



Francis Charles Murphy

Frank, who died on November 9th, was born in 1923 and educated at St. George's College, Weybridge. He joined Eagle Oil as a cadet in 1941 and had the distinction of joining his first ship at Purfleet from a small boat from the Kentish side of the Thames. His wartime service was mainly on the East coast between Purfleet and Grangemouth.

After the war Frank obtained his Extra Master's Certificate and at 30 years old was in command with Niarchos Tankers. Within three years he was their Marine Superintendent - a shoreside appointment. In 1959 he became Tanker Adviser with P&O Group and in 1962 a Director of their Trident Tankers when that was set up. By 1965 he was Managing Director. In 1971 he was appointed Fleet Manager of the fledgling P&O General Cargo Division.

In 1979 Frank came to Southampton with the Union Marine Group and then became Managing Director and owner of South Coast Port Services.

At this time he joined the Cachalots and was elected and served as Captain in 1982.

Frank was also a keen small boat man and had his own motor boat, *Calendula*, which he had bought as a hull with engines and fitted out himself. He regularly visited the French rivers and canals in her. Several Cachalots can recall a memorable trip to Cowes with him, in foul weather, in response to one of our early invitations from The Mariners of Wight to join them for lunch.

Frank was a member of the Royal Southern Yacht Club from 1980 and served as their Commodore from 1993 – 95.

He became a liveryman of The Honourable Company of Master Mariners in 1957, and a liveryman of The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights in 1988.

Frank was a regular attendee in the Club room and the single stool that has graced the corner of the bars in our last four premises has become known as "Frank's Stool".

He will be remembered as a true gentleman and be sadly missed.

Our condolences to his wife Joan, his stepchildren Victoria and Andrew and his grandchildren George and Harry.