

## PERSONAL NEWS

**Vice-Admiral Sir Robert [C.F.] Hill, KBE, BSc(Eng), CEng, FIMechE, FIMarE**, Chief Above-water Systems Executive, Deputy Controller of the Navy and Chief Naval Engineer Officer, was created a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire in the New Year Honours.

**Vice-Admiral N. Purvis, MA**, was promoted to that rank in December 1990 on being made Chief of Fleet Support and a member of the Admiralty Board.

Admiral Purvis joined the Royal Navy in 1953 as an electrical engineer officer and took a degree in general engineering at Selwyn College, Cambridge. As a junior officer in 1960 he joined the submarine service and after being the electrical officer of HMS *Turpin*, a conventional submarine, he qualified as a nuclear submarine specialist and then served for a total of seven years in HMS *Dreadnought* and HMS *Repulse*. After promotion to commander he served on the Naval Staff in the Ministry of Defence, and then as the squadron engineer for the Third Submarine Squadron before joining the staff of Flag Officer, Submarines.

He was promoted captain in 1978 and appointed project manager for changes to the Royal Navy Engineering Branch personnel and training. In 1980 he completed a course at the Royal College of Defence Studies and then joined the Chief Strategic Systems Executive in 1981. After serving as Chief Staff Officer (Engineering) to Flag Officer Submarines he took command of HMS *Collingwood* in 1985.

Promoted rear-admiral in March 1987, he became Director General Future Material Projects (Naval). Then in July 1988 he was appointed Director General Manpower and Training, which he remained until 1990.

**Captain W. Alexander, CEng, MIMechE, MIEE**, was placed on the retired list in January 1991, having served since 1987 as Assistant Chief of Staff to the Commander-in-Chief Allied Forces Southern Europe.

He entered the Navy in 1952. As a newly promoted commander in 1975–76 he was the Squadron WEO in HMS *Apollo* and then attended the National Defence College, Latimer. His next appointment was as Second Naval Assistant to the Controller until, in 1979, he became the Executive Officer of HMS *Vernon*. There followed a period, from 1981, as GWS 25 Acceptance and In-Service Support Manager.

Promoted captain in 1983, he was Assistant Director Seawolf at ASWE until 1987 when he went to the NATO Defence College in Rome as a student before taking up his final appointment.

**Captain R. G. Bridgeman, BSc**, retired in January 1991 after 34 years service.

He joined the Royal Navy in 1956 as an electrical cadet on Long Course 12 and after initial training at Britannia Royal Naval College and at sea, read for a London University degree at RN College Greenwich. Following service in HMS *Londonderry* during her first commission and time at HMS *Collingwood* and in Industry, he joined submarines in 1963, serving in HMS *Otter* for 2 years. After the Nuclear Reactor Course he joined HMS *Dreadnought* in 1966 for the last 18 months of her first commission and the first nuclear submarine refit in Rosyth. In 1970 he went to Bath to DPT7 and in 1972 joined HMS *Sovereign* building in Barrow as Senior Engineer Officer; she was commissioned in 1974 and he served in her until late 1975.

On promotion to commander in 1976 he was on the staff of DNST Greenwich before serving as Squadron Engineer Officer, Second Submarine Squadron from 1977–79. In 1980 he came to MOD London in the Naval Secretary's Officer Policy Section.

On promotion to captain in 1982 he attended the National Defence College, Latimer, before joining ACDS (Commitments) staff dealing with Middle East issues. From 1984–87 he returned to MOD(PE) as Director of Nuclear Propulsion and then concluded his career as Director of Naval Officer Appointments (Engineer).

**Captain J. A. P. Fuery, CEng, MIMechE**, was placed on the retired list in January 1991. He had been Assistant Director Large Auxiliaries in Bath since 1986.

Having entered the Royal Navy in 1954, his first post as a commander was as head of DPT 13 in the submarine world of Bath from 1973 to 1976. From there he went to HMS *Neptune* as Base Engineer Officer and Support Manager. Between 1978 and 1980 Commander Fuery was ship's and squadron MEO, first in HMS *Jupiter* and then in *Argonaut*. There followed three years in Bath as Superintendent of Nuclear Propulsion (Mechanical) and Trident Propulsion Plant.

On promotion to captain in 1983 he became Captain Support (Strategic Systems) in the Chief Strategic Systems Executive and from there he moved to his final appointment.

**Captain J. A. Gowen** retired in January 1991 after being the Naval Member, Nuclear and Underwater Weapons, on the Ordnance Board.

Having entered the Navy as a radio electrical artificer apprentice in 1952, he served as an artificer in minesweepers, including HMS *Sefton* at Suez, and in HMS *Tyne*. Becoming an Upper Yardman, he was promoted sub-lieutenant in 1961.

As a lieutenant-commander in 1970–72 he was on the training staff at Collingwood and played hockey vigorously, gaining a Naval Cup Winners Medal. On promotion to commander in 1976, duty as sonar analyst with the Defence Intelligence Staff was followed by appointment as the WEO of HMS *Cardiff* (1977–80). Then from 1980 to 1982 he was Deputy Fleet WEO on C-in-C Fleet's staff before joining *Stena Inspector* as Commander and Head of Maintenance. His last commander's appointment was with DGSW(N).

In 1986 Captain Gowen was Captain Surface Ship Acceptance in Bath and then, until 1989, was the Strategic Systems Executive Representative in Washington DC.

**Captain R. J. Killick, MA, CEng, FIEE, FIMechE, FINucE, FBIM**, was placed on the retired list in April 1991, after his final appointment as Chief Staff Officer (Nuclear) in HM Naval Base, Rosyth.

Having joined the Royal Navy in 1954, Captain Killick's first appointment as a commander had been at Rosyth Dockyard as Project Manager (Submarines other than SSBNs) in 1973–75. The next two years he spent as the Second Naval Assistant to the Controller and then from 1977 to 1980 he was WEO of HMS *Glasgow*. At Dounreay in 1980–82 he was Executive Officer of Vulcan NNPTE.

On promotion to captain in 1982 he returned to Rosyth as Nuclear Power Manager and moved from there to HMS *Neptune* in 1985 as Superintendent Base Support Clyde Submarine Base and Chief of Staff to Commodore Clyde. After carrying out a study for the Chief of Fleet Support in 1988–89, he returned yet again to Rosyth for his last appointment.

**Captain S. G. Palmer** was placed on the retired list in January 1991. He had served in the rank of commodore, as Commodore Admiralty Interview Board, since 1988.

Captain Palmer joined the Navy in 1958. Promoted commander in 1974, he was on the staff of FOST for two years before attending the National Defence College, Latimer. There followed a period with the Director of Fleet Maintenance and then he was the MEO of HMS *Bristol* from 1978 to 1980. In 1980–81 he was on C-in-C Fleet's staff until he became Deputy Director of Naval Recruiting (Officers), as acting captain at first until he was promoted in 1982. Captain Palmer was in charge of Naval Party 2010 in the South Atlantic and CSO(T) to the Senior Naval Officer Falkland Islands in 1984. After the Royal College of Defence Studies he became FMEO on the staff of C-in-C Fleet from 1985 to 1988 when he took up his last appointment, as a commodore.

**Captain Gordon Rodgers** retired in January 1991, his last appointment being at Faslane.

He joined *Collingwood*, as a Junior Electrician's Mate 2nd Class, in 1953, from the Boy Seamen's Mess in *Sheffield* where he took part in the Spithead Review. Initial training completed and selected for the Radio Air Branch, he did his early training in Radio and Radar at *Ariel*, Worthy Down and, as a rating, served with various Air Squadrons, at sea and ashore, being in *Albion* during the Suez War in 1956. Selected for Mechanician training, he was however successful in the Upper Yardman (L) examination, and subsequent training at *Temeraire*, Port Edgar, was followed by promotion to acting sub-lieutenant (L) at the end of 1957. After JOWC at RNC Greenwich and Subs' Courses, he went to the Far East for his first officer's job as Electrical Officer of *St. Bride's Bay*, in the 3rd Frigate Squadron. After a course in 1960 at *Collingwood*, he volunteered for submarines and joined *Dolphin* for the S/MOTC. He spent short spells in other submarines before joining *Thermopylae*, where a refit at Rosyth was followed by service in the 5th S/M Division in Malta.

After the Nuclear Reactor Course in 1963 he joined the staff of ARTE Dounreay, which was being built, for overseeing duties; he subsequently helped set up the new Training Department there and taught Nuclear Plant Operations. In 1966, he went to stand by *Renown* at Birkenhead, becoming as a lieutenant-commander the 1st Weapon Electrical Officer of the Port Crew. After Acceptance, he served at sea as Senior Technical Officer (Port) until he joined FOSM's Staff in 1970, as the first Electrical Officer in the newly combined ME team. Promoted in the job, he then became the Electrical Overseer at Barrow, with Vickers, during the very busy period which saw further SSNs join the Fleet, with *Sheffield*, the Argentine destroyer *Hercules* and *Invincible* building.

His subsequent jobs as a commander were in the S/M Weapons System Division of DUWP(N), at Portland, and in S/M Electrical Post-Design (DPT14) at Foxhill, Bath. While in a temporary job at NATO HQ, Brussels, in 1981 he was selected for captain and took over an Infrastructure Staff Planner's post there, on the International Military Staff. On return to UK, in 1984, he became the RN Job Evaluation Judge; but in 1985 he took over as the Spearfish System Project Manager, in DGUW(N) at Egdon Hall. In 1988 he became Captain Submarine Maintenance, CSO(Nuclear) and CSO(E) to Commodore Clyde at Faslane.

**Captain B. A. Rutherford, MBE, BA, MIMechE**, died on 24 August 1990. He had been Deputy Director Nuclear in the Directorate of Naval Security.

He entered the Navy in 1951 and was promoted commander in 1974. From then until 1977 he was at Chatham, first as Senior Test Director (Propulsion) and then as Head of Dockyard Test Organisation. An appointment as Submarine Flotilla Refit Officer on FOSM's staff was followed by being MEO of HMS *Intrepid* (1980-82).

Promotion to captain occurred in 1983 while he was serving at Bath in submarine posts. From 1985 he was Captain Support Strategic Systems in the Chief Strategic Systems Executive, before moving to DNSy in 1987.

**Rear-Admiral M. A. Vallis, CB, FEng, FIMarE, MIMechE**, who left the active list of the Royal Navy in 1986, was appointed President of The Institute of Marine Engineers for a period of two years from 7 March 1991. A summary of his Service career was given in the *Journal of Naval Engineering* for December 1986.



REAR-ADMIRAL M. A. VALLIS, PRESIDENT OF THE INSTITUTE  
OF MARINE ENGINEERS