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Stormy Petrel: The rise and fall of Royal Navy submarine ace Alastair Mars

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ABSTRACT
Thanks to a pair of entertaining war memoirs that have been in print for more than sixty years, Alastair Mars has long been among the most recognised British submarine commanders of the Second World War. He is also notorious for being court martialled and dismissed seven years after the conflict ended; an outcome which remains quite controversial. This article seeks to explain how, thanks to a combination of personality traits, the lingering stress effects of wartime service made manifest in part through alcohol abuse, and a run of bad luck, this wartime submarine ace became the architect of his own downfall within the peacetime Royal Navy.

Introduction

On 25 June 1952, Prime Minister Winston Churchill, engaged in his breakfast routine of perusing the morning newspapers, was disturbed to read of the court-martial and dismissal from the Royal Navy (RN) of a highly decorated wartime submariner, Lieutenant-Commander A. C. G. Mars, Distinguished Service Order (DSO), Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) and Bar, over the apparently trivial issue of taking exception to a posting and wishing to retire.[1] There were headlines such as 'Navy Sacks War Ace' (*News Chronicle*) and 'Navy dismisses submarine hero who said "No"' (*Daily Herald*); and according to a submarine commander of a later generation, at the time the dismissal 'was considered by many as a very contentious and undeserved sentence imposed upon a gallant officer'.[2] His fate continued to be judged unfair more

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DOI: 10.25602/GOLD.bjmh.v12i3.2002
[1]See UK National Archives (hereinafter TNA) PREM 11/272 Pitblado to Marshall, 25 June 1952.
[2]Richard Woodman with Dan Conley, *Cold War Command: The Dramatic Story of a Nuclear Submariner,* (Barnsley: Seaforth, 2014), p.191, *Daily Herald*, 25 June 1952, *News*

than half a century later, not least among readers of the oft-reprinted pair of wartime command memoirs Mars wrote after his departure from the navy, *Unbroken* and *H.M.S. Thule Intercepts*. 'A very special book', as one reader of the latter commented, 'which makes what happened to Mars at the end of his RN career seem all the more disgusting.'[3] The sense of an injustice done is strongly implied in a current biographical encyclopaedia entry in which it is stated that Mars 'was court martialled and dismissed from the service under controversial circumstances'.[4]

There can be little doubt that Alastair Mars earned the medals he was awarded for submarine service during the Second World War. In command of *Unbroken* in the Mediterranean and then *Thule* in the Far East, he was credited with, among other achievements, crippling a pair of Italian cruisers in August 1942 and sinking a Japanese submarine in December 1944.[5] That he was later dismissed unfairly, however, is more questionable.[6] This article examines the life of this self-acknowledged 'stormy petrel,' with particular emphasis on the postwar period when he got himself into increasingly serious trouble.[7] The aim is to chronicle and explain the combination of external and internal factors that led Mars down a path which culminated in an ignominious end to

Chronicle, 25 June 1952, see also e.g. *Daily Mirror*, 25 June 1952, Frank Goldsworthy, *You Soonest … Memoirs of a War Reporter*, (Pittsburgh, PA: Dorrance, 1997), p.132.

[3]Urrah review, 6 February 2013, https://www.amazon.co.uk/H-M-S-Thule-Intercepts-Alastair-Mars/ Accessed 2 May 2026, see also e.g. 'Court martial of Alastair Mars' thread, 2010, https://www.shipsnostaliga.com. Accessed 2 May 2026

[4]Wikipedia, Alastair Mars, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alastair_Mars. Accessed 11 May 2023; see also e.g. Alastair Mars entry, unit histories, https://www.unithistories.com/officers/RN_officersM2.html Accessed 2 May 2026.

[5]See TNA ADM 199/1826, HMS *Unbroken*, 10th Flotilla patrol report, 10th July – 30th August 1942; TNA ADM 199/1867, HMS *Thule*, 4th Flotilla patrol report, 11th December 1944 – 4th January 1945. It was eventually determined that one of the torpedoes fired by Mars at the Japanese submarine had exploded prematurely, giving a false impression of a fatal hit through the periscope. Arthur Hezlet, *History of British and Allied Submarine Operations in World War Two*, vol. 2 (Gosport: Royal Navy Submarine Museum, 2001), Ch. 30, Fn.9.

[6]See e.g. TNA ADM 156/217 NL2612/1952, Ewen Montague minute, 6 July 1952, and Alexander Madden minute 17 July 1952, and Arthur Power submission, cover for minutes of court martial, A. C. G. Mars.

[7]For 'stormy petrel' see Alastair Mars, *British Submarines at War, 1939-1945,* (London: Kimber, 1971), author jacket note.

his once-impressive career in the Royal Navy in the context of somewhat *laissez-faire* service attitudes to combat stress and alcohol consumption.[8]

Prewar

Alastair Campbell Gillespie Mars was born in 1915 in St. John's, Newfoundland, the son of a Scots commission agent and a local language teacher. He was educated at St. Bonaventure College and then, after he and his two siblings were relocated to England in the mid-1920s, at the Dragon School in Oxford. 'At the age of 8 Alastair declared he wanted to join the Navy,' his mother later revealed, and in 1928 he entered the Britannia Naval College at Dartmouth.[9] His early years ashore and at sea were fairly typical, his performance as a midshipman and sub-lieutenant being rated as satisfactory or entirely satisfactory.[10] Mars, however, was aware that he lacked the kind of prosperous and well-connected family background that allowed some of his peers to network and advance through service on big ships, and in 1936 he volunteered for submarines.[11] After successfully completing submarine training in 1937, Mars served aboard *Grampus*, *H.44*, and *Swordfish* before in 1938 being posted to the Far East. The reports from his commanding officers were positive, he was promoted from sub-lieutenant to lieutenant, and at the outbreak of war against Germany in September 1939 was navigation and gunnery officer aboard *Regulus*.[12]

Wartime

By the spring of 1940 Mars had risen to become First Lieutenant on *Perseus*, which operated in the Mediterranean and Adriatic without much success but under a certain amount of threat during the summer months. After being hospitalised for six weeks due to a bad case of dysentery, Mars was directed to attend a submarine command

[8]A problematic attitude toward heavy drinking in the service would persist well beyond Mars's lifetime: see Arthur Henderson, Victoria Langston, and Neil Greenberg, 'Alcohol Misuse in the Royal Navy', *Occupational Medicine* 59 (2009), pp.25-31.

[9]Mrs. P. C. Mars quoted in *Argus* [Melbourne] 25 June 1943, p.6.

[10]See TNA ADM 156/317 Abstract of Certificates, A. C. G. Mars, trial transcript (insert), p.54.

[11]Mars, *British Submarines*, pp.20-21, Alastair Mars, *Court Martial,* (London: Muller, 1954), p.59. Mars's father, who died in 1937 in Newfoundland, had got into serious financial trouble in 1930, necessitating special provision for the payment of reduced fees at Dartmouth for Mars's final four terms. TNA ADM 156/317 NL3104/52 Mars to Admiralty Secretary, 31 July 1952. On fees see Christopher M. Bell, 'The King's English and the Security of the Empire: Class, Social Mobility and Democratisation in the British Naval Officer Corps, 1918-1929', *Journal of British Studies*, 48 (July 2009), p. 705, p.707.

[12]TNA ADM 156/317 Abstract of Certificates A. C. G. Mars, trial transcript (insert), p.54, Mars, *British Submarines*, pp.248-249.

course due to begin at the start of 1941.[13] Sailing back to England via the Red Sea on the liner *Britannic*, he engaged in a whirlwind romance with nursery governess Irene Ing, marrying her when the ship called at Mombasa.[14]

Mars passed the rigorous 'Perisher' course for potential RN submarine captains, and after time as a staff officer with a training squadron at Rothesay was sent in the spring of 1941 to take over an old boat being used for anti-submarine exercises off Lough Foyle near Londonderry.[15]After what he described as 'months of nail-biting impatience as captain of a training submarine', he was made responsible in November for a new U-class boat then under construction at Barrow-in-Furness.[16]

It was as skipper of *Unbroken*, sent after completion and trails to operate in the Mediterranean in the spring of 1942, that Mars, 'mad keen' to prove himself, would have the opportunity to shine.[17] He did so over the course of the next twelve months, not only crippling the aforementioned cruisers and earning himself the DSO but also landing personnel to undertake a trio of tricky special operations, damaging a couple of merchantmen, and bombarding the enemy coast on several occasions, for which he was awarded his first DSC.[18] As a consequence of official publicity efforts, these exploits first put him in the public eye.[19]

Mars attributed the success of *Unbroken* in part to his individualistic and aggressive style of command. To his superiors this made him either an 'independent' or simply

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[13]Mars, *British Submarines*, pp.80, pp.84-86, see also Imperial War Museum (hereinafter IWM) 1459 Peter Bartlett memoir August 1940 – May 1941 pp.13-15.

[14]Hugh Mackenzie, *The Sword of Damocles*, (Stroud: Sutton, 1995), p.89, Alastair Mars, *H.M.S. Thule Intercepts,* (London: Elek, 1956), pp.41-43.

[15]Mars, *British Submarines*, pp.103-108, pp.113-19; TNA ADM 173/26782-16787 *H.44* logs, June-November 1941.

[16]Alastair Mars, *Unbroken: The Story of a Submarine,* (London: Muller, 1953), p.8. On this submarine type see Derek Walters, *The History of the British U Class Submarine,* (Barnsley: Pen & Sword, 2004).

[17]The phrase 'mad keen' was how Mars later recalled his state of mind on taking command of *Unbroken* (Mars, *Unbroken*, p.8). A sympathetic passenger on one of the boat's first war patrols confirmed that the captain was extremely eager to make his mark: 'his whole demeanour was that of a man who is going to get the V.C. or bust.' Peter Churchill, *Duel of Wits,* (London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1953), p. 35.

[18]HMS Unbroken (P-42), Allied Warships, https://uboat.net/allies/warships/. Accessed 2 May 2026, Mars, *Unbroken*, p.193, p.221. See Mervyn Wingfield, *Wingfield at War,* (Dunbeath: Whittles, 2012), p.94.

[19]See e.g. *Daily Mail*, 4 September 1943, *Illustrated London News*, 22 August 1942, IWM, 2438, BBC broadcast by Mars, 21 June 1943, Mars, *British Submarines*, p.196.

an 'obstinate' subordinate.[20] To his crewmates, it made him either an inspirational leader or an intolerant tyrant. A number of ratings from *Unbroken* would later volunteer to serve again with Mars.[21] Yet, at the time, one of the petty officers aboard *Unbroken* unsuccessfully tried to jump ship, arguing that his skipper was 'half mad and dangerous.'[22] As for his commissioned subordinates, by his own account Mars got on well with most of them; yet he insisted that the First Lieutenant initially assigned to the crew be replaced after this officer seemed to question Mars' seamanship.[23]

Either way, more-or-less continuous operations as captain of *Unbroken* in 1942-1943 took their toll. 'In his early patrols he suffered some of the worst depth charging experienced in the Central Mediterranean', his flotilla commander, George Simpson, later wrote, 'and was fortunate to survive.'[24] In consequence Mars developed what he described as 'nerves' and 'claustrophobia' when under attack.[25] Unable to sleep for any length of time while at sea, he took to his bed for forty-eight hours both before and sometimes after each patrol.[26] He 'felt pretty shaky' by late 1942, and told Simpson in February 1943 that 'I was good for perhaps four more patrols, but could not guarantee my nerves and strength beyond that.' By April, when he was finally sent home, Mars was in pretty rough shape. 'Apart from the physical strain,' he later reflected, 'my nerves were beginning to fray after a year of submarine warfare in the Med.'[27]

Following several months of well-deserved home leave with wife and baby daughter, Mars was in August 1943 posted to Submarine Headquarters as Assistant Staff Officer Operations. Though still a lieutenant by rank, he found himself being consulted a good deal by Sir Claud Barry, the Rear Admiral, Submarines, on matters ranging from the operational use of manned torpedoes to an abortive plan to smuggle submarines into the Black Sea. While unimpressed by what he regarded as a lack of professional

[20]TNA ADM 156/317 Simpson memo on Mars, 22 May 1952, p.1.
[21]Mars, *H.M.S. Thule*, pp.4-5.
[22]Wingfield, *Wingfield at War*, p.94.
[23]Mars, *Unbroken*, p.50, pp.82-83, see also *Daily Telegraph*, Paul Thirsk obituary, 13 August 1996. Mars, to be sure, was by no means the only RN wartime submarine skipper to behave aggressively toward his officers or men on occasion: see e.g. Paul Chapman, *Submarine Torbay,* (London: Hale, 1989), p.148 and Brian Izzard, *Gamp VC: The Wartime Story of Maverick Submarine Commander Anthony Miers,* (Sparkford: Haynes, 2009), p.85, pp.137-138, and IWM 28417/3 J. H. Harvey-Jones.
[24]TNA ADM 156/317, Simpson memo on Mars, 22 May 1952, p.1.
[25]Mars, *Unbroken*, p.108; see also pp.172-173.
[26]TNA ADM 156/317, Simpson memo on Mars, 22 May 1952, p.1, Mars, *Unbroken*, p.128.
[27]Mars, *Unbroken*, p.208, p.200, p.183, and Mars, *British Submarines*, p.175.

knowledge among senior policymakers, Mars worked himself fairly hard, practically camping out at HQ and taking only one in two weekends off.[28]

In December 1943, Mars took over a T-class submarine then under construction at Devonport. *Thule* was destined for service in the Far East after commissioning, trials, and a long journey to Ceylon the following year.[29] By the spring of 1944 Mars, by now a father of two, who admitted he could be 'irritable' the morning after imbibing too much alcohol ashore - an occasional problem that seems to have dated back to his early days as a submarine captain – had developed a reputation for being a difficult skipper to work with.[30] 'I discovered that my new captain was to be Lt. Cdr. A. C. G. Mars, DSO, DSC,' Matthew Todd later wrote of news he was to join *Thule* as navigation officer, 'and every time his name was mentioned I got the same reaction, "And jolly good luck to you . . . you'll need it."'[31]

Things got off to a bad start when *Thule* nearly sank in the Kilbrannan Sound while testing a new type of air-conditioning equipment.[32] The abortive nature of these trials meant that *Thule*, after arriving to begin operations across the Bay of Bengal starting in November 1944, had to make do with the existing dehumidifier system, which did not cope well with the tropical climate, especially when the boat was submerged. There were several cases of serious heat exhaustion among the crew on the first patrol, one of which proved fatal; something which naturally was not good for anyone's morale.[33]

In subsequent patrols, which ran the gamut from minelaying expeditions to landing agents, the crew of *Thule* faced a variety of other challenges, including depth charging by an enemy submarine chaser, a mutiny of crewmen saved from a sinking junk, and an attack by a Japanese aircraft. Besides his encounter with a Japanese submarine, Mars was able to sink a fair number of local craft engaged in coastal traffic, often through

[28]Mars, *British Submarines*, p.190 Fn.27, pp.187-202; Mars, *Unbroken*, pp.219-220.
[29]Mars, *H.M.S. Thule*, pp.1-46. On this submarine type see Paul Kemp, *The T-class Submarine: The classic British design,* (London: Arms & Armour, 1990).
[30]On being 'irritable' see Mars, *H.M.S. Thule*, p.8 and Matthew Todd, *A Long Time Underwater*, (Privately published, 2014), p.49, p.57, p.58; on this dating from his early days as a submarine captain see TNA ADM 156/317 Simpson memo on Mars, 22 May, 1952, p.1, Volker comments.
[31]Todd, *Long Time*, Second Patrol, (Privately Published).
[32]Mars, *H.M.S. Thule*, p.18, pp.13-17, and TNA ADM 213/1107 Submarine air-purification trial carried out in HM submarine THULE on 4-7 July 1944.
[33]See Mars, *H.M.S. Thule*, pp.54-62, TNA ADM 199/1867, HMS *Thule*, Report of Patrol, 7-23 November 1944.

ramming, and engage in a series of special operations, for which he was awarded a second DSC at the end of the war for his service in the Far East.[34]

Once again, though, there were indications that the skipper's leadership style was not always appreciated by his subordinates. Todd found Mars to be 'difficult and unpleasant'; the torpedo officer, Bertie Basset, considered some of the orders he was given to be 'unnecessary, superfluous, or just a plain pain in the neck'; and Mars himself wondered if his valued First Lieutenant, Sandy Stewart, had engineered a transfer into the Fleet Air Arm in January 1945 'because he wanted to get away from me!'[35] It also did not escape his notice that the ratings closed ranks against him when he tried to discover who was behind one of his routine orders being disobeyed.[36]

By the end of February, Mars was uncertain 'if I could last for the duration, whatever that might be.'[37] He found special operations, the dropping off or picking up of agents or commandos along enemy-held coastlines, both stressful and frustrating, as they were quite hazardous yet offered no opportunity to strike at the enemy. It did not help his mood when in early June one of his contemporaries, Arthur Hezlet, commanding *Trenchant*, torpedoed and sank a Japanese heavy cruiser.[38] Mars later admitted that shortly thereafter, with his boat *en route* to Fremantle, 'I unleashed my fury on the wretched Matthew Todd who had contrived somehow to steer an incorrect course for a couple of hours. It was sheer absentmindedness on his part of course, but as he was the navigator and I was in a temper, he got it in the neck.' His anger was not quick to cool. 'In fact I think I took it out of Bertie too (probably for answering me back) and I certainly had a go at [Charles] Bedale [the engineering officer].'[39]

[34]See Mars, *H.M. S. Thule*, pp.63-219; TNA ADM 199/1867, HMS *Thule* patrol reports, 11 December 1944–4 January 1945, 23 January-24 February 1945, 23 March-19 April 1945, 15 May-23 June 1945, 15-31 July 1945; see also George Woodward in Jean Hood (ed.), *Submarine: An Anthology of First-Hand Accounts of the War under the Sea, 1939-1945,* (London: Conway, 2007), p.27. On Mars being partial to ramming see *Unbroken*, p.53 and *H.M.S. Thule*, p.83.

[35]Mars, *H.M.S. Thule*, pp.105, p.66. Stewart certainly took note of Mars's abrupt command style, referring to him years later as 'the great "I am"'. Ibid., p.62. On Mars as 'difficult and unpleasant' see Todd, *Long Time*, p.35.

[36]Mars, *H.M.S. Thule*, pp.149-151.

[37]Ibid., p.136.

[38]Ibid., p.168; see Todd, *Long Time*, pp.74-75.

[39]Mars, *H.M.S. Thule*, p.170.

Though he had sworn off alcohol while on patrol, there are signs that, once ashore, Mars was drinking pretty heavily as a means of stress relief.[40] By August he was also crossing swords with his flotilla commander, Ben Bryant, who thought Mars was taking too many risks and who had refused to be bullied into Mars using *Thule* for only offensive patrols.[41] To everyone's relief the war suddenly ended that month in the wake of the atomic bombings, and Mars was allowed to go home as a passenger aboard the submarine *Tudor*.[42]

Postwar

By his own account Mars, now a thirty-year-old lieutenant-commander, seriously considered resigning his commission on returning to England in the late summer of 1945. His wife wanted a proper home life and he correctly suspected that he would not enjoy the routine nature of the peacetime navy. Yet he decided to stay on, partly out of a sense of service loyalty and partly through a belief that he would be able to influence future policy. 'I decided to give it a go', he remembered. 'But first I must have a very long rest.'[43]

Mars got less time off than he would have liked because he had been selected to attend a staff course at the Greenwich Naval College beginning in January 1946. The authorities seem to have thought he might have a bright future in the service, since Mars was offered the opportunity 'on a plate' while another talented submariner in the postwar period had his application turned down. But he soon found himself in difficulty.[44] This was because he was no longer entitled to the generous extra pay given to serving submariners and because neither he nor his wife had any private financial means: 'the gap between pay and expenses was too wide for our family needs.'[45] He also may have undermined his future prospects by, as he saw it, abjuring the Admiralty

[40]Ibid., p.145, pp.174-175, p.221.
[41]Ibid., pp.176-177, p.223.
[42]Mars, *Court Martial*, pp.20-21.
[43]Ibid., p.21. Mars assumed that he could easily resign at this stage, something which an even more burnt-out submarine commander, William King, found not to be the case: 'At the end of the war I was thirty-five and looked fifty-five', he later related. 'I was a wreck, physically, morally, socially, financially and in every other way. I wanted to get out of the navy but of course they wouldn't let us go.' King in J. E. S. Parker, *The Silent Service: The Inside Story of the Royal Navy's Submarine Heroes,* (London: Headline, 2001), p.267.
[44]Mars, *Court Martial*, p.62, see also Mackenzie, *Sword of Damocles*, p.165.
[45]Mars, *Court Martial*, p.64. Concerning pay and promotion, Mars overlooked the fact that at his age he was still relatively young and therefore junior compared to many older and equally promising lieutenant-commanders.

patronage network and not understanding shore-based jealousies aroused by his wartime success at sea.[46]

The next appointment, which began in September 1946 and ran to April 1949, was from a career standpoint 'a backwater one' as First Lieutenant on the cruiser *Bellona*, on loan to the Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN).[47] From a financial perspective, though, it seemed to be advantageous. Mars would be paid in local currency while being exempt from income tax and social security payments, which, given the exchange rate, would boost his income by a quarter and thus allow him to pay for his family to travel by sea to live with him in New Zealand.[48]

Aboard *Bellona,* Mars was observed imbibing to a degree which suggested that, like more than a few other RN officers who had fought through the war, he was suffering from a form of post-traumatic stress disorder.[49] 'It was said on *Bellona* that he used to drink a bottle of gin a day or something in his cabin', recalled the ship's yeoman of signals.[50] He spent a lot of time there, and at one point was observed by a fellow officer tipsy enough to engage in a wardroom swordfight brawl with another ex-submariner. In general, Mars 'set a very bad example'.[51]

Once in New Zealand he had to cope with two unexpected and unwelcome developments associated with a new pay code introduced by the New Zealand government at the start of April 1947. One was a lower-deck mutiny, the reaction to which he had to treat with uncharacteristic delicacy and circumspection in view of being an RN rather than an RNZN officer.[52] The other was a change for the worse in Mars's personal finances. British officers would now have New Zealand income tax and social security contributions imposed on them, which in his case meant a loss of

[46]Ibid., pp.80-81.
[47]Ibid., p.81.
[48]TNA ADM 156/317, Simpson memo on Mars, 22 May 1952, p.2.
[49]On postwar stress-related alcoholism among veteran RN officers see e.g. Peter Herbert in Peter Hennessy and James Jinks, *The Silent Deep: The Royal Navy Submarine Service since 1945,* (London: Allen Lane, 2015), p. 65, and Sandy Woodward with Patrick Robinson, *One Hundred Days: The Memoirs of the Falklands Battle Group Commander,* (Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 1992), p.34.
[50]W. A. Weldale interview, Royal New Zealand Navy Communicators Association (RNZNCA), https://rnzncomms.org/wheldale/ Accessed 2 May 2026.
[51]E. C. Thorne interview, RNZNCA, https://rnzncomms.org/thorne/ Accessed 2 May 2026.
[52]See Mars, *Court Martial*, pp.91-104. On the mutiny see Tom Frame and Kevin Baker *Mutiny! Naval insurrections in Australia and New Zealand,* (St. Leonards, NSW: Allen & Unwin, 2000), pp.89-206.

about £300 per year. The following August the New Zealand government announced that it was putting its currency on a one-for-one par with Sterling, which wiped out the 25 per cent pay advantage RN officers had enjoyed while on loan to the RNZN.[53]

When his family had first arrived in Auckland after a difficult voyage the only accommodation Mars had been able to afford for them, at what he regarded as an exorbitant rent, amounted to a workman's cottage.[54] His wife and children avoided living there whenever possible. A more senior officer heard through the grapevine that 'on occasion they left their sub-standard accommodation on an invitation to stay a week and would impose themselves upon their hosts indefinitely, in one case for six weeks'.[55] What were effectively pay cuts made the situation worse, with the cottage left in a state of decay. 'I was involved in arranging for him and his wife to rent a house down in front of Milford,' an RNZN officer serving aboard *Bellona* recalled. 'Some months later the owner of the place would hardly speak to me because of the state they had left it.'[56] In the latter part of 1948 Mars, feeling double crossed and becoming 'surly and difficult' as his family suffered various ailments related to winter damp and cold, felt he had no option but to send his family off to stay with some of his wife's relations in Western Australia.[57]

In his own words 'extremely hard up' Mars made a bad situation worse by volunteering to stay in the Far East in 1949, accepting an appointment on the intelligence staff in Hong Kong without checking on the current availability there of married accommodation.[58] It turned out that there was none available, but by this time his family had left Australia for Singapore, and after his spouse borrowed enough money to get to Hong Kong he put his wife and children up in a hotel room at the rate of £150 a month.[59] After six weeks living in this location Mars was hospitalised for what he was told was 'a mild anxiety state' but was described by Admiral Sir Patrick Brind, overall RN commander in the Far East, as 'a nervous breakdown, to which war strain

[53]TNA ADM 156/317 Simpson memo on Mars 22 May 1952, p.2. The Admiralty protested that these were not the terms on which RN officers had agreed to serve with the RNZN, but it took years for recompense to be made. See TNA ADM 156/317 CW8636/1951and CW9638/1950.
[54]Mars, *Court Martial*, p.108, Irene Mars in *Reynolds News*, 6 July 1952.
[55]TNA ADM 156/317 Simpson memo on Mars, 22 May 1952, p.2.
[56]E. C. Thorne interview (RNZNCA).
[57]TNA ADM 156/317 Simpson memo on Mars, 22 May 1952, p.3, and Mars, *Court Martial*, pp.108-109.
[58]Mars, *Court Martial*, p.109.
[59]Ibid., pp.109-111, TNA ADM 156/317 Simpson memo on Mars, 22 May 1952, p.3.

and current financial difficulties may well have contributed.'[60] While still in hospital, Mars wrote a letter to the Admiralty on 13 October 1949 announcing: 'It is my inflexible resolve to quit His Majesty's Service.'[61]

Sent back to England in November with his family, and arriving, as the liaison officer meeting him in Liverpool put it, 'in a bad way', Mars was admitted to the naval hospital at Chatham in December.[62] Meanwhile the Admiralty anticipated that, once recovered, Mars would reconsider his resignation letter, and did nothing about it.[63] Mars himself thought 'my naval career was finished' and decided 'there would be no harm in trying politics.'[64] With a general election only a matter of weeks away, at the beginning of February 1950 and as he was being discharged from hospital Mars contacted the Liberal Party and was quickly adopted as their candidate for Windsor. He had to obtain permission from the Admiralty to stand, however, and in return was persuaded to withdraw his resignation letter.[65]

If he had been elected, Mars would have had to resign his commission in order to take up his seat; but he came in a distant third when the votes were counted in what was a safe Tory constituency, which in turn raised the question of a new service posting.[66] Mars pressed for an extended period of paid leave in order to try and get his affairs in order, but instead in March 1950 was sent to serve aboard *Duncansby Head*, a reserve fleet maintenance and repair vessel moored off Sheerness, which he took command of in July.[67] Mars was 'aghast' at this apparent effort to put him in his place, and subsequently found neither job satisfaction nor much return on his efforts to get the Admiralty to help recoup what he had lost while seconded to New Zealand or to obtain an early transfer in 1951.[68]

[60]TNA ADM 156/317 CW17868/49, Bishop to Lang, 7 November 1949, Mars, *Court Martial*, pp.120-122.
[61]TNA ADM 156/317 CW17868/49 Mars to Evans, 13 October 1949.
[62]Ibid., B. I. Ballinshaw minute, 30 December 1949, see also J. R. Richardson minute, 17 December 1949.
[63]Ibid., jacket minutes 30 December 1949 to 16 January 1950.
[64]Mars, *Court Martial*, p.126.
[65]Ibid., pp.126-127, TNA ADM 156/317 CW1879/49 Mars to Admiralty 6 February 1950, and CW1813/50.
[66]Ibid., CW17868/49 B. I. Ballinshaw minute, 15 February 1950.
[67]Mars, *Court Martial*, pp.129-130, see also TNA ADM 156/317 CW3844/1950.
[68]Mars, *Court Martial*, pp.130-138, see TNA ADM 157/317 CW9638/1950. Mars had also ascertained that he would not be eligible for a full retirement grant and pay until 1954. See also TNA ADM 156/317 PM4263/1951.

Crisis

In early 1952, matters reached a breaking point. Despite the appearance of some monetary recompense for what had happened in New Zealand, 'I found myself running seriously into debt', Mars related a couple of years later, while his wife continued to suffer from 'nervous strain' likely caused by 'lack of money and two children to look after in unsettled conditions.'[69] As the date for his next appointment loomed, Mars lobbied hard both in person and by letter over where he would be posted next. Various possibilities, suggestions, counter-suggestions, and provisional options were floated, with Mars objecting to everything but a possible Whitehall appointment, and settling his family in the capital on the assumption that this would occur, while an irritated official reminded him that the Admiralty was 'not a housing agency'.[70]

In the fourth week of April 1952, having already turned over command of *Duncansby Head*, Mars was at his rented house in Stafford Place, Westminster when he received notice he was to report for a course in Portsmouth at the end of the month. Mars had already decided to decline any unsuitable appointment and simultaneously apply to retire from the Royal Navy, which he did by letter on 21 April.[71] 'Lieutenant Commander Mars is to be informed that he has a liability for service which he cannot evade simply merely because he has apparently acquired a distaste for it', the Second Sea Lord decreed.[72] Mars was again told to report for duty at Portsmouth and also informed that his application to retire had been refused. He in turn again declined the appointment and again indicated he wished to retire, this time spelling out in detail his dire financial situation.[73]

'I was firmly of the opinion that an appointment of the type I had been given was not a direct order but something that had to be accepted by me', Mars subsequently wrote, claiming that if he had been given a personal directive from a senior naval officer rather than receiving letters from Admiralty civil servants, he would have obeyed.[74] As the course and outcome of his court martial would indicate, this was a highly dubious

[69]Mars, *Court Martial*, p.152, see also TNA ADM 156/317 NL3104/1952 Mars to Admiralty Secretary, 31 July 1952.
[70]TNA ADM 156/317 CW5835/1952 24WW/PERS, copy of letter to Mars, 25 March 1952, Mars, *Court Martial*, pp.151-154.
[71]TNA ADM 156/317 CW5835/1952, Exhibit No. 1, appointment notification, Mars resignation letter 21 April 1952, and Mars refusal of appointment letter, 22 April 1952; see Mars, *Court Martial*, p.154.
[72]TNA ADM 156/317 CW5835/1952, Alexander Madden minute, 25 April 1952.
[73]Ibid., Exhibit No. 6, Mars to Admiralty Secretary, 27 April 1952 & Exhibit No. 7 C. G. H. Cardo to A. C. G. Mars, 26 April 1952 Exhibit No. 6, Baldock to Mars, 26 April 1952, and Exhibit No. 5, Mars to Admiralty Secretary, 25 April 1952.
[74]Mars, *Court Martial*, pp.154-155.

line of reasoning, and it seems possible that Mars expected the Admiralty to negotiate a settlement rather than risk the publicity of putting him on trial for what would amount to absence without leave. 'I told her', Mars revealingly recalled of a conversation with his wife in early May, 'that perhaps they would retire me after all.'[75] It is also possible that at some level Mars actually wanted an all-out confrontation.[76]

Court Martial

If a public trial was what Mars really yearned for, there were those in the Admiralty more than willing to accommodate him. The Naval Assistant to the Second Sea Lord was Captain St. John R. J. Tyrwhitt, son of an admiral and a baronet with no empathy at all for the financial predicament Mars, in his view through a complete absence of self-control, had gotten himself into. Tyrwhitt argued strongly for a trial. The Deputy Chief of Naval Personnel, Rear Admiral D. M. Lees, concurred, but noted that 'in view of the fact that there will probably be considerable publicity I think the First Lord should have the final word.'[77] As minister responsible for the navy, James Thomas eventually agreed that a court martial should take place if Mars refused to back down.[78]

In mid-May 1952 the Admiralty gave Mars a written formal warning that he was liable to be arrested if he did not report at once to Portsmouth for an investigation into his previous failure to turn up for his course. Mars immediately replied that he would not do so, explaining that his wife was too ill from nerves to be left alone and stressing that, if arrested and taken for court-martial, he would be 'willing and able to defend myself with vigour'.[79]

In a final effort to head off this outcome, the Admiralty sent John Stevens, an old submariner colleague, to try and reason with the recalcitrant lieutenant commander on the afternoon of 20 May 1952, but to no avail: 'If they want me, they must come and get me'.[80] Mars was then arrested by the naval provost-marshal on a charge of

[75]Ibid., p.157.

[76]"I feel that the present state of mind of this officer is obstinate and embittered', opined George Simpson, now a rear admiral and flag officer submarines, 'with determination to receive the opportunity to justify himself at a Court Martial for the satisfaction of his own ego.' TNA ADM 156/317 Simpson memo on Mars, 22 May 1952, p.4.

[77]Ibid., NL1752/52 D. M. Lees minute, 2 May 1952; and St. J. R. J. Tyrwhitt minute, 29 April 1952.

[78]Ibid., J. P. L. Thomas minutes response, 12 May 1952.

[79]Ibid., Exhibit No. 11 Mars to Admiralty Secretary, 15 May 1950; and Exhibit No. 10, Brookling to Mars, 14 May 1952; see Mars, *Court Martial*, p.157.

[80]John S. Stevens, *Never Volunteer: A Submariner's Scrapbook,* (Privately published, 1971), p.77.

absence without leave and, after being allowed to pack and phone his solicitor, was taken by car to Portsmouth that evening.[81] His wife, having been warned by her husband that the navy might try and hush things up, decided to let the press know what had happened.[82]

Meanwhile, down in Portsmouth, the authorities seemed keen to avoid a court martial if they could do so on medical grounds. Mars was diagnosed as suffering from 'chronic anxiety' by a naval psychiatrist and then sent for further examination in the psychiatric wing of a nearby military hospital. Once there he took great exception to how he was being treated, but with indirect help from his wife and a journalist friend was quickly released and sent on leave. All this took place over a matter of a couple of days, but left a shaken Mars convinced that the Admiralty had tried to certify him insane.[83]

As it happened the Royal Army Medical Corps physician concerned with his case at the military hospital had concluded of Mars that while 'the inflated ego, the tendency to be litigious, the deep distrust of the Admiralty, the determination to get even with authority' and other aspects made for a troubled and difficult personality, 'I feel that he is quite legally responsible for his actions.'[84] In early June 1952, Mars was formally charged with wilfully disobeying the earlier summonses to report for duty and with being absent without leave, with a court martial scheduled to begin later that month. The prosecuting officer got in touch informally with Reginald Paget, the high-profile civilian barrister Mars had engaged, suggesting that the accused plead guilty; but the accused, utterly convinced he was in the right, thought this an outrageous idea.[85]

His case, however, was very weak, as became clear over the course of the court martial that took place in the historic setting of the after-deck of HMS *Victory* on 24 June 1952 with press representatives present. Paget could prove that the communications Mars had received and had baulked at came from a secretary on instructions from the naval assistant to the Second Sea Lord rather than the Second Sea Lord himself; but this was in reality immaterial as it was normal practice, and as the prosecuting officer was easily able to show in cross-examination, Mars himself had raised no issues of lawful command concerning his previous notifications of appointment. He was found guilty and, after Paget had by way of a plea for mitigation

[81]See Mars, *Court Martial*, pp.12-14.
[82]See Mars, *Court Martial*, pp.14-15; Goldsworthy, *Want You*, pp.130-131, see also e.g. *Daily Express*, 21 May 1952 and *Daily Mail*, 21 May 1952.
[83]Mars, *Court Martial*, pp.159-190.
[84]ADM 156/317 NL5128/52, encl. 6 J. F. D. Murphy report on A. C. G. Mars, 29 May 1952, p.3.
[85]Mars, *Court Martial*, pp.194-197.

on his client's instructions laid out his service record and the various tribulations he and his family had undergone since the war, was dismissed from the service.[86]

Aftermath

Mars petitioned to have his conviction overturned, which it was not, and then launched an appeal, in which the original verdict was upheld.[87] Two years later he was able to win compensation for having been improperly confined at the military hospital, but a petition for a royal pardon three years after that was refused.[88] Later efforts to have his naval pension restored proved equally fruitless.[89]

Despite the success of his war memoirs and a number of attempts at writing naval fiction, Mars proved unable to live by his pen as a nautical novelist in the manner of other ex-RN wartime submariners such as Alexander Fullerton and John Wingate.[90] An attempt to stand again for parliament went nowhere while money shortages remained a problem, with Mars taking odd jobs as a car or van driver and serving as second mate aboard ocean weather ships.[91] After his first marriage collapsed Mars married again in 1967, and while able to write and see through to publication in 1971 an idiosyncratic study of the British submarines in the Second World War, the writing of another naval history was derailed when he was thrown out of Malta for making his disapproval of the island's foreign policy too obvious.[92] In his mid-sixties Mars struck

[86]Ibid., pp.198-208; ADM 156/317, NL2612/1952, Minutes of the Court Martial of Lieutenant Commander Alastair Campbell Gillespie Mars.

[87]See TNA ADM 156/317, NL3450/1952, NL3929/1952; Mars, *Court Martial*, pp.214-222.

[88]On the royal pardon campaign see TNA ADM 156/317, NL777/1957. On the settlement see ibid., NL5128/1952-1953, NL1139/1954; *Daily Mail*, 17 April 1954.

[89]*Daily Telegraph*, 19 September 1969; TNA ADM 156/317 NL1022/65, letter to Mars, 1 June 1965.

[90]See e.g. Alexander Fullerton, Penguin Random House, https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/authors/2013094/alexander-fullerton/ Accessed 2 May 2026, John Wingate, Sapere Books, https://saperebooks.com/authors/john-wingate Accessed 2 May 2026. *Tycoon*, a 1958 novel based on Mars's experiences as skipper of a Greek shipping magnate's yacht in 1955, was withdrawn before publication due to libel threats. Goldsworthy, *Want You*, pp.133-4.

[91]See Ocean Weather Ships, https://www.weatherships.com/crew-lists/crew-officers Accessed 2 May 2026.
On odd jobs and lack of money see *Daily Mirror*, 23 August 1965. On earlier debt problems see *Daily Mail*, 26 September 1957. On trying to stand again for parliament see *Daily Mirror*, 4 December 1953.

[92]See *Daily Telegraph*, 14-15 March 1972.

a Canadian acquaintance as 'a bit of both Crocodile Dundee and Indiana Jones; he loved audiences, storytelling, and being the centre of attention – the definitive dinner guest.'[93] Heavy drinking, however, was catching up with him: when Alastair Mars passed away aged 70 at Ipswich on 12 March 1985, a listed cause of death was cirrhosis of the liver brought on by alcoholism.[94] At the request of his widow his ashes were the following month scattered at sea from the deck of a surfaced nuclear submarine, HMS *Valiant*.[95]

Analysis

Back in 1952 the Prime Minister had not been at all satisfied with the Admiralty reply to his query about the reasons for dismissing Mars. Churchill dictated in a private note to the First Lord

> I should have thought myself that an officer who has rendered this exceptional service and undergone so many ordeals should have been entitled by the Board as an act of grace to retire from the Service if he felt he had given all he had to give.

'Personally,' Churchill added, 'I rate the tenacity, endurance, and devotion of a famous submarine commander so high that I would have granted his request if, after a personal interview, he persisted.[96]

What had happened to the former lieutenant commander, though, needs to be understood in context. It was the result of a variety of factors, most arising from the war years and later but one or two dating back to Mars' adolescence.

Alastair Mars had demonstrated a desire to do things his own way as early as his time at preparatory school when he decided on his own initiative to run away and make a cross-channel trip to visit his parents who were at that stage residing in France.[97] At Dartmouth this had been combined with aggression insofar as his main sporting

[93]Donald Lang, 'Aquinas's notion of good in the context of educational leadership', in Eugenie A. Samier with Kristina Mihailova (eds), *Ethical Foundations for Educational Administration: Essays in Honour of Christopher Hodgkinson*, (London: Routledge Falmer, 2002), p.95 Fn.5.
[94]Copy of Ipswich death certificate, Alastair Campbell Gillespie Mars, 12 March 1985.
[95]*Daily Telegraph*, 22 April 1985, Woodman and Conley, *Cold War Command*, pp.191-192.
[96]TNA PREM 11/272 Churchill to Thomas, 6 July 1952, and note to Prime Minister, 27 July 1952.
[97]TNA ADM 156/317 Simpson memo on Mars, 22 May 1952, p.2.

distinction as a cadet was as a boxer.[98] For someone without family means, the prospect of better pay played into Mars' decision in the mid-1930s to join the submarine service, as did the prospect of early advancement and command.[99]

During the Second World War his abrasive style and confrontational personality were such that, while acting in a sometimes rather tyrannical fashion toward his subordinates, Mars had on occasion locked horns with his superiors to the point of near insubordination, and had even once or twice deliberately disobeyed instructions he had been given.[100] Either in spite of this, or, as he assumed, in consequence, Mars had scored well enough against the enemy to earn the DSO and a pair of DSCs.[101] In between his two fighting commands, moreover, he had been allowed a degree of input into major decisions concerning the deployment of operational submarines that was unusual for a junior staff officer.[102] None of this, unfortunately, was good preparation for a much less independent series of postings at sea and ashore in the postwar Royal Navy.

In certain respects Mars had had a very good war. Nonetheless he had shown signs of mental as well as physical exhaustion as time went on, and emerged from the conflict, as he put it, 'worn out.'[103] There are indications that the naval authorities had anticipated and made allowances for this sort of thing, as there were plenty of other RN officers suffering the effects of prolonged stress.[104] 'I believe the Admiralty had given instructions that the officers concerned were all suffering, in some degree,' Mars recalled of his postwar staff course, 'from long and most strenuous war service and were not to be overworked.'[105] There seems nonetheless to have been a reluctance to treat this as a medical issue for the service to actively address, which meant that,

[98]Mars, *British Submarines*, p.248.
[99]Ibid., p.21.
[100]On arguing with superiors see Mars, *Unbroken*, pp. 82-83, *H.M.S. Thule*, p.177, on disobeying orders see Mars, *Unbroken*, pp.110-111, and on bullying his own subordinates see p.39. Aggression, of course, could produce results, Mars being by no means being the only example of a problematic character who nonetheless won laurels for sinking enemy vessels (see, e.g. Izzard, *Gamp*), but it is important to note that a quieter approach to submarine command could also generate success, e.g. John Linton and David Wanklyn p.71, p.203).
[101]Mars had no false modesty about decorations: see Mars *Unbroken*, p.156.
[102]See Mars, *British Submarines*, p. 190, pp. 93-194, *Court Martial*, p.47.
[103]Mars, *Court Martial*, p.61.
[104]See e.g. Woodward and Robinson, *One Hundred Days*, p.34.
[105]Mars, *Court Martial*, p.66.

for example, a blind eye was often turned toward signs of alcoholism.[106] In addition there is evidence to suggest that naval psychiatry was not taken very seriously by veteran submarine officers; and when a medical assessment was ordered prior to his court martial, Mars fiercely contested any implication that he had not been coping well psychologically.[107]

His whirlwind marriage proved a mental boon for Mars during the war years.[108] Afterward, though, his wife became a source of anxiety as well, both in terms of the

[106]On alcoholism among war-veteran RN officers in the postwar years see e.g. Peter Herbert comment in Hennessy and Jinks, *Silent Deep*, pp.65-66. On the higher-than-average death rate from alcohol abuse among ex-submariners decades later see Hazel Inskip, Michael Snee, and Lesie Styles, 'The mortality of Royal Navy submariners, 1960-89', *Occupational and Environmental Medicine* 54 (1997), pp. 209-215. The miniscule number of alcoholism cases officially registered during the war - F. P. Ellis, 'The Royal Navy Medical Services: Medical Statistics', in W. Franklin Mellor (ed.), *Casualties and Medical Statistics*, (London: HMSO, 1972), Tables 4-10, pp.21-51 - appears symptomatic of a desire to avoid confronting the scale of the problem. On acceptance of alcohol as a relaxant among RN officers in general and submariners in particular see Hugh Philip, *Two Rings and a Red: A Naval Surgeon's Log,* (London: International, 1944), pp.16-17, p.40. Meanwhile official assessments of psychological health among wartime RN personnel appear to have been overly optimistic at times - see Edgar Jones and Neil Greenberg, 'Royal Navy Psychiatry: Organization, Methods and Outcomes, 1900-1945', *Mariner's Mirror* 92, 2 (2006), pp.193-195 - and while trained psychiatrists treated at least some submariners during the war - see James F. McHarg, 'The Mental Health of Submariners, with Special Reference to 71 Cases Examined Psychiatrically', *Journal of Mental Health* 92 (1946), pp.343-356 - and the RN medical services did undertake a postwar study of combat stress among U-boat crews - see Jones and Greenberg, 'Royal Navy Psychiatry', p.198 - it is notable that no such study was undertaken of wartime RN submariners; perhaps in part because no figures seem to have been kept on combat stress related breakdowns among them during the war: see Psychiatric 'Casualties' Afloat table in D. Curran, 'Operational Strain: Psychological Casualties in the Royal Navy', in Royal Society of Medicine, *Inter-Allied Conferences on War Medicine,1942-1945,* (London: Staples, 1947), p.235. It cannot have helped that as consultant in psychological medicine to the wartime Royal Navy as a surgeon captain, Desmond Curran had grave doubts about combat stress as a diagnosis; in part because he thought it potentially offered an easy way out for de facto cowards as in p.233.
[107]See Mars, *Court Martial*, p. 175. On submarine officers not taking naval psychiatrists seriously see e.g. Alexander Fullerton, *Surface!,* (London: Peter Davies, 1953), p.117.
[108]See Mars, *Unbroken*, pp.78-79, Mars, *H.M.S. Thule*, p.135.

family finances and related worries about her health.[109] At the same time, Irene 'Ting' Mars hero-worshipped her husband and backed him up without reservation in his increasingly confrontational dealings with the Admiralty.[110]

The postwar financial problems Mars experienced were in part simply the result of bad luck, New Zealand policy reversals for example, and personal circumstance, such as Mars' lack of private means; but they were also the consequence of a tendency to leap before looking, as was volunteering for Hong Kong, as well an inability to economise by spending according to his means. It is notable that Mars himself could only make a detailed case to the Admiralty concerning direct and indirect expenditures related to his service at home and abroad which covered only a half of his accumulated debts.[111]

As for the Admiralty court-martialling Mars rather than acceding to his retirement request, there was more to this than was superficially apparent. The *prima facie* case for not going along with him was that allowing Mars to leave prematurely would be grossly unfair to the many less famous regular officers who also wanted out for various reasons but were being kept in because of Cold War needs.[112] Beyond that, though, Mars almost guaranteed a negative response by insisting on a specific gratuity amount on departure and by making his written case for a positive decision from the Admiralty in what was by this point a typically aggrieved and aggressive manner.[113] It is noteworthy that, in reference to *Court Martial*, his own exculpatory account of the affair published a few years later, a number of reviewers remained unconvinced, being struck as much by what the book revealed about the egocentric nature and confrontational temperament of the author as by the case he was making.[114]

[109]On worries concerning his wife's health see TNA ADM 156/317 Exhibit No. 11, Mars to Admiralty Secretary, 15 May 1952.
[110]See Mars, *Court Martial*, pp. 12-13, TNA ADM 156/317 Simpson memo on Mars, 22 May 1952, p.4.
[111]See TNA ADM 156/317 Exhibit No. 8, Mars to Admiralty Secretary, enclosure, 27 April 1952. Mars was not by any means the only married officer to find the Admiralty rather unhelpful in securing timely passage and suitable accommodation overseas for wives and children: see Chris Howard Baily (ed.), *Social Change in the Royal Navy, 1934-1970: The Life and Times of Admiral Sir Frank Twiss,* (Stroud: Sutton, 1996), p.128.
[112]See TNA PREM 11/272 First Lord to Prime Minister, 14 July 1952.
[113]See TNA ADM 156/317 Exhibits Nos. 2 and 8, Mars to Admiralty Secretary, 22 and 27 April 1952; see also ibid., CW5835/52 file minutes.
[114]*Argus* [Melbourne], 22 May 1954, *Northern Miner* [Queensland], 23 September 1954, see also *Irish Times*, 12 June 1954.

Mars, in short, fell victim to aspects of his own personality, aggravated by specific situations, and the lingering psychological effects of his war service, rather than to an inflexibly vindictive Establishment. His decline and fall nonetheless highlights the extent to which the Royal Navy in the mid-twentieth century tended to underestimate the need for preventative psychiatric evaluation and care while exhibiting a high tolerance for drinking as a de facto coping mechanism, not least among submariners. Commanding a submarine was a stressful business even without the threat of enemy action; and it is worth remembering that Mars was by no means the first or last RN submarine officer whose career was affected adversely by misuse of alcohol and its effects on health and mental fitness.[115]

[115]On the comparatively high rate of alcoholism among boat skippers based outside the UK in the interwar decades see Matthew Heaslip, 'The Personal and Operational Consequences of Global Forward Basing and Officer Rotation in the Interwar Royal Navy', *International History Review* 44 (2022), p.1238. On a postwar RN diesel boat skipper's career - that of Michael Touhy - apparently curtailed by alcohol consumption and insubordinate behaviour, see Eric Thompson, *On Her Majesty's Nuclear Service,* (Oxford: Casemate, 2028), p.62, p.71.