

## VICE-ADMIRAL SIR PERCY DOUGLAS, K.C.B., C.M.G.

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Vice-Admiral Sir Percy DOUGLAS, K.C.B., C.M.G., second son of the late Admiral Sholto DOUGLAS, C.B., who has recently retired from the post of Hydrographer of the British Navy, was born in 1876, joined H.M.S. *Britannia*, the training ship at Dartmouth, in 1890 and first went to sea as a Naval Cadet in 1892 in H.M.S. *Cleopatra*.

Promoted to Sub-Lieutenant in 1896, and after going through the usual courses at Greenwich, Whale Island, etc., he joined the Surveying Service in 1897 and served continuously in that branch.

Whilst a Lieutenant he assisted in surveys in many parts of the world, serving in H.M. ships *Stork*, *Research*, *Rambler*, *Goldfinch* and *Egeria*, and in such widely separated areas as the Red Sea, Seychelles and the Grecian Archipelago; Amoy, Taku and the Pei-Ho River; West Coast of Africa, and British Columbia.

In 1908 he was appointed to command H.M.S. *Waterwitch*, surveying on the China Station, where he remained until 1910 when he returned to England to become Superintendent of Charts in the Hydrographic Department, a post which he held until the end of 1914.

At the beginning of 1915 Commander DOUGLAS, as he then was, was appointed to the staff of the Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean Station, for surveying duties in connection with the Dardanelles Campaign.

In December 1915, after receiving accelerated promotion to Captain on account of his valuable services in this Campaign, he was re-appointed for a further period in the Mediterranean, after which he returned to the Admiralty to be the first Director of the newly-formed Naval Meteorological Service in 1917.

Early in 1918 Captain DOUGLAS was appointed to the staff of the Vice-Admiral of the Dover Patrol, where he took an important part in the preliminaries and the later activities in connection with the Zeebrugge and Ostend operations, for which he was made a Companion of the Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, and in addition, received the Order of Leopold (Belgium), and the Italian (Silver) Medal for Military Valour.

At the end of the war he served from early in 1919 to 1921 as Assistant Hydrographer at the Admiralty, after which, and until the summer of 1924, he was in command of H.M. Surveying Ships *Mutine* and *Ormonde* in the West Indies.

Appointed to the post of Hydrographer of the Navy on the 1st October 1924, he served in that capacity for eight years, being made a Companion of the Order of the Bath (Military) in 1929 and created K.C.B. in 1933.

During his long period of service as Hydrographer of the Navy, Admiral Sir Percy DOUGLAS was responsible for many innovations, particularly in regard to improvements and modernising of the various instruments and methods used in the course of a hydrographic survey.

The great advance in echo sounding methods, both deep and shallow types of apparatus, is largely due to his persistence and untiring faith in its future, while its use in all H.M. Surveying Ships is not only proof of its value to the science of hydrography, but has also stimulated its adoption in the Mercantile Marine.

Amongst other instruments produced during Admiral DOUGLAS' term of office can be mentioned the TAVISTOCK Direct Reading Theodolite, the DOUGLAS Protractor and the DOUGLAS-APPLEYARD Arcless Sextant, whilst, in addition, great steps were made in the improvement of the 45° Prismatic Astrolabe.

Admiral DOUGLAS is a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society and of the Royal Geographical Society, as well as being an Associate of the Institute of Civil Engineers and a Younger Brother of Trinity House.

As Hydrographer he served on many scientific committees, on some of which he still continues to serve. He has recently been appointed as Acting Conservator of the River Mersey.

