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## VICE-ADMIRAL JOHN D. NARES, D.S.O., R.N.

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The announcement of the death on 18th January, 1957, of Vice-Admiral John D. NARES, D.S.O., R.N., who had been President and Director of the International Hydrographic Bureau for the last twenty-five years, was received with deep regret by all who knew him — and particularly by all hydrographers.

In his official capacity at the Bureau, he was one of the most widely-known of those engaged in the science of hydrography, and his services in encouraging international coordination and cooperation between hydrographic offices have long been widely recognized.

Elected President of the International Hydrographic Bureau in 1932, he took on these responsibilities at a time when the goals and duties of that organization, as indicated by the many fundamental differences that arose at the 1926, 1929 and 1932 International Hydrographic Conferences, had not as yet been broadly accepted.

During his early administration of the Bureau, his wise and conservative direction guided that organization safely through a period of unrest in which, due in some case to the unsettled international situation, as many as ten States-Members felt it incumbent on themselves to withdraw their membership.

Remaining at his post until 1941, when developments in the international situation compelled him to return to the United Kingdom, Admiral Nares continued to assist in the guidance of the Bureau from his position in the British Admiralty, to which he was assigned during the war years.

Returning to the Bureau in 1945, he had the satisfaction of seeing the organization under his Presidency strengthen its already solid position in the esteem of its States-Members, and the continued growth of the Bureau from what was then its smallest membership of sixteen to its present membership of thirty-seven is due in no small measure not only to the confidence that the hydrographic offices of the world placed in his hydrographic ability and knowledge, to their appreciation of his kindly disposition and his ability to mix with people of other nations, but equally to their certain knowledge that he could never be guilty of an unethical or mean action.

Even when he was no longer able to leave his bed, he maintained the keenest interest in the Bureau's affairs, and his wise counsel was sought and considered to within a very few days of his death.

His activities in the Bureau necessitated his maintaining a great many close contacts with those oceanographic, geodetic and specialized organizations with which hydrography is closely associated, and his services as President of the Mean Sea Level Committee and as Joint Secretary of the International Committee on the Nomenclature of Ocean Bottom Features added to the appreciation with which he was held by all his associates.

His brother directors, the Secretary-General and the staff of the International Hydrographic Bureau are grievously saddened to lose his friendship, his guidance and his presence.

As the younger son of Admiral Sir George Nares, he, like his father and elder brother George, chose the Navy as his career and joined the training ship *Britannia* as a naval cadet. In 1898, being by that time a sub-lieutenant, he was appointed to the *Triton*, and there commenced his association with the surveying branch of the Navy in which he continued to serve during the whole of his time on the active list.

After a brief period in home waters, he was appointed to the *Penguin* and for the next eight years remained on the Australian Station, assisting in surveys of New Zealand, Queensland and Tasmania. Returning to England in 1907, he next went to the *Research* for a season, and a year later joined the *Egeria* in British Columbia. In 1910 he succeeded to the command, and on the final paying off of the *Egeria* was appointed to command the *Fantome* for surveys in the Buccaneer Archipelago on the west coast of Australia.

Promoted to Commander in 1913, he served in the Hydrographic Department of the Admiralty until 1917, when he took command of the *Enterprise* and distinguished himself during naval operations on the coast of Palestine, for which service he was awarded the D.S.O.

In 1919 he was promoted to Captain and, after a period of service in the Mediterranean and Red Sea in the *Enterprise* and the *Merlin*, returned to the Admiralty as superintendent of charts. In 1923 he was surveying the West African coast in the *Endeavour* and in 1925 became Assistant Hydrographer of the Navy until 1928, when he took over the *Iroquois*, surveying the Straits of Malacca.

His final active service was once again as Assistant Hydrographer, and on promotion to Rear-Admiral he was placed on the retired list.

During 1931-32 he executed surveys of Bharanager Channel on the west coast of India.

In 1932, he was elected President of the Directing Committee of the International Hydrographic Bureau at Monaco and was re-elected President in 1937 and again in 1947, and was a Director until his death.

