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Correspondence should be addressed to:

MoD Sponsor:

**Jim Venvell
DES Ships FWE-NA-TD1
Birch 2a #3220
MoD Abbey Wood
Bristol
BS34 8JH**

**Telephone: 03067 932479
e-mail: desshipsfwe-na-td1@mod.uk**

The Editor:

**Professor Chris Hodge FREng
Journal of Naval Engineering,
BMT Defence Services Ltd,
Maritime House,
210 Lower Bristol Road
Bath, BA2 3DQ**

**Telephone: +44 (0)1225 473679
e-mail: CHodge@bmtdsl.co.uk**

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A FAREWELL BY THE CHIEF NAVAL ENGINEER OFFICER

REAR ADMIRAL BOB LOVE OBE

It is a truism that nothing lasts for ever, but nevertheless it is always a sad day when things we have treasured and thought, perhaps, a fixed part of our lives disappear. This is certainly true for the Journal of Naval Engineering. Due to the need for all of us to reduce costs, a majority of publications within the Ministry of Defence are to be discontinued. Despite a very large effort to save the JNE, and its sister publication the Review of Naval Engineering, a completely understandable decision to combine both has been made on financial grounds. Therefore this will be the last issue for the foreseeable future, and possibly forever, of the JNE in this format. The JNE has a wonderful history; its first issue appeared in 1946, but was itself a direct replacement for its predecessor the Papers on Engineering Subjects, which themselves stem from 1920. These publications have been, and remain a terrific source of engineering knowledge and experience; indeed reading through the early volumes can only lead to a sense of wonder at the outstanding innovation and high levels of sound engineering practice, analysis and judgement present in those days. And this is, of course, something we in our turn now seek to match and continue. But there is no doubt that we will now find it more difficult after the loss of our Journal.

The purpose of the Journal of Naval Engineering was to contribute to the education and, in modern day terms, the continuing professional development of all naval engineers at all levels and of all forms both in the Royal Navy and the wider Ministry of Defence. The JNE met these purposes by publishing articles and correspondence with a specific naval connection; it achieved a high standard normally perhaps more readily associated with austere academic publications, but crucially it avoided excessively mathematical or technical presentation. Overall the JNE has provided engineering information and reasoning in every field of naval engineering, including management; it also related personal experiences, both recent and historical, and thereby much enriched the reader.

The success of the JNE has been reliant over the years on engineers throughout the Royal Navy, MOD and Industry and others taking the time and effort to contribute to this high class publication. I offer my thanks to these people, without whom the JNE, and its undoubted success, would not have been possible.

Papers will still be published in the JNE/RNE 'phoenix' publication to be called "The Naval Engineer", within which we aim to utilise the very best from both publications.