

Rear Admiral LANDYMORE: The same conclusion that I had arrived at in June—that we are very short of personnel and it is reflected either by ships being laid up or ships being sent out with reduced crews.

Mr. HARKNESS: In view of the fact that there are still some 18,000 people in the Navy, can you give any other explanation of why only 16 of these ships would be in operation and able to go to sea?

Rear Admiral LANDYMORE: I do not think we have that many men in the Navy. I think it is well below the requirement.

Mr. HARKNESS: Well, the figures that we were given on a return which I received just two or three days ago show something in the neighbourhood of 17,200, if you subtract the people who are on terminal leave.

Rear Admiral LANDYMORE: That would include officers?

Mr. HARKNESS: Yes, that would include officers.

Rear Admiral LANDYMORE: I would say that was about right.

Mr. HARKNESS: But it would still seem that this should be enough to operate at least these 20 ships, which are the ones not in the refit or otherwise out of commission for other reasons.

Rear Admiral LANDYMORE: No sir, that is not enough to man them. We need very nearly 17,500 men alone, not including officers, so if the total figure is something of the order of 18,000 now, it is obvious that we could not meet our commitments.

Mr. HARKNESS: I thought you said earlier that in order to man these 28 ships we required 17,500 men and some 1,700 officers, and as we are down below that—something in the neighbourhood of 3,000—does it not seem a little peculiar that we are still able to man only 16?

Rear Admiral LANDYMORE: I am sorry, I do not follow your arithmetic here.

Mr. HARKNESS: Well, we have a total of something like 17,500 personnel in the Navy—officers and men—and we are manning only 16 ships. I think your statement was that in order to man the 28 ships we actually possess, it would require in the neighbourhood of 19,500 personnel.

Rear Admiral LANDYMORE: I am having the greatest difficulty in following this questioning. I am sorry. I am not trying to duck answering these questions, Mr. Harkness, I just do not really follow what you are trying to get.

Mr. HARKNESS: Well, I just do not understand why 4 ships are tied up and not in operation, apparently because we have not got sufficient men to man them.

Rear Admiral LANDYMORE: Well, you have given me your own answer to that; we are short of men, so we cannot man them. But I think, perhaps, where we are at odds here is that all the ships in refit are not unmanned. *Bonaventure*, of course, I imagine is far below her normal complement. But the destroyers, which are in maintenance in their first days of their operating cycle, have their man-power totally allocated. So, even though they were alongside they would have their complement. And even though they are refitting their ships, or in maintenance, they would have a full quota. So, I do not think the counting of the total number of ships at sea in operations can be separated from the ones