



### REAR-ADMIRAL SIR DAVID HASLAM

Rear-Admiral Sir David Haslam, President of the Directing Committee of the International Hydrographic Bureau from 1987 to 1992 died peacefully during the first weekend of August 2009. He had first represented the United Kingdom at the I H Conference in 1967. His co-directors during that period were Adam J.Kerr(Canada) and Vice Admiral Alfredo Civetta ( Italy). Under Sir David's skilful guidance the International Hydrographic Organisation was led through a critical time of introducing new technology and increased interaction with other international organizations, in particular the International Maritime Organisation and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO.

Prior to being elected to be President of the IHB Sir David had had a distinguished naval career both in the United Kingdom and Australia. After spending two years as the Hydrographer of Australia in 1975 he became the Hydrographer of the Navy (UK) and was promoted to Rear Admiral. He held that post for ten years. On leaving the navy at the end of that term he became, for two years, the acting Conservator to the River Mersey. During his long career, which started as a midshipman in 1942 he was employed on many ships and in many parts of the world. In 1942 he opted to become a surveyor and was involved in a number of strategic wartime surveys. He was promoted to commander in 1957, the first of his six commands, which took him to many places that today are of great strategic navigational importance. These included surveys for deep draft shipping in the English Channel and overseas surveys in the Persian Gulf, the West Indies, Malaya and Borneo. One of his more interesting missions was in the rescue of 180 women and children from the Zanzibar Revolt of 1964. This writer first came into contact with him when he was an instructor at Chatham in 1956.

Sir David was given many honours during his career. These included being a Fellow and President of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Navigation, Fellow and Vice-President of the Royal Geographic Society, Vice-president of the Nautical Institute, President of the Field Survey Association, a liveryman of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners and a Younger Brother of Trinity House.

Besides his numerous professional achievements the hydrographic community will remember Sir David as gregarious and social. During his career both as a naval officer in Australia and the United Kingdom he made many friends. These friendships were kept up throughout his life by visits and by his correspondence. He was noted for sending Christmas cards, including meticulous written exchanges, to over 600 correspondents. He was a bachelor who never drove a car, instead saying that he would expect his godchildren, nephews and nieces, to who he was most generous, to drive him wherever he wanted to go. His most well known social adventure was to own a long term lease in Cranley Gardens, south Kensington, to which he invited the sons and daughters of his many friends, naval and other, from around the world to stay with him and enjoy his hospitality. At Cranley Gardens he also invited his hydrographic colleagues from many parts of the world and his hospitality in the community was famous.

Sir David's sphere of interest went far beyond that of hydrography and even the navy. He took a great interest in young people and this was particularly focused on Bromsgrove School, to which he had gone as a young student. After retiring from the IHB he joined the Board of governors of the School and for a time was its chairman. During his time in Monaco many of the students and their masters enjoyed his hospitality. Besides these activities he was President of the English Schools Basketball Association, the Derby and Taunton Sea Cadets. He had a great interest in sports, particularly cricket and was for a time President of the Derbyshire County Cricket Club.

Before leaving him his particular interests in Monaco may be mentioned. He took a great interest in the well being of the staff at the IHB, many of whom he was on both professional and social terms. As befitted his position as President of the IHB he was on close social terms with Prince Rainier. Perhaps it was as a member of the Monte Carlo Club that he came on the closest social terms with residents of the community, at least the English speaking members. Anyone who had contact with him during his time in office in Monaco will remember his association with Rosie's Bar, a quite humble hostelry close to the site where the Bureau was then located. This establishment was inhabited by the drivers and engineers during the Monaco Grand Prix but during the five yearly Conferences of the IHO it was said that more decisions were made by high ranking naval officers in Rosie's Bar than in the conference hall!

**Rear-Admiral Sir David Haslam, KBE, CBE, was born on June 26, 1923. He died during the first weekend in August 2009, aged 86.**

Note: Many of the facts of this obituary have been extracted from the Register, The Times, August 18,2009

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[Back to Contents](#)