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(*Courtesy of Hay Wrightson*)

FOREWORD BY THE CHIEF NAVAL ENGINEER OFFICER

Engineering personnel are often credited with an inherent ability to cope easily with the present rapid changes in technology.

In a small-ship Navy, however, the collective experience of the engineering complements of any one ship is generally becoming less. This is due both to the youth of the ratings and to their lack of time in large ships.

Young officers, too, face difficulties partly perhaps because they receive less watchkeeping experience than their predecessors but more especially because modern machinery offers a much smaller margin for error, both in maintenance and in operation, than the machinery of earlier warships. This difficulty is perhaps increased by the much greater usage that modern ships must achieve.

These factors all combine to make high standards of operation and upkeep imperative and at the same time more difficult to achieve.

Perhaps the predominant factors in achieving high standards are personal integrity and good organization and planning. Particularly there is a need to plan and organize for the training of young men in ships so that they both know what is required and become accustomed to doing it.

I am very much aware of the load already borne by MEOs and CERAs of ships, without exhortations to do more, and I believe that we all need to give thought to this aspect of our responsibilities for the future and would welcome any suggestions or help that anyone cares to put forward, either in this *Journal* or more officially.

