

Captain E.M.S. Phelps, OBE, Polar Medal

Edmund Malcolm Stuart Phelps was born in November 1928 in Stafford, West Midlands, and grew up in Torquay, Devon, where he lived until his passing in April 2017, aged 88.

He was educated at Prior Park College, Bath, and the School of Navigation at Warsash.

In 1964, Malcolm applied for service with the British Antarctic Survey, serving as Second Officer on **RRS John Biscoe** under Captain Tom Woodfield, OBE and was quickly promoted to Chief Officer.

In 1972, he took command of **RRS John Biscoe** and served as Master until his retirement, and that of the ship, in May 1991.

His command also made him magistrate for the British Antarctic Territory. In 1987 Phelps received the Polar Medal and is distinguished by having Phelps Rock in Antarctica named after him.

Phelps's seamanship and weather-eye were vital not only for his management of the vessel, officers, crew and scientists in such a remote area, but also to the Meteorological Office, which for his observations honoured him with a Special Barograph award in May 1986.

Malcolm became a Cachalot in February 1995.