



Cyril Gordon Butterworth (41-43)

Capt Gordon Butterworth, who died in August aged 86, was head of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary during the Falklands War and for the three crucial years of reform that followed. He also had to resist proposals for the RFA to be brought under the control of the Royal Navy. He had already seen the need to modernise, when suddenly the RFA had to provide logistics support to the hurriedly-assembled Falklands Task Force. He found himself in a pivotal role and surrounded himself with a small, highly professional team, deftly handling the complex details of preparing for deployment not just his own ships, but many ships-taken-up-from-trade (STUFT), and the provision of specialist parties of RFA seamen, radio operators and logisticians. To maximise his availability, he slept on a camp bed in his office for much of the war. Eventually 24 RFA ships and 45 STUFT, from tugs to luxury liners, were deployed, and all bar one ship and a score of men came back.

After the war, Butterworth capitalised on the public awareness of the RFA and the service's own new self-esteem. He pressed for reforms in training, in arming the ships and preparing the crews to man new classes of RFA, and he ensured the RFA fleet would in future be fully integrated into the Navy's command and control systems. He campaigned for the introduction of uniform (not previously issued to RFA ratings) and soon the public began to see smartly turned-out parties of RFA officers and men at national events, identified by their distinct blue uniform and mid-blue beret; he also achieved the grant of a new badge formed of sea tritons and an anchor, created by the College of Heralds and approved by Her Majesty. Some suspected the tritons had an uncanny likeness to Butterworth.

Born in 1925 in Renfrewshire, he was brought up in Huddersfield where his widowed mother worked hard to provide for the family. The hardships of his early life provided him with the determination to overcome later obstacles. He joined Alfred Holt & Son in WWII, serving in Blue Funnel Line, before joining the RFA and gaining his Master's certificate in 1952. He saw service off Korea, was promoted to Captain in the first Cod War and served in the MoD as marine superintendent. He commanded ships during the withdrawal from Singapore and Aden, and on the Beira Patrol (the Rhodesia blockade). In 1978 he commanded the first of a new class of fleet tanker RFA *Olwen* on the Armilla Patrol, the permanent British naval operation in the Persian Gulf.

He was awarded the CBE in 1985 and retired to play golf in Cornwall. He became President of the RFA Association, which he helped found in 1982. He married Hazel Cotton in 1948 and Phyllis Creba in 1957. He is survived by a son and his long-term companion Doris Barry.

George Barry Seyman (42-44)

We apologise for getting Barry's name and dates wrong in the last *Cadet*. We have now been informed that he was known as *Barry*, not *George*.