

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

PRESS NOTE

DEATH OF COMMODORE NOTT

The Ministry of Defence regret to announce the death of Commodore M.H. St.L.Nott, DSO, OBE, RN, in the recent crash of the Indian National Airways Viking at Mont Cardo near Corsica on March 27, 1948.

The Royal Indian Navy has lost one of its most efficient and enterprising officers in Commodore Nott.

Commodore Nott joined the Royal Indian Marine (as the service was then called) in 1921 as a midshipman at the age of 17 and rose to be the first Chief of Staff of the Royal Indian Navy in August 1947. During this period of 27 years' service, he held several important appointments both afloat and ashore. In 1939-1940, he was in command of HMIS RAMDAS and INVESTIGATOR and in charge of Local Naval Defence Flotillas at Karachi and Calcutta. In 1941, he was appointed for duty with Commander-in-Chief East Indies and carried out the duties of Staff Officer Operations on the staff of Senior Naval Officer, Persian Gulf for which he was twice mentioned in despatches. Later, he joined the Naval Headquarters, India, as Staff Officer (Plans) and subsequently assumed command of a famous scheme, designed to deal with the menace of Japanese submarines in the Arabian Sea.

During 1944-45, he commanded the then Flag Ship of the Royal Indian Navy, HMIS NARBADA and directed the operations as the Senior Naval Commander of the Bombarding Force for Japanese positions on the Arakan Coast. He was awarded the D.S.O. for his courage, tenacity and devotion to duty while directing these operations off the Arakan Coast.

From 1945 to 1947, he held important shore appointments of Naval Officer-in-Charge, Karachi, Director of Training and Education, Chief Staff Officer to Flag Officer, Bombay, and Naval Officer-in-Charge, Cochin.

.....Commodore Nott

Commodore Nott made Valuable contribution in drawing up plans for the expansion of the Royal Indian Navy. As a result of the first phase of his plan Officers and men of the Royal Indian Navy now undergoing training in the United Kingdom will bring a Cruiser and modern destroyers to the Indian waters during 1948. Commodore Nott rendered valuable assistance in the planning of the Naval base at Cochin.

Ministry of Defence
New Delhi, March 3, 1948.

HDP/HSB/DS

"270--3-4-48."