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## PROFILE

*Our London man Mike Brufal profiles Sir Hugo White:*

Hugo White knew that he wanted to be a Royal Naval Officer from his early days at the Dragon Preparatory School in Oxford. He was the second generation of his family to have attended this school which is acknowledged by its peers as being probably the best preparatory school in the United Kingdom. As soon as his parents accepted that their young son was determined to join the Royal Navy they decided to send him to the Nautical College, Pangbourne. This was an almost guaranteed route to the Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth. The only Gibraltar old boy of Pangbourne College is Stewart Peter Brown-Giraldi, the general manager of The Rock Hotel. The Governor can be assured of an extra warm welcome when he makes his first visit to the fag ship of the Bland Group.

Hugo White made his first visit to Gibraltar as a member of the Dartmouth Training Squadron and has been calling on a variety of naval ships ever since. What impressed him the most during this stay was the sight of all the red, white and blue paint that had been used during the Royal visit of 1954 to demonstrate the loyalty of the people of Gibraltar towards their Queen. He remembers the painting of whole flights of steps and walls; evidence of a spontaneous demonstration of affection for the British Crown that he has never seen anywhere else in the world. As a result of these many short stays in Gibraltar he has many affectionate memories of the Rock and its inhabitants. Gibraltar is always regarded by the Royal Navy as being one of the better runs ashore. This was seen in the recent television programme, "HMS Brilliant" when the ship called at Gibraltar during the last episode in the series.

other words the epitome of an outstanding Royal Naval officer.

White was awarded the Max Horton prize for passing out top of his submarine training course. For his first job he was sent out to Sydney in Australia. In those days Royal Naval officers were sent to and from Australia, not as one would expect on a man of war but on a P&O liner. The return trip provided an unexpected bonus as he met Josephine Pedler on board. It turned out to be a long lasting shipboard romance and they were married two years later in 1966.

Lady White is an Australian, the daughter of an Adelaide doctor. Members of her family are musicians, artists, explorers and doctors. On her mother's side she is related by marriage to the Russian concert pianist Moiseiwitsch, and her cousin Tanya Moiseiwitsch is a well known theatre designer. Her grandfather Alexander Kennedy was an Australian explorer who took part in both Mawson expeditions to Antarctica.

HMS Dreadnought as close as possible to the North Pole. This was an exciting adventure as it involved sailing near and under the ice edge and as the submarine relied on diesels and batteries, and did not have SINS on board there were navigational difficulties to overcome as the North Pole played havoc with the gyro compass. Those on board were able to take part in ice scientific experiments with the Scott Polar Institute.

Sir Hugo revealed that this time amongst the ice made him aware of the attractions of extreme climatic conditions. He is also a lapsed bell ringer and hopes that there might be bell ringers on the Rock so that he might be tempted to try his hand again. He enjoys classical music and is a keen sailor. In addition to reading, one of his favourite forms of relaxation is to talk and listen to people, and doing heavy gardening tasks for Jo.

The next two years were spent as an instructor at Dartmouth. This gave him time to indulge in his hobby of sailing; a pleasure normally denied to submariners. He took part as a yacht skipper in the Tall Ships' race from Cowes to Malmo and then down to Lubeck. This was at the height of the cold war and when the yachts and square rigged ships sailed past the northern corner of the Iron Curtain they were followed by a convoy of inquisitive gunboats which kindly illuminated the sea with their searchlights.

