

Gone Aloft



Captain Anthony John Ireland, M.N., Lt.RNR. Retd

Born on The Isle of Wight in 1943, Tony Ireland was educated at Taunton's Grammar School and Warsash Maritime Academy before joining The British and Commonwealth Shipping Company as a Cadet in 1959.

He served in a wide range of vessels and his final appointment with B&C was Second Officer of the mailship "Edinburgh Castle". During that time he became a "Cachalot" and joined the RNR where he attained the rank of Lieutenant. Thereafter, in 1970, he worked as a Compass Adjuster in Southampton until 1972 when he was appointed Master with Bulk Acid Shipping, reverting to Compass Adjusting in 1974.

1978 saw Tony serving as a Trinity House Pilot in Workington until 1982 when he moved to Libya as Mooring Master with the American-owned Occidental Shipping.

In 1986 he reverted to Pilotage, in Gibraltar, where he remained until his retirement in 2005 – when he married "Tete" and settled down in Sotogrande, Spain. In retirement he was a keen golfer who also enjoyed gardening and tending his fish pond.

Tony never lost touch with his seafaring friends and organisations and in 2015 he returned to the UK to march with the Union-Castle section of the Merchant Navy Contingent at The Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday. He also attended the UC Reunion (hosted by Mike Morley) in 2016 and again in 2019 -despite his failing health. Later than year he was diagnosed with cancer and this took its toll, culminating in his "Going Aloft" on May 23rd.2020.

Tony will be remembered as a popular and efficient Officer with a keen sense of humour which he retained throughout his illness.

Those of us privileged to have known Anthony John Ireland extend our sincere condolences to Tete and his family members.