

Captain John Duthie Sydney Phillips
13th May 1865 to 27th October 1945
Member of the League



The death occurred recently (October 27, 1945) in Sydney of Captain J.D.S Phillips, a well-known master in the service of the Union Steamship Company. He was aged 80.

Born on the sailing vessel JOHN DUTHIE, which was lying at anchor at Circular Quay Sydney, Captain Phillips was consequently christened John Duthie Sydney. He attended Fort Street Public School where he studied, played sport and met boys who were to remain such staunch friends throughout his lifetime.

From Fort Street Captain Phillips graduated to Sydney Grammar School but the call of the sea was too strong and at age 17 despite the protests of his mother, shipped aboard the clipper BRILLIANT, bound for Liverpool. By the time he turned 30 he was in command of the CAIRNBULG and made several voyages round the Horn in that vessel.

He joined Canadian Australasian Royal Mail Line as a junior officer in the nineties, rising in a few years to command. He later commanded WARRIMOO, MAITI, MANUKA, ZEALANDIA, AORANGI and the MAKURA. He assumed command of MAKURA in June 1913 and retained continuous command of her until August 1918, when he transferred ashore and was appointed assistant local marine superintendent Sydney. Retiring from that position in 1931, Captain Phillips acted as a coastal pilot around Australia for many years.

At his burial ceremony were old school friends, men like Commander Staunton Spain, Captain F. Murchison Sydney Harbour Master, Captain F. Baylon head of the Sydney Nautical School, Captain R. G. Hart, whose

illness did not prevent him from attending the burial ceremony of his life long friend, and hosts of others including every member of the League of Ancient Mariners.

His ashes were scattered over Sydney Harbour by his great friend and Sydney Harbour Master Captain F. Murchison.

From Commercial Australia 14th November 1945 & NZ Ship & Marine Society.