

PERSONAL NEWS

Vice-Admiral H. L. O. Thompson, C.Eng., F.I.Mech.E., was promoted to his present rank in August 1986 and appointed Deputy Controller Warships. He is the only engineer officer at present to be a vice-admiral, and in February 1987 he will become Chief Naval Engineer Officer.

Admiral Thompson entered the Royal Navy as an artificer apprentice in 1946, and subsequently joined Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth as a special entry cadet(E) in 1948. After training at the Royal Naval Engineering College Manadon and Keyham, he obtained his watchkeeping certificate in H.M.S. *Manxman*. Following an appointment in H.M.S. *Bermuda* as a watchkeeping engineer officer he attended the Advanced Marine Engineering Course at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich. From 1957-59 he served as the Senior Engineer of H.M.S. *Duchess* before returning to Greenwich to undergo the Nuclear Advanced Course. He was then appointed to the Dreadnought Project Team as an Assistant Inspector in the Reactor Section. In 1963 he stood by the building of H.M.S. *Arethusa*, subsequently serving as the Engineer Officer. Promoted commander in 1967, he joined H.M.S. *Triumph* as the Engineer Officer whilst the ship was stationed in the Far East. From there he went to Derby as the Naval Liaison Officer at Rolls-Royce and Associates Ltd., returning to Bath in 1972 as the Head of the Reactor Plant Section. Promoted captain in 1975, he attended the Senior Officers' War Course and was appointed to Bath as the Assistant Director Submarines (Mechanical). He attended the Royal College of Defence Studies during 1980.

In 1981 was appointed as Deputy Director Systems Design I in Bath as a commodore; under reorganization this post became Director General Marine Engineering and he remained in it on promotion to rear-admiral in 1983. Then in August 1984 he became Director General Surface Ships which he remained until his latest promotion.

Rear-Admiral R. A. Isaac, C.Eng., F.I.Mar.E., M.I.Mech.E., was promoted to flag rank in August 1986 and appointed as Director General Marine Engineering in Bath.

Admiral Isaac entered Dartmouth as a special entry cadet in 1951. Following sea training in H.M.S. *Devonshire* and H.M.S. *Illustrious* he joined the Royal Naval Engineering College. On completion of the Basic Course there he spent one year in H.M.S. *Superb*, obtained a watchkeeping ticket and returned to the College to specialize in Marine Engineering. As a section officer in H.M.S. *Albion* he served for two years before returning from the Far East to complete the submarine course. In conventional submarines he served in H.M.S. *Scotsman*, *Solent* and *Aurochs*, and then went to R.N. College Greenwich to do the Nuclear Reactor Course.

In 1963 he joined DPT within Ship Department and served for two years in DPT7 (Safety of Nuclear Operations). Appointed to H.M.S. *Warspite*, building at Barrow, in 1965 he finally left her as Senior Engineer Officer at the end of 1969 and returned to Bath. After promotion to commander in 1970 he served as Head of DPT13, the running submarine section, before moving to DPT2 as Head of Section dealing with new construction submarines. Returning to surface ships as the MEO in H.M.S. *Blake* in 1974–76 he was subsequently appointed to 2nd Sea Lord's Department as the ME officers' appointer. Promoted to captain in 1977, after preparatory courses he became Naval Attaché Tokyo and Seoul. On return to U.K. in 1981 he again joined Ship Department as Assistant Director Post Design and, following re-organization of the Department, became Director Surface Ships (C). In August 1984 he took command of H.M.S. *Thunderer*, the Royal Naval Engineering College, where he remained until his recent promotion.

Rear-Admiral Ewan Maclean, C.B., C.Eng., F.I.Mech.E., F.R.I.N.A., retired in June 1986 after 43½ years service in the Royal Navy.

He joined as a 13-year-old cadet on 1st January 1943, and in 1947 transferred from the Executive to the Engineering Branch. In addition to cruisers and destroyers, both under training and on complement, he served in several aircraft carriers (real ones, he says), including H.M.S. *Illustrious*, under training in 1947, and H.M.S. *Ark Royal* as MEO in 1971–1972. Other appointments included Kuala Lumpur as Staff Technical Officer to the Royal Malaysian Navy (1965–68) during its build-up; H.M.S. *Sultan* as Executive Officer in 1972; H.M. Dockyard Portsmouth as main grade (1968–71), during which he was the mechanical engineer building H.M.S. *Andromeda*—the last warship built in that yard—; and Devonport as Deputy Manager (1974–77). In 1977 as FMEO he devised the move of the Fleet Engineering Staff to Northwood and the devolution of control of ship maintenance and refits to the port areas.

Returning to Portsmouth at manager level in 1981 after a year at the Royal College of Defence Studies, he became responsible for the Production Department and for trades union negotiations which changed working practices and enabled the Naval Base concept to be implemented. Promoted to rear-admiral in 1983, he was made Director General Fleet Support Policy and Services.

He is a liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Engineers and a member of the Brunel Society. He is a great admirer of Lady Hamilton.

Rear-Admiral M. A. Vallis, C.B., C.Eng., M.I.Mech.E., F.I.Mar.E., retired in October 1986, after more than 43 years service in the Navy.

Admiral Vallis became a Dartmouth cadet in 1943 and then, electing to become an engineer officer, he went to Manadon, with sea training in *Frobisher* and the battleship *Howe*. He joined H.M.S. *Vanguard* in May 1951 and subsequently took the Advanced Marine Engineering Course at the R.N. College, Greenwich, from 1952 to 1954. He became the Senior ME Watchkeeper of H.M.S. *Triumph* in August 1954, and in January 1965 joined the Ship Department as Assistant Inspector of Flight Deck Machinery. Following a period of service in the French ship *Clemenceau* and as MEO of H.M.S. *Scorpion*, he became the Senior Marine Engineer on the staff of the R.N. Engineering College at Manadon. He was promoted commander in December 1965, and at the end of 1966 took the Short Course in nuclear engineering at Greenwich. After spending two and a half years in the Ship Department in charge of the marine engineering section of the Forward Design Group, he was appointed MEO of H.M.S. *Fearless* in July 1969. In 1971 he attended the Joint Services Staff College at Latimer, and then became Deputy Director of Naval Operations and Trade. He was promoted captain in December 1973 and returned to the Ship Department as an Assistant Director of Warship Design. In 1977 he assumed command of H.M.S. *Cochrane*, the Fleet Accommodation Centre in Rosyth, and in 1979 he became the Director of Naval Recruiting in London.

He was promoted to flag rank in February 1983 and became successively Director General Surface Ships, in August 1983, and Director General Marine Engineering, in August 1984, remaining in this last post until his retirement.

Commodore J. P. Loughnan, M.B.C.S., retired from the Navy in August 1986, having been Director Quality Assurance Policy since 1983.

He joined as an artificer apprentice in 1947 and served as an Electrical Artificer (Air), from 1951 to 1955, at R.N.A.S. *Culdrose*, *Eglinton* and *Gosport*. After further training he was appointed as the Electrical Officer of H.M.S. *Alamein* (1957-59). Two years as a divisional officer in H.M.S. *St. Vincent* was followed (1961-63) as Sea Trials Officer for Sonars and Underwater Weapons. He stood by H.M.S. *Fife* (whose WEO was then Commander Lindsay Bryson) and served in her until 1967. After the Naval Staff Course (1968) and an appointment at ASWE (1969-70), he became WEO of H.M.S. *Argonaut* and was promoted commander. Having been the Senior Technical Officer of H.M.S. *Dryad* from 1972 to 1974, he went to South Africa (1974-76) as Assistant Naval Attaché and Executive Officer of H.M.S. *Afrikander* at Simonstown. A spell at H.M.S. *Collingwood* was followed by H.M.S. *Fife* (again), as WEO, where he was promoted captain in 1978.

From 1979 to 1981 Captain Loughnan was Head of Branch C in Mat.Coord.(N), and then his appointment as Deputy Director Ship Weapon Systems at Foxhill lasted until his final appointment as DQAP in 1983.

Captain J. J. Mitchell, C.Eng., F.I.Mech.E., F.I.E.E., retired in April 1986, from the post of Director of Quartering (Navy) in which he was responsible for the MOD(N) civil engineering programme.

He joined the Navy in 1950, being trained at Dartmouth, Manadon, and at sea. In the 1950s he served as ordnance engineer in H.M.S. *Diana* and *Daring*, before being appointed to the staff at Manadon. A post in Devonport Dockyard (1960-62) was followed by one on the staff of C-in-C Home Fleet (1960-64). Then from 1965 until 1968 he was Deputy WEO in H.M.S. *Ark Royal* and then *Eagle*. After a training appointment in H.M.S. *Ganges* he was promoted commander and became SWEO to the 6th Frigate Squadron in H.M.S. *Andromeda* (1970-72). Time with Chief Executive Dockyards was followed (1974-77) by being SWEO to Flag Officer Sea Training.

Promoted captain in 1977, he was in H.M. Dockyard Devonport until 1979 brought a temporary appointment as Base Superintendent at Faslane. After being Naval Attaché Buenos Aires and Monte Video, he took up his final appointment in 1982 as D of Q(N). He retired early to become the Director, Engineering Services, at the Dubai Aluminium Co., Ltd.

Captain J. D. Peakall, C.Eng., M.I.Mech.E., retired in June 1986.

He joined the Navy as a special entry cadet(E) in September 1949. Following junior officers' training at sea and at the Royal Naval Engineering College Manadon, he obtained his ME watchkeeping ticket before specializing in Ordnance Engineering. Duty in H.M.S. *Cumberland*, H.M.S. *Sultan* and in the Directorate of Naval Ordnance preceded an appointment as Ordnance Engineer Officer standing by H.M.S. *Blake* in 1960. Promoted lieutenant-commander, he then enjoyed three years' loan service with the Royal Canadian Navy. After cross-training he served as WEO in H.M. ships *Agincourt* and *Grenville*, being promoted commander in 1969. After duty in DGW(N) he was Director of Engineering at R.N.E. College before a further sea job as WEO of H.M.S. *Devonshire*. He was promoted captain in 1978 whilst serving as Deputy Captain Weapons Trials. After work in MOD Central Staff he was appointed to DGW(N) at Portland as Assistant Director Submarine Weapons Systems in March 1981, where he particularly enjoyed his responsibilities for the UPHOLDER Class. His final appointment, as Captain Weapon Trials and Assessment commenced in November 1983.

Captain A. E. Sturgeon, C.Eng., M.I.Mech.E., M.R.Ae.S., retired in September 1986 having been a Board President at the Admiralty Interview Board since February 1985.

Captain Sturgeon entered the Navy as an aircraft artificer apprentice in 1947. After completion of his apprenticeship at H.M.S. *Fisgard* and *Condor*, he was selected for Upper Yardman training in 1954. He then completed further training at sea, the Royal Naval College Greenwich, B.R.N.C. Dartmouth, and the R.N.E.C. Manadon. Part of this time was spent in H.M.S. *Forth* and *Diamond*, where he gained a marine engineering watchkeeping certificate and bridge watchkeeping certificate. The latter was one of the first to be given to an engineer officer.

On completion of the air engineering application course, he left the R.N.E.C. in 1958 and had sea appointments in H.M.S. *Centaur* and *Ark Royal* followed by two years (1961-1963) as a training officer at H.M.S. *Condor*. This was followed by a further sea appointment in H.M.S. *Victorious*. On promotion to lieutenant-commander he became the air engineer officer of 831 Naval Air Squadron operating in the middle of Norfolk at R.A.F. Watton. He returned to training as a divisional officer and the rugby officer at B.R.N.C. Dartmouth from 1966 to 1968. He then became the air engineer officer of 814 Naval Air Squadron (the first Wessex Mk 3 squadron) which embarked in H.M.S. *Hermes* from 1968 to 1969. After a short spell on the staff of F.O.N.A.C., he was promoted to commander in 1971.

He completed the first of the year-long staff courses at Latimer in 1972 and then returned to sea in H.M.S. *Bulwark* as the air engineer officer. Next came a technical staff appointment in the department of the Controller of the Navy. Then, in 1976 he was appointed as the Commander of the R.N.E.C. Manadon where he remained until selected for promotion to captain in 1978.

His first appointment as a captain was as Captain Aircraft Repair on the staff of F.O.N.A.C., where he was also chairman of Fleet Air Arm rugby. He then had two years (1981-1983) as Captain Support (Strategic Systems)

with the responsibility of setting up the shore support facilities for the Trident programme. After this, he became the Captain of H.M.S. *Caledonia* before joining H.M.S. *Sultan* for the Admiralty Interview Board.