



Captain Charles Allan McDowall
MSc.C.Eng. MI Mech.E. MRINA. FNI. HCMM
(born 27.5.1938)

On the completion of his pre-sea training aboard HMS Worcester in 1954 Allan joined the Clan Line in January 1955, then P&O in 1958 (as Third Officer) before seeking shore employment in 1961 as a Floor Apprentice with Stothert & Pitt and graduating to the Design Office and R&D. He took HNC and the Inst.Mach.E direct examination to degree level before being sent to Loughborough University where he acquired an M.Tech in Engineering Design. Thereafter, Allan served with a number of Engineering companies (acquiring various qualifications) before returning to sea (with a First Mates Certificate) in 1975, as Second Officer with Esso Petroleum where, in his "spare time" he wrote a thesis on "The behaviour of Very Large Ship hulls". In 1978, he attended The School of Navigation, Warsash and sat for his Master's Certificate early in 1979 before

returning to Esso. Allan joined the SMMC in 1981 and Denholm Ship Management as Chief Officer in 1982 and thereafter he served with Allsworth Shipping, Iran Tanker Co., ARAMCO, Zodiac Maritime Agencies (where he was promoted to Master), World Wide Shipping, Wallem Ship Management and MOL Tankship Management. In 1988 he wrote a thesis entitled "Anchoring Large Vessels - a new approach" and those who have used it are loud in their praise.

In June 1995 in command of the 263,000 dwt VLCC "Atlantic Ruby" and in severe weather conditions, he rescued the five occupants of an 11m yacht. He was a keen small boat sailor himself, in both his 26' Evolution sloop, "Just Fine", and a 45' Bruce Roberts, "Penn-Ultimate", which he called his 'little ship' and which was the love of his life. Allan also held a Private Pilots Licence for small aircraft.

Allan trod the very fine line between genius and eccentricity throughout his life. He was a kindly and generous man, always willing to help others and contribute to anyone in need. He served on various Committees with the SMMC and the Nautical Institute.

Allan "went aloft" on Tuesday the 18th September, exactly 100 years to the day that his Uncle Colonel Allan Armstrong DSO, after whom he was named and who Allan always said 'sat on his shoulder' throughout his life, was killed in WW1. after a very long battle fought bravely and with dogged determination and at his well-attended funeral (on October 4th. at West Wittering) eulogies were delivered by his loving wife, Helen, Club Captain Flemming Pedersen and Cachalot Dennis Barber with whom Allan had worked shoreside. Representatives of the numerous maritime-related organisations and societies of which he was a member were also in attendance.