

OBITUARY

AMMIRAGLIO DI DIVISIONE ALFREDO VIGLIERI

MARINA ITALIANA

(1900 — 1979)

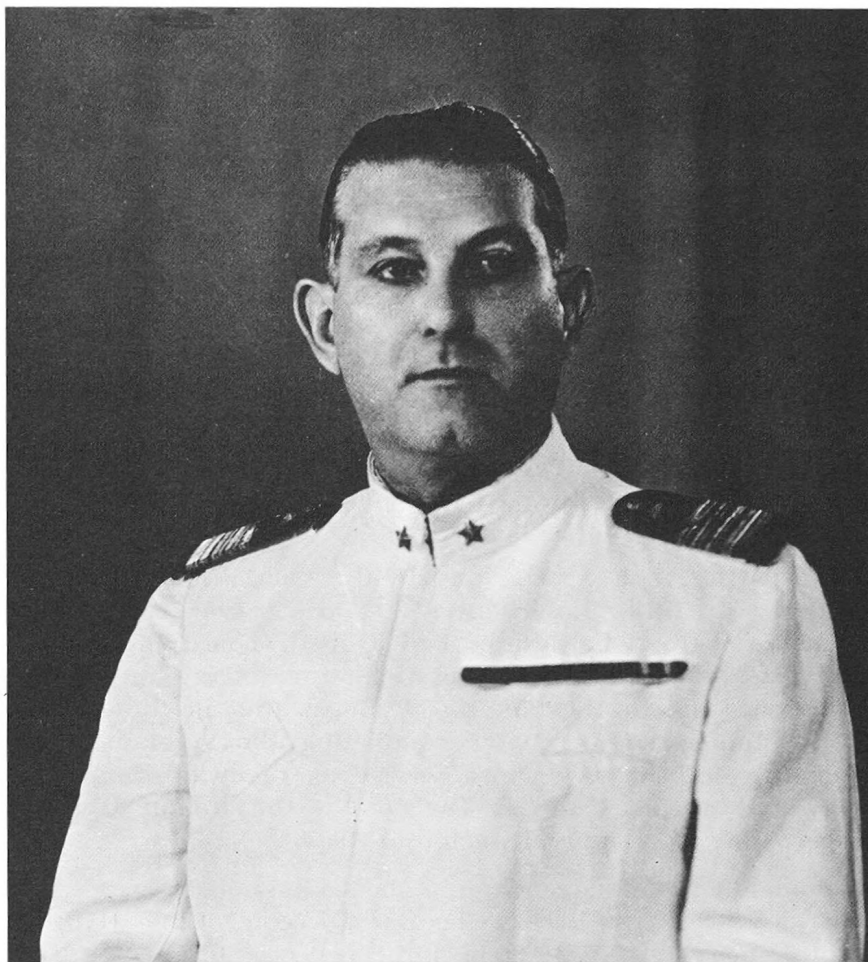
Admiral Alfredo VIGLIERI, the distinguished Italian hydrographer, for fifteen years a member of the IHB Directing Committee, died in Genoa on 4 June 1979 after a short illness.

Born at Sarzana, La Spezia, on 2 July 1900, VIGLIERI entered the Naval Academy in 1914. Later, after 3 years' service as a navigating officer in destroyers and battleships and a spell aboard the Royal Yacht *Savoia*, he turned to hydrography, participating during the early 1920s in surveys carried out by the *Panaria* off Libya and the *Magnaghi* in the Red Sea and Indian Ocean. After completing the specialist course in hydrography in 1927 he saw shore service as Chief of the Division of Cartography and of the Compass Division at the Italian Hydrographic Institute, becoming its Deputy Director in 1939.

As Commander, and later Captain, he commanded several warships during World War II. In 1947 he became Director of the Hydrographic Institute in Genoa, a post he held until his election to the Directing Committee at the 1952 I.H. Conference. He was re-elected at the Conferences of 1957 and 1962, becoming President in August 1965 after the death in office of Admiral PIERCE, the elected President. He retired at the end of his mandate in 1967, and thereafter divided his time between the Principality and his homeland.

Admiral VIGLIERI was a member of numerous Italian scientific and nautical societies, and the author of various hydrographic and geodetic publications. Whilst at the IHB he contributed a number of papers to the *International Hydrographic Review* including two on the participation

of the IHB in the work of the International Association of Geodesy. He also shaped the first edition of SP 39, the IHB publication on radio aids to maritime navigation and hydrography, and was the coordinator of the IHB's contribution to the GEBCO programme.



He had earlier published an account of his part in the ill-fated Arctic Expedition of the airship *Italia* in 1928, an expedition that was to end tragically in the loss of the dirigible. VIGLIERI himself spent 48 days on the pack ice before being rescued.

Admiral VIGLIERI held many Italian decorations—among them the Ordine Militare d'Italia, Medaglia Mauriziana in oro, Cavaliere Ufficiale della Corona d'Italia, Cavaliere Ufficiale dell'Ordine "Al merito della Repubblica Italiana".

VIGLIERI had been honoured by the Prince of Monaco when his ship, the *Zeno*, visited Monaco in March 1934; at that time he was named "Officier dans l'Ordre de St. Charles". He was later to be promoted "Commandeur" in this same order in November 1955 on the occasion of Monaco's National Day, and finally "Grand Officier" in November 1967.

After his retirement in 1967, he often visited the Bureau to enquire how the work was progressing whilst he continued his interest in the progress of the GEBCO charts. The Directing Committee and the staff will miss too his traditional annual visit for he had been in the habit of conveying personally his seasonal good wishes just before Christmas.

Admiral VIGLIERI's tall and commanding figure was regularly to be seen, together with his charming wife Costanza, at the Command Performance at the Salle Garnier on the night of the "Fête du Prince" and there also he will be missed by his many friends in Monaco. He was an Emeritus Member of the Monte-Carlo Club where he was always welcome at Club functions and where his courtesy and charm were much appreciated.

With the passing of Admiral VIGLIERI the hydrographic community loses a hydrographer who had devoted a large part of his working life to the ideals of the International Hydrographic Organization.

G. S. R.