

OBITUARY

ADMIRAL SIR HERBERT EDWARD PUREY-CUST K. B. E., C. B.

Admiral Sir Herbert Edward Purey-Cust, K.B.E., C.B., was born in 1857 and entered the Royal Navy in 1870. He specialised in Hydrographic Surveying and as a Lieutenant was appointed to H.M.S. FAWN as an Assistant Surveyor in 1882.

After serving in the Red Sea, on the East Coast of Africa, in China and in the Pacific, he was in 1892 given charge of a survey and appointed to command H.M.S. DART on the Australia Station.

Promoted to Commander in 1894 he was next appointed to the Hydrographic Department and in 1897 was in command of H.M.S. RAMBLER surveying in N. America, the West Indies and the West Coast of Africa.

In 1900 he was promoted to Captain and in 1902 was appointed to H.M.S. TRITON for charge of surveys in the British Isles.

On Captain Tizard's retirement in 1897, Captain Cust became Assistant Hydrographer and in 1909 was appointed Hydrographer of the Navy, a post which he held until 31st August, 1914.

Promoted to Rear-Admiral in 1910 he became an Admiral on the retired list in 1919.

Admiral Cust saw service in Egypt in 1884-85 and in South Africa in 1900. On relinquishing the post of Hydrographer he applied for service afloat and was appointed Commodore R.N.R. for service in the Auxiliary Patrol in European Waters and in this capacity he served throughout the war from 1914-18.

The Admiral's only son was killed in action whilst serving as a Sub-Lieutenant in H.M.S. STRONGBOW in the North Sea.

Above the average of Naval Officers as a mathematician, Admiral Cust took a great interest in the theoretical side of surveying and produced tables and other devices designed to assist and simplify the work of the surveyor in the field, he was also the inventor of a vacuum tide gauge.

Admiral Cust died at his home in the north of London on the 11th November, 1938.

