



VICE-ADMIRAL SIR FRANK MASON, K.C.B..  
Engineer-in-Chief of the Fleet


## FAREWELL TO THE FLEET

I have to say goodbye to you all when many things are uncertain. I can only state my personal faith that once these uncertainties have been cleared away, as they will be quite soon, service in the Navy will be as satisfying as it has ever been.

The future holds much for those who take up engineering but, as in other fields of human endeavour, we must really believe in the rightness of what we are doing and do it with patience and steadfastness, if the many possibilities are to come to full fruition.

Engineering in the Royal Navy stands where it has always done ; to serve the Fleet and not be found wanting in so doing. In addition to professional excellence, this involves working in partnership with all those brother officers, both naval and civil, who have their own particular contributions to make to the efficiency and well-being of the Navy ; they can only contribute fully with your co-operation.

I send you all my deep gratitude for your support during my term of office and my best wishes to you and your families.



F. I. Mason

## AN APPRECIATION

Admiral Mason has been Engineer-in-Chief of the Fleet during a period in which the most far-reaching changes have been initiated in both the technical and personnel aspects of the Royal Navy. To the tasks which he has performed in both the marine engineering and ordnance engineering fields he has brought a profound singleness of purpose, that whatever is done shall be for the good of the Service as a whole. His abiding interest is the study of humanity, and he has always taken great pains to 'know' people of all branches and ranks in the Service and to learn about their families and their opinions. With his sincerity and great humility, however, went a determination to uphold and enhance the office to which he was appointed. There is no doubt that his obvious integrity resulted in his opinions being trusted and respected by the Committee on the new officer structure, and in his exerting a very real influence on the sound foundation which has been laid for the future development of the Navy. Some of his ambitions, of course, still remain to be achieved, but all of them, such as common entry and training for officers, are designed to enhance unity and mutual understanding and the efficiency of the Service as a whole.

Those who have had the privilege of working closely with him will undoubtedly remember the quick insight which enabled him to pick out any false note or dishonesty in an argument, his sense of humour and his courage.

But above and beyond everything has lain his deep sense of the reality of Christian beliefs in everyday life and his very real concern for every individual for whom he has been responsible.

We wish him a very happy retirement.