

Captain William Hamish Roberts

Born in Inverness in 1927, Hamish attended Edinburgh Academy before commencing his nautical training at Warsash Maritime Academy in 1944 and taking up a Cadetship with Ellerman and Bucknall Steamship Company in late 1945.

After acquiring "Second Mates" in 1949 he served in a variety of foreign-going and short sea vessels worldwide from the Red Sea to The Great Lakes,, acquiring his Masters Certificate in 1956. A year later he joined the Aden Pilotage Service and over the next three years wrote numerous treatises on the history and development of Aden, the structure of the colonial community, the carriage of pilgrims and the use of kwat - to mention but a few.

Returning to the UK in 1960, he studied for a Law Degree at London University, financed by employment as a Port Relief Officer with The Cunard Steamship Company, and - he joined The Territorial Army. In 1961 he was promoted to the rank of Captain, Royal Engineers and commanded a seismic survey vessel in the North Sea in search of natural gas and gas oil.

Hamish was called to The English Bar (Gray's Inn) in late 1963 and thereafter worked, inter alia, as a P&I Club claims handler, Legal Manager for Atlantic Container Lines, Director of Fenton Steamship Co. operating 18 ships and North European Agents for Hellenic Lines of Piraeus and New York.

1969 saw him promoted to the rank of Major, Royal Corps of Transport and Officer Commanding 265 (Maritime Squadron), RCT and, until retirement in the early 90's he acted as an Independent Marine Consultant and Surveyor acting in the UK and abroad for shipowners, marine insurers and maritime law firms. Appointed a Fellow of The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, he became a High Court expert witness and occasional maritime arbitrator.

Hamish became a Cachalot in 1970 and, after retirement, served on several Committees before being appointed Club Archivist - a post he held until he "Went Aloft", on 16th December. Although very popular, he was a "private' person" and said little UNTIL his interest was aroused by an adjoining discussion or a chance remark. He is greatly missed by those who were privileged to enjoy the true friendship of such a gracious gentlemen.

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