number:	CTA87 (350670)
Port of Registration:	Cape Town, South Africa
Length overall:	172' 11" (56m)
Beam:	38' 7"
Draft:	16' 3"
Gross Tonnage:	802 tons
Other information:	Sister ship 'Anenome' also built by Hall Russell in 1971. Call sign ZTHF, hold capacity 509 tons, no of crew = 31. Shaft power 1259KW.
Date scrapped:	Unknown

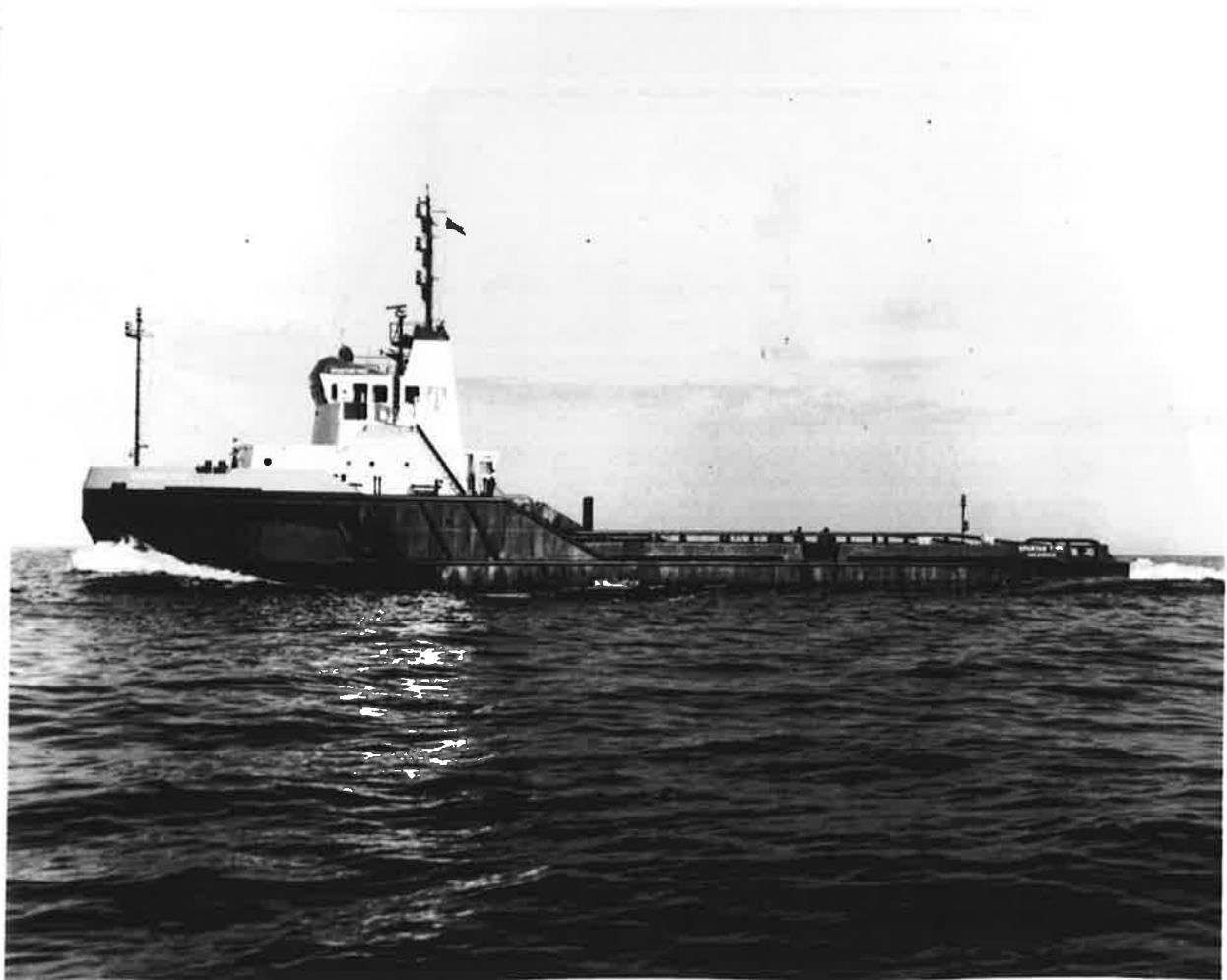
Jura (1973)



*Launch of the 'Jura' (1972).
(Photo Hall Russell).*

Ship Name:	Jura (HMS Jura)
Builders	Hall Russell & Co
HR Build Numbers	960
Date Built:	1973
Ship Type:	Fisheries Research Vessel (Max speed 17 knots)
Owners:	Ministry of Fisheries (Loaned to Royal Navy for oil rig support and fisheries protection in 1975)
Registered Number:	P296
Port of Registration:	N/A
Length overall:	195 feet
Beam:	35 feet
Draft:	14 feet
Gross Tonnage:	Max displacement 1,285 tons
Other information:	Jura's design provided the basis for the seven 'Island class' patrol vessels also built by Hall Russell. She was returned to the ministry of Fisheries when these came into service (1976 to 1979).
Date scrapped:	Unknown

Spartan Tide (1975)



*'Spartan Tide' on sea trials 1975.
(Photo Hall Russell).*

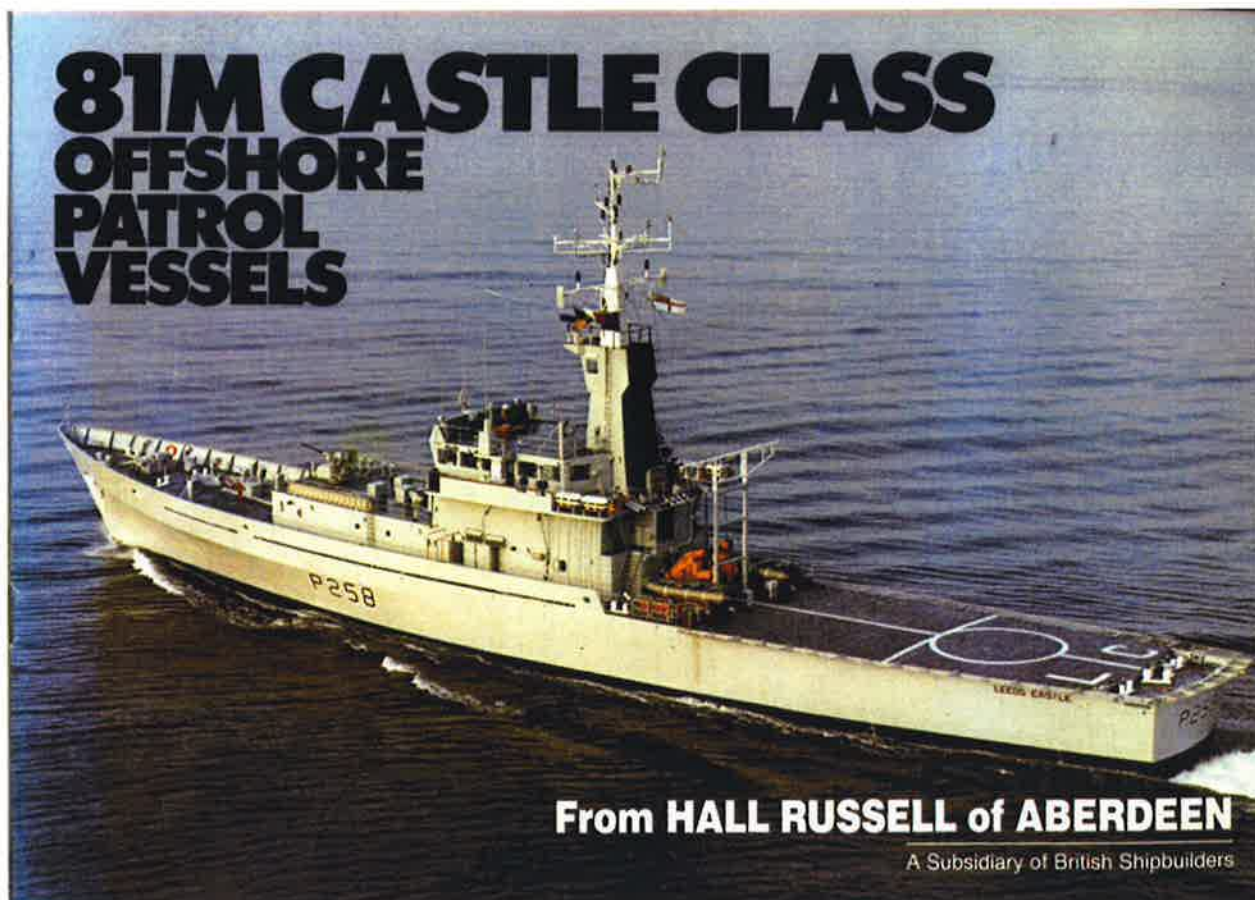
Ship Name:	Spartan Tide (Nico Shindagha)
Builders	Hall Russell & Co
Build Numbers	967
Date Built:	1975
Ship Type:	Oil Supply Vessel
Owners:	Tidewater Marine Service Inc, Aberdeen and New Orleans.
Registered Number:	359097
Port of Registration:	Aberdeen
Length overall:	191 feet
Beam:	Unknown
Draft:	Unknown
Gross Tonnage:	1080 tons
Other information:	Her sister ship 'Trojan Tide' ship no 966 was also built by Hall Russell in 1975. The build cost was £2 million.
Date scrapped:	Still sailing as per 2003 / 2004 Lloyds Register of Shipping, renamed: 'Nico Shindagha'.

Island Class Offshore Patrol Vessels (1976 to 1979)



Ship Name:	Island Class Offshore Patrol Vessels (7 off).
Builders	Hall Russell & Co Ltd
Build Numbers	971 to 975
Date Built:	1976 -1979
Ship Type:	Offshore Patrol Vessel
Owners:	Royal Navy
Registered Number:	Pennant numbers as shown below.
Port of Registration:	N/A
Length overall:	59.5m
Beam:	10.97m
Depth:	4m
Gross Tonnage:	Displacement 1,100 tonnes
Other information:	<p>971 - HMS Jersey P295 – built 1976 – sold 16 Dec 1993.</p> <p>972 - HMS Orkney P299 – built 1977 sold 30 April 1999.</p> <p>973 - HMS Shetland P298 – built 1977 sold 19 Feb 2003.</p> <p>974 - HMS Guernsey P297 - built 1977 sold Jan 2004.</p> <p>975 - HMS Lindisfarne P300 - built 1978 sold Jan 2004.</p> <p>983 - HMS Anglesey P277 – built 1979 sold 2002.</p> <p>984 - HMS Alderney P278 – built 1979 sold 2002.</p> <p>HMS Jersey was launched by Princess Anne.</p> <p>Maximum speed 17 knots.</p>
Date scrapped:	All the ships went to the Bangladesh Navy except for the Orkney who went to the Trinidad & Tobago Coastguard.

Castle Class Offshore Patrol Vessels (1980 to 1982)



A 1980's Hall Russell brochure, showing the 'Leeds Castle'.

Ship Name:	Castle Class Offshore Patrol Vessels
Builders	Hall Russell & Co
Build Numbers	985 and 986
Date Built:	1980 to 1982
Ship Type:	Offshore Patrol Vessel
Owners:	Royal Navy
Registered Number:	Pennant numbers as shown below.
Port of Registration:	N/A
Length overall:	81m
Beam:	11m
Draft:	3.6m
Gross Tonnage:	1,450 tonnes displacement
Other information:	Hall Russell built two 'Castle Class' Patrol Vessels: 985 - HMS Leeds Castle P258 – built 1980. 986 - HMS Dumbarton Castle P265 – built 1982. Build costs £12 million each. Maximum speed 20 knots.
Date scrapped:	Dumbarton Castle is still in service. The Leeds Castle was 'paid off' August 2005.

Seaforth Viscount (1982)



*Far Viscount.
(Photo Farstad Shipping Ltd).*

Ship Name:	Seaforth Viscount (Far Viscount)
Builders	Hall Russell & Co
Build Numbers	987
Date Built:	1982
Ship Type:	Offshore Supply Vessel
Owners:	Seaforth Maritime Aberdeen Ltd
Registered Number:	8111594
Port of Registration:	Aberdeen
Length overall:	62.54m
Beam:	13.15m
Draft:	6.15m
Gross Tonnage:	1199 tonnes
Other information:	Sold to Farstad Shipping Ltd in 1989 and renamed 'Far Viscount'.
Date scrapped:	Still in service.

Peacock Class – Hong Kong Patrol Craft (1983 to 1985)



All five of the 'Peacock Class' sailing off Hong Kong.

'HMS Peacock' in Hall Russell's dry-dock.

Ship Name:	Peacock Class – Hong Kong Patrol Craft
Builders	Hall Russell & Co
Build Numbers	988 to 992
Date Built:	1983 to 1985
Ship Type:	Patrol Craft
Owners:	Royal Navy
Registered Number:	Pennant numbers as shown below.
Port of Registration:	N/A
Length overall:	60m
Beam:	10m
Draft:	5m
Gross Tonnage:	700 tons (displacement)
Other information:	<p>Hall Russell built five 'Peacock Class' Patrol Craft:</p> <p>988 HMS Peacock P239 – built 1983</p> <p>989 HMS Plover P240 - built 1984</p> <p>990 HMS Starling P241 – built 19??</p> <p>991 HMS Swallow P242 – built 19??</p> <p>992 HMS Swift. P243 – built 1985</p> <p>Max speed 28 knots. The Hong Kong government paid 75% of the build and operating costs of these ships.</p>
Date scrapped:	HMS Plover, Peacock and Starling were sold to the Philippine Navy for £6.5 million 3 rd July 1997. HMS Swallow & HMS Swift were sold to the Irish Navy in 1988, all ships are still in service.

Sal Class – Mooring And Salvage Vessel (1985 to 1986).



*Launch of the 'Salmaid'.
(Photo S.Bruce)*

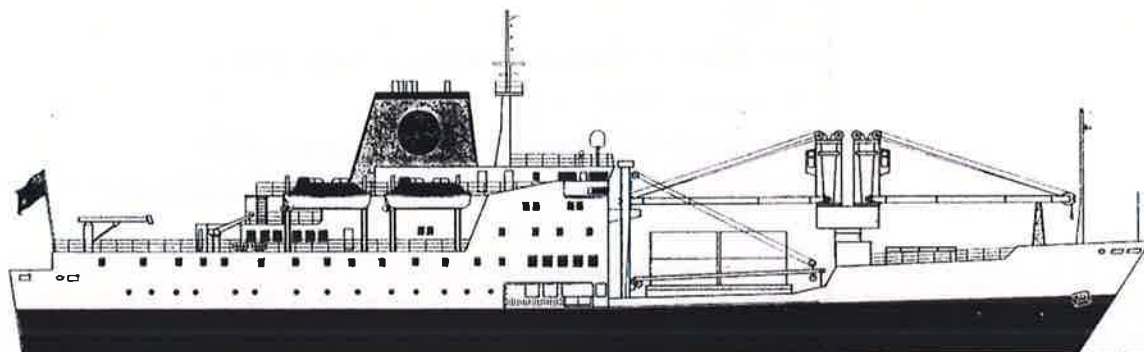
Ship Name:	Sal Class – Mooring and Salvage Vessels
Builders	Hall Russell & Co
Build Numbers	993 to 995
Date Built:	1985 to 1986
Ship Type:	Mooring and Salvage Vessel
Owners:	Royal Navy (Auxiliary service)
Registered Number:	Pennant numbers as shown below.
Port of Registration:	N/A
Length overall:	77m
Beam:	15m
Draft:	4m
Gross Tonnage:	2200 tonnes displacement
Other information:	<p>Hall Russell built three 'Sal Class' Mooring and Salvage Vessels:</p> <p>993 RMAS Salmoor A185 - built 1985 <i>Based on the Clyde.</i></p> <p>994 RMAS Salmaster A186 - built 1985 <i>Based at Rosyth (Renamed: Ocean Endeavour in 2002)</i></p> <p>995 RMAS Salmaid A187 – built 1986 <i>Based at Portsmouth</i></p> <p>Build cost £9 million each.</p>
Date scrapped:	Still in service.

RMS St Helena (1990)



*Launch of ship no 1000 'St Helena'.
(Photo Hall Russell brochure).*

Ship Name:	RMS St Helena
Builders	Hall Russell & Co
Build Number	1000
Date Built:	1990 (Completed by A&P Appledore)
Ship Type:	Royal Mail Ship / Cargo ship / Passenger ship
Owners:	St Helena Government operated by Curnow Shipping Ltd
Registered Number:	718836
Port of Registration:	Bristol
Length overall:	105m
Beam:	19.2m
Draft:	6m
Gross Tonnage:	6,767 tonnes
Other information:	Capacity - 128 passengers and 56 crew members and cargo carrying capacity 1,800 tonnes. An airfield is to be built on St Helena island in 2010, the future of the ship sailing to the island is uncertain after that date.
Date scrapped:	Still in service.



An Eerie Silence

The shipyard gates are closed, there's no future here,
the bulldozers are on their way,
the Caulker chipping, I no longer hear,
there's an eerie silence over Fittie today!

These gates that I've passed through, time and time again,
will be unhinged and taken away,
"That's it finished", "This is the end",
that's what I heard them say.

It was the end, those guys were right,
this could never be built up again,
a great industry, now a sorry sight,
an empty yard with ghosts, no men!

And as I drive past here today,
I try to imagine how things could have been,
but sadly it's all now faded away,
behind a great smoke screen.

There's little left to show the yard was ever here,
if you didn't know, you wouldn't see,
memories are all that remain,
in the hearts of the workers, like you and like me.

The Neptune Bar, I nip in for a beer,
then at Fittie I look out at the bay,
but the Caulker chipping, I no longer hear,
there's an eerie silence over Fittie today!

***Dedicated to John Patterson, Burner / Caulker
and Yard Convener (John passed away 2006).***

*'Neptune's Head' donated to the 'Banffshire
Maritime Heritage Association' by ex Hall
Russell employee 'Eddie Bandeen' from
Aberdeen. This replica made by Hall Russell
used to hang on the wall in the Hall Russell
office. It was a copy of a head which once stood
on Neptune Terrace, Aberdeen, near the Hall
Russell yard.*

*If you like the poem or are interested in
Aberdeen's shipbuilding heritage, keep an eye
out for another book of mine coming in the
future titled '**Bard O' The Yard**'.*



John Patterson March 2006.



Other titles by Stanley Bruce:

The Bard Of Banff	(2004)	ISBN 0-9547960-0-4
The Bard O' The Broch	(2004)	ISBN 0-9547960-1-2
Bard O' Buchan Vol 1	(2005)	ISBN 0-9547960-2-0
Comforting Words	(2006)	ISBN 0-9547960-3-9

Also available to download free from www.electricscotland.com :

The Great North East Corner – The Coastline - Cullen to Collieston (2005)

Macduff Parish Church Bi-centenary (2005)

Only available in Banff and Macduff:

Macduff Parish Church Bi-centenary (Revised and reprinted 2007)

Along The Coast, Cullen to Pennan (2007)

Also published by Bard Books:

Anonymous In Stoney by Jean Kemlo, editor Stanley Bruce (2006)



*Hall Russell Training Centre, once the offices of A. Hall and Co.
(Photo S. Bruce).*

If you have any old photographs or stories about Hall Russell I'd be glad to hear from you and I can be contacted on 07770 780232 or on e-mail at Stanley.bruce@dnv.com