

# PERSONAL NEWS

**Rear Admiral J. G. C. Given, C.B., C.B.E., M.I.Mech.E., M.I.Mar.E.**, who retired from the Royal Navy on June 28th, was appointed to the Staff of the Commander-in-Chief, the Nore, in 1953 after completing a year's course at the Imperial Defence College. Previously he was 3 years in command of the Royal Naval Engineering College, Manadon and 2 years as Assistant Engineer-in-Chief in charge of Research and Development. During the war he served in H.M.S. *Neptune* and H.M.S. *Howe* and as Staff Engineer Officer to Rear Admiral, Fleet Train, in the British Pacific Fleet.

**Rear Admiral J. B. Newsom**, who was promoted on 21st June, 1955, while serving as Engineer Manager, Malta Dockyard, has now taken up an appointment as Rear Admiral for 'E' duties on the Staff of the Commander-in-Chief, the Nore. He served as the E.O. of *Tartar* for the first six months of the war, and then in the Admiralty where, after being the first on the Engineer-in-Chief's Staff to do a Fire Fighting and Damage Control Course, he was responsible for trials which led to the introduction of many items of equipment that later became so familiar—spray nozzles, foam B.P.s, steam drenching, Diesel fire pumps. From 1942 to the end of the war he was E.O. of *Illustrious*. Promoted to Captain in 1948, he served on the Staff of Flag Officer Scotland and Northern Ireland, and as Chief Engineer, Sheerness.

Admiral Newsom has served at sea in almost every class of ship and has also been on the staff at the R.N.E.C. where, among other things, he did much for the College rugby football and cricket. He has always been extremely keen on all games and, in 1933, played cricket for the Navy.

**Captain W. T. Hindson, M.I.Mech.E.**, was placed on the Retired List on 2nd May, 1955. He was appointed Assistant Director of Underwater Weapons in 1952 and Deputy Director in 1953. He was Assistant Engineer-in-Chief (Maintenance and Repair) from 1949 to 1952, and from 1945 to 1948 he was Engineer Officer of H.M.S. *Duke of York* in the Pacific and Home Fleets.

**Captain A. J. Tyndale-Biscoe, O.B.E., M.I.Mech.E., A.F.R.Ae.S.**, recently appointed Fleet Engineer Officer (Mediterranean) has been Commanding Officer of the R.N. Air Station, Anthorn, since August, 1953. He was previously Assistant Engineer-in-Chief (R.D.2). From 1949 to 1950 he attended a course at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Washington, D.C.

**Captain W. G. Pulvertaft, O.B.E.**, who has recently returned from the Far East, where he was on the Staff of the Commander-in-Chief, took over command of H.M.S. *Raleigh* on 20th June, 1955.

After serving in H.M.S. *Emperor of India*, one of the last coal-fired battleships, from 1927 to 1928, he joined submarines and has spent many years in them, their depot ships or kindred appointments. Forced by enemy action, in 1940, to move the Torpedo Tube Design Office of Portsmouth Dockyard, where he was then serving, into the city, he finally moved it, in 1942, to West Howe where he established what is now the Underwater Weapon Launching Establishment. Sunk in *Medway* on the eve of the Battle of Alamein, he started *Medway II* in Beirut in July, 1942, moving the base to Malta in 1944.

After service in the Department of Underwater Weapons at Bath and *Implacable*, as training carrier and Home Fleet Flagship, where he was promoted, he was appointed to the Admiralty Engineering Laboratory in 1949 and to the Far East in 1953.

**Captain I. O. Backhouse** took up his appointment as S.E.O. on the Staff of Flag Officer, Scotland, on 27th June, 1955. During the war he saw service in *Welshman* and *Aurora* in the Mediterranean, and in *Caledonia*. From 1947 to 1950 he served in the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth and, after promotion to Captain, did the Senior Officers' War Course at Greenwich. After an appointment as A.E.O. Midland Area, Captain Backhouse was, until recently, the Commanding Officer, H.M.S. *Raleigh*.

**Captain F. H. Fletcher**, who has recently been appointed to the Staff of Saclant was, from 1954, serving on the Staff of Flag Officer, Scotland. From 1951 to 1954 he was A.E.O., Sheffield. During the war he spent some time in Icelandic patrols and Russian convoys as E.O. of *Norfolk*, and later in 1943 went to Engineer-in-Chief (Bath) where, amongst other things, he was the inspector in charge of Fleet Trains and the production of a floating brewery for the Far East. He was the Executive Commander of the Royal Naval Engineering College from 1946 to 1948, and served in *Howe* (1948 to 1949) and *Unicorn* (1949 to 1951) in which ship he was promoted.

**Captain J. W. Esmonde, O.B.E., D.S.C.**, whose appointment as Commanding Officer, H.M.S. *Alaunia* was noted in the April issue of the *Journal* (Vol. 8, No. 2) has recently retired, and has joined the well-known steel firm of Messrs. Stewart and Lloyds.

**Captain P. T. Joy** was appointed to *Alaunia* in command on 7th June, 1955. In 1942 he took the A/E course and became Air Engineer Officer on the Staff of the Flag Officer (Air) Far East in 1945. In 1947 he went to the R.N.A.R.Y. Fleetlands and later became the Air E.O. and Training Commander at the R.N.A.S., Bramcote. Promoted to Captain in 1952 he served as the president of the Naval Air Maintenance Examination Board and Assistant Director (Personnel) in D.A.M.R.

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#### RUGBY FOOTBALL COMMEMORATION PLAQUES

Memorial Plaques have now been placed in the United Services Rugby Football Clubs at Portsmouth, Devonport and Chatham to commemorate Ernie Gardner and Stan Kealey and the services they rendered to rugby in the Royal Navy and at the R.N.E. College, Manadon.

A separate plaque has been given to the Royal Marines, Deal, to commemorate the services of Ernie Gardner, who was a Royal Marine.

Mrs. Gardner, who was also presented with a memorial sum of money, wrote in a letter of thanks :—

‘ I wish to express my deep and sincere thanks to the Captain and Officers of the R.N.E. College and to all those who have subscribed towards the fund in memory of my late husband.

‘ It is indeed very gratifying to me to feel that the remembrance of my husband’s love and work for rugby football will be kept alive by the placing of plaques in the Home Ports. I can appreciate the amount of careful work which must have been carried out to produce such beautiful plaques.

‘ Further, I would like to thank you for your kindness and thought shown to me.’

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