



VICE-ADMIRAL SIR THOMAS SANDARS, K.B.E., C.B.

## FAREWELL TO THE FLEET

Little more than a year ago I wrote a Foreward in the *Journal* as Head of the old Engineering Specialization and now I am writing my Farewell as Head of the Combined Engineering Specialization. This change reflects one of the most important events ever to take place in the long history of Naval Engineering. I am convinced that the new system, whereby officers and men are professionally trained in either mechanical or electrical engineering and deployed into functional sub-specializations, is a great step forward in meeting the needs of a modern navy in which sophisticated equipments and machinery make the old professional demarcations an anachronism.

Though the Chief Naval Engineering Officer and his Deputy, who are of different professional training, will guide the Specialization during this period of transition, success will depend almost entirely upon the good sense and co-operation of individuals.

In our modern navy which is in the process of adapting itself to meet the needs of a maritime policy based on mobility and flexibility, under the limitation of financial stringency, continual development of our organization is inevitable. It is no use sighing for a period of stability or for the 'good old days'.

Within this changing scene we must always remember that the aim and duty of the Engineering Specialization—to provide the Fleet with the best possible service—remains completely unchanged.

My final message is, therefore, to concentrate on the fundamentals of our job : sound leadership, good management and technical competence.

I leave the Navy full of confidence in your future and wish you all every good fortune.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "A. K. Sanders". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent underline.

**VICE-ADMIRAL SIR THOMAS SANDARS, K.B.E., C.B., M.I.Mech.E.**

The announcement of the retirement from active service of the Chief Naval Engineer Officer, Vice-Admiral Sir Thomas Sandars, marked the end of a long and distinguished career of one of the Navy's most widely experienced officers in the engineering and administrative fields.

His entry into the Navy in May, 1918, when he joined the R.N. College, Osborne, as a cadet, was the beginning of 44 years' service which led him through many important appointments to the top of his Specialization.

His early years were spent mainly in submarines and in submarine staff appointments at home and abroad, and during the War he was the Engineer Officer of the Malta Submarine Flotilla. After the War he led the Anglo-U.S. team which took control of 'U-Boat High Command' and he remained in Germany as 'Staff Officer U-Boats' until completion of the U-Boat disarmament. Later, as a senior Captain, he served as the Fleet Engineer Officer on the Staff of Flag Officer Submarines.

After promotion to Rear-Admiral in 1956 he became the Deputy Chief of Naval Personnel (Training and Manning) being the first technical officer of Flag Rank to be given a General List appointment, and since 1958 he has served at the Admiralty, Bath, first as the Director of Fleet Maintenance and later as the Director of Dockyards and Maintenance. He undertook the additional responsibilities of Chief Naval Engineer Officer in 1960 and in the following year, with the amalgamation of the Engineering and Electrical Specializations, became the first Head of the combined Engineering Specialization.

Admiral Sandars was made a C.B. in the New Year's Honours of 1959 and created a K.B.E. in the New Year's Honours of 1962.