

## Obituary

### Marc Eyriès (1919-2005) Ingénieur général de l'armement (hydrographe)

Marc Eyriès, *ingénieur général de l'armement (hydrographe)* died 9 August last. The persons who served under his command will remember him as a rigorous and demanding man who was at the same time very human and possessed a natural kindness.

Born in 1919, Marc Eyriès joined the French national Navy in 1939. Soon after the naval academy he was assigned overseas and during the war served in the Atlantic Ocean, the Mediterranean Sea and the Channel. Then he participated in mine clearing operations, after which he joined the hydrographic service of the Navy in 1949. Since then, his activities were solely dedicated to national and international hydrography and oceanography. He took part in the hydrographic campaigns on the French and Moroccan coasts in 1950-1951. He led a campaign on the coast of Madagascar in 1951-1952 and one on the French coast in 1961-1962.

Specialised in the study of ocean dynamics - most particularly tides - he lectured Ocean Dynamics at the Faculty of Sciences in Paris and he taught at the school of the hydrographic service from 1954 to 1971. A great scientist as well as a great engineer, he was a pioneer of the dynamics at oceanic scale and contributed significantly to France's top position in that field.

All along his career and after his transit to the second section in the Navy he made valuable contributions to numer-

ous organisations concerned with the ocean. From 1955 to 1959, he was a member (including chairman in 1958) of the Consultative Committee of Ocean Sciences of UNESCO, from which originated the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). He was also vice-secretary of the International Association for the Physical Sciences of the Oceans (IAPSO) from 1957 to 1967 and chairman of the association's committee on tides from 1965 to 1975. Moreover, he was chairman of the hydrographic surveys of the land surveyors' international federation, member of the Naval Academy, and member of the improvement committee of the French Oceanographic Institute. Finally, he actively contributed to the organisation of French oceanographic research, particularly within the committee of



ocean exploration, the national centre of scientific research and the French national committee of Geodesy and Geophysics (CNFGG), which he presided.

Before being appointed director of the Navy's oceanographic service, Eyriès was included in the management of the hydrographic and oceanographic service: he was head of the *bureau établissements et missions*, which organises and controls all the service's activities at sea and on land.

On 5 October 1981, Marc Eyriès ceased his activities as managing director of the Navy's hydrographic and oceanographic service which had been his position since 1 February 1976. It was the end of an impressive career which brought him world fame in the hydrographic and oceanographic field.

He was Commander of Legion of Honour, Commander of the National Order of Merit, decorated with the Medal of the War Cross 1939-1945 with Palm, officer in the Order of Academic Palms, Naval Merit Officer and Chevalier of the Anjouan Star Order and of the Black Star Order. His scientific and technical research allowed him to be awarded the Plumey Prize of the *Académie des Sciences* in 1964 and the *Grande Médaille d'or of the Ordre des Géomètres* in 1978.

We, present and retired hydrographers, are all sad today that Marc Eyriès died and we deeply sympathise with the grief his family and friends must all feel.

*L'ingénieur général de l'armement* Yves Desnoës, Director of the French Navy's hydrographic and oceanographic service

## Obituary

### Norman Gerald Gray (1906-2005) Canadian Dominion Hydrographer

It will be the rare few that will mark the passing of a major contributor to hydrography in Canada. It is not because that he was unliked, or egotistical but rather he outlived his contemporaries and even outlasted the next generation of Canadian Hydrographic Service staff. Norman Gerald Gray lived into his 100th year keeping a clear mind until the last six months or so.

'Norm' as he was usually called, was born in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia into a family of seafarers and boat-builders. He obtained a B.Sc. in mining engineering from Nova Scotia Technical College in 1929. By then, he had had four seasons with the Topographic Survey of the Canadian government and had already passed the preliminary examinations to become a Dominion Land Surveyor.

Soon the Depression hit and jobs were hard to come by, but Norm was able to get short assignments with mining companies in Newfoundland (not yet part of Canada) and Quebec. Times being tough, he was fortunate to get a junior hydrographer position with the Canadian Hydrographic Service in 1930. His career there lasted 37 years. His first survey was on the old steamer *Bayfield (2)* as she investigated a recently reported pinnacle rock in the middle of deepest section of Lake Superior almost beyond sight of land. The rock, a danger to navigation, is now known as Superior Shoal.

By 1939, he was senior assistant on the steamer *Cartier* working in the Cape Breton area of Nova Scotia. He became hydrographer-in-charge of a