

Documents pertaining to the record of
Captain Maurice Fiennes Fitzgerald Wilson

(1886-1975)

in the Royal Navy

including:

- Record of Service (*until retirement*)
- Record of Service (*2nd world war*)
- Testimonials
- DSO certificate
- Commander of the Order of Orange-Nassau certificate (with connected letters)





SHIPS	Rank	Period of Service		Time	
		From	To	Years	Days
Britannia.	Naval Cadet.	15 Sep.01.	14 Jan.03.		
Drake.	Midshipman.	15 Jan.03.	11 June 03.		
Repulse.	"	12 June 03.	16 June 03.		
Leviathan.	"	17 June 03.	3 Jan.05.		
Sutlej.	"	4 Jan.05.	20 Oct.05.		
Victory.	"	21 Oct.05.	9 Dec.05.		
Montagu.	"	10 Dec.05.	14 Mch.06.		
do	Sub-Lieutenant.	15 Mch.06.	30 Apl.06.		
Victory 2.	"	1 May 06.	2 May 06.		
Excellent.	"	3 May 06.	31 Dec.06.		
v.o.Bat (M) 12-17/6/06.	"	1 Jan.07.	3 Apl.07.		
Dryad.	"	4 Apl.07.	30 June 07.		
Excellent.	"	1 July 07.	15 July 07.		
Victory 2.	"	16 July 07.	15 Jan.08.		
Blenheim for Exe.	"	16 Jan.08.	7 Feb.08.		
do do	Lieutenant.	8 Feb.08.	30 June 08.		
Dryad for N.Course.	"	1 July 08.	6 Sep.08.		
Sutlej.	"	7 Sep.08.	13 Nov.08.		
Leda. N.from 8/9.	"	14 Nov.08.	11 Jan.10.		
Surprise. N.17/11/08- 6/1/10	"	12 Jan.10.	19 Aug.10.		
Latona. N.to 3/8.	"	20 Aug.10.	9 Sep.10.		
Scylla. passage.	"	10 Sep.10.	24 May 11.		
do N.	"				
			continued.		

SHIPS	Rank	Period of Service		Time	
		From	To	Years	Days
continued.					
Victory, leave.	Lieutenant.	25 May 11.	2 June 11.		
St George for Doon.	"	13 June 11.	24 July 11.	H.P.	
(manoeuvres)				H.P.	
Skirmisher. N.17/9 -	"	14 Sep.11.	7 Jan.12.		
5/1.					
Dryad for 1st.Cl.Ships	"	8 Jan.12.	16 Feb.12.		
Course.	"			H.P.	
Vivid for Theseus.	"	3 Mch.12.	13 May 12.		
N. 4/3.					
Magnificent. N.	"	14 May 12.	22 Nov.12.		
Boadicea. N.to 7/1/14.	"	23 Nov.12.	8 Jan.14.		
Dryad. N.	"	9 Jan.14.	1 Aug.14.		
Jupiter. N.	"	2 Aug.14.	5 Aug.14.		
Drake. N.7/8.	"	6 Aug.14.	6 Apl.15.		
& Lieut-Commander.					
Victory 1, addl.	"	7 Apl.15.	5 May 15.		
Pembroke 2 for Admiral	"	6 May 15.	11 May 15.		
Farragut. N.	"				
Abercrombie. N.	"	12 May 15.	11 June 17.		
Calypso.	"	12 June 17.	30 Dec.17.		
Victory, sick leave from		31 Dec.17.	29 Apl.18.		
20/11/17.					
Calypso. N.from 3/5/18."		30 Apl.18.	29 June 19.		
do	Commander.	30 June 19.	1 Dec.19.		
Victory, leave.	"	2 Dec.19.	22 Dec.19.		
President for duty	"	20 Jan.20.	31 Mch.21.	U.f.p.	
under D.I.D.	"				
do for Trade	"	1 Apl.21.	13 Mch.22.		
Division, Admiralty.	"				
Victory, addl. for Tech.	"	14 Mch.22.	16 June 22.		
Course.					
					continued.

SHIPS	Rank	Period of Service		Time	
		From	To	Years	Days
continued.					
Victory, leave.	Commander.	17 June 22.	25 June 22.		
Revenge. N.	"	3 May 23.	2 May 24.		U.f.p.
Resolution. N.	"	3 May 24.	21 Apl.25.		
Curacoa. N.	"	22 Apl.25.	still serving.		
			3/5/27		
Sub-Lieutenant	15 March 1906.				
Lieutenant.	15 March 1907.				
Lieutenant-Commander	15 March 1915.				
Commander	30 June 1919.				
President pro duty with L.N.C.	"	September /27	July /28		
		Finnis			

ADMIRALTY. S.W. 1.

11 February 1927

This is to Certify, that Commander Maurice Fienness FitzGerald WILSON.

D.S.O. R.N.

is borne on the Books of His Majesty's Ships in the Rank and for the Time stated above

11 Moryn!

NAME	SPECIALIST	BORN	SENIORITY	RANK	RECORD
<i>M.F.F. Wilson</i> M.F.F. WILSON	N	22.6.86	30.6.19	Commander	15/412
RETIRED RANK & SENIORITY		DATE & CAUSE OF RETIREMENT			
Captain 22.6.31		Non-Service 6.9.30			
QUALIFICATIONS		GENERAL REMARKS			
GAZETTE 25.11.47. AWARDED COMMANDER OF THE ORDER OF ORANGE-NASSAU. for services rendered to the Royal Netherlands Navy during the war.					
D.L.	APPOINTMENT	FROM	TO	NOTATIONS	
	PRESIDENT addl for duty ni. Admty in Trade Divn.	25.8.39		S.206.14.4.41.--9.8.I.K.9.8.8.-- <u>Capt. Mansergh</u> An offr. of marked ability, who has represented the Admty. at the daily meeting of the Diversion Committee throughout the war with judgement & tact & who commands the respect of the individuals in other Govn. Depts. with whom he has come in contact. Quiet & unassuming in manner & a gd. mixer. Has a clear & logical mind & once he is convinced that a particular course of action is correct, extremely tenacious in pressing for its adoption. Loyal & hardworking. Has a clear & forceful style of on paper.	
31.1.46.	Released class 'A'			V/A Moore. A v. able offr. tho' the markings in Sect. II are perhaps on the high side.	
	Dispersal date	31.1.46.		S.206.20.7.43-8.7.I.K.7.7.- <u>Capt. Schofield</u> . An exceptionally capable & hard-working offr., who has not spared himself in carrying out his important work of Head of the Ports & Destinations Sect. His drive & energy are most marked & he is admirably suited in every way to his present appt.	
	Release date	28.3.46.		R/A Edelsten. An exceptionally capable & hard-working offr. who has concurred.	
	Reverted to ret'd list	29.3.46.		S.206.12.7.45-7.7.-.5.6.- <u>Capt. Stephens</u> . An alert & capable offr. with much shrewd commonsense & a healthy contempt for red tape. An enthusiast with drive, initiative & foresight who has worked hard himself & has controlled and stimulated a large & busy section most successfully. Inclined to be impetuous but gets things done in spite of all obstacles. Has a pleasant manner & a gd. sense of humour. A valuable type. His physical fitness, mental alacrity & capacity for getting things done would be creditable in an offr. 20 years his junior. He is even now classed as fit for (limited) sea service & has recently crossed the Atlantic in an Escort Oiler to investigate fuelling at sea methods.	
S206.	7.2.46. 6. 6. i.k. 6. 6. <u>Capt. Skelton</u> . This officer has done splendid work in the Trade Division. He is very determined and resourceful. He is a good leader and makes his subordinates work as a team. He has a pleasant manner and a very good sense of humour.				
	<u>R/A Mansfield</u> . Concur. This offr. has made a valuable contribution to the running of shipping during the war.				

Commander M. F. F. WILSON, D.S.O., R.N.

Testimonials and Certificates.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS COMMISSION,

25th January, 1928.

Commander M. F. F. Wilson, D.S.O., Royal Navy, has served with me as my Commander for Navigating Duties, for one year when my Flag was flying in H.M.S. "Revenge," and for two years when my Flag was in H.M.S. "Curacoa." He is now at my request serving as my Assistant at the Admiralty. I have therefore had exceptional opportunities of judging his capabilities.

He is I think without question the most able Navigating Officer of his time, but unfortunately no Commander for Navigating Duties was promoted during $2\frac{1}{2}$ years until he passed out of the zone for promotion in June, 1927.

Commander Wilson earned his D.S.O. when Navigator and 2nd in Command of H.M.S. "Calypso." On 17th November, 1917, when in action in the Heligoland Bight, the Captain was killed by a shell, and Commander Wilson was wounded by the same shell in both legs and in several other parts of his body, but remained at his post for over an hour until he had brought his Ship out of action, when he was taken below. He was in hospital for four months, and on sick leave for two, as the result of these wounds, so his courage and powers of endurance were shown to be remarkable.

He is sober and steady as a rock, and absolutely reliable under all circumstances.

He is an intelligent and indefatigable worker, both mentally and physically, and is as cheerful after a long and worrying night on the bridge as if he had spent the night in bed.

His mathematical knowledge is considerable, and he is the inventor of several schemes and methods which are now in standard use in the Royal Navy.

He has the inventive brain and much ingenuity in his ideas.

He is very even tempered and tactful, and is always very popular with his brother officers. He was an excellent senior member of a Mess.

He would teach well, but I think he is worth something better than that.

He is not one of the world's talkers, and his shyness and modesty are the only faults I have discovered after a long association.

Commander Wilson is too good for a bad job, and I honestly consider it is a great chance for anybody to obtain his services.

I shall be delighted to confirm and amplify any of the statements in this letter by a personal interview.

W. A. H. KELLY,
Vice-Admiral.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE DIVISION,
ADMIRALTY,

26th January, 1928.

Commander M. F. Wilson, D.S.O., served with me for two years, 1925-1927, in the Atlantic Fleet.

During the whole of this time he came under my immediate notice whilst performing the very responsible duty of Navigating Commander of the 2nd Cruiser Squadron.

I cannot speak too highly of the absolute reliability with which he carried out this work, which always requires the greatest mathematical accuracy and frequently called for the exercise of cool judgment in emergency.

He is exceedingly tactful and agreeable in his dealings with others, and is a painstaking and successful instructor of those under him.

He is a clever inventor with a good working mathematical and mechanical knowledge.

It was a matter of the greatest regret to me that the extraordinary congestion in the list of 1927 led to his missing the promotion for which he was strongly recommended and which he undoubtedly deserved.

C. PRICKETT,

Captain, R.N.,

Deputy Director of Naval Intelligence.

67, ECCLESTON SQUARE, .

S.W.I.

18th January, 1928.

Commander M. F. Wilson worked in the Trade Division of the Naval Staff under me, and during that time showed conspicuous intelligence, zeal, and ability.

ALAN HOTHAM,

Rear-Admiral.

ROYAL NAVAL STAFF COLLEGE,

GREENWICH.

19th January, 1928.

Commander M. F. F. Wilson served under me in the Trade Division, Naval Staff, Admiralty, between 1920 and 1922.

His work was very full of initiative, and in every way satisfactory.

He now wishes to obtain an appointment in civil life, and I shall be glad to vouch for him in every way possible.

C. J. C. LITTLE,

Captain, R.N.

H.M.S.
"CURACOA."

22/4/25 to 21/4/27.

To my entire satisfaction. Has carried out his duties with conspicuous ability, tact, and success.

C. PRICKETT,
Captain.

"RESOLUTION."

4/5/24 to 21/4/25.

With great ability and to my entire satisfaction.

C. T. HARDY,
Captain.

"REVENGE."

3/5/23 to 3/5/24.

Entirely to my satisfaction. A most careful and successful Navigator. Am very sorry to lose his services.

G. O. STEPHENSON,
Captain.

"PRESIDENT."

20/1/20 to 13/3/22.

(In the Trade Division of the Naval Staff, Admiralty.)

To my entire satisfaction. A most capable Staff Officer. Of the greatest assistance to me.

C. J. C. LITTLE,
Captain.

"CLYPSO."

15/6/17 to 20/11/17.

(Commanding Officer, Capt. Edwards, killed in action.)

20/11/17 to 29/4/18—in hospital.

30/4/18 to 21/2/19.

To my entire satisfaction. Lieut.-Comdr. Wilson is a most capable navigator and pilot and a most able executive Officer.

B. S. THESIGER,
Captain.

22/2/19 to 26/9/19.

To my complete satisfaction. A most zealous and capable navigating Officer and a thoroughly good executive Officer.

B. S. THESIGER,
Captain.

27/9/19 to 17/11/19.

Entirely to my satisfaction.

C. SEYMOUR,
Captain.

- H.M.S.
 "ABERCROMBIE." 12/5/15 to 5/12/15.
 Entirely to my satisfaction. A good and reliable Officer.
 H. M. DOUGHTY,
Captain.
- 6/12/15 to 20/5/17.
 Entirely to my satisfaction. A zealous and able Officer.
 A. USBORNE MOORE,
Captain.
- "DRAKE." 5/8/14 to 7/4/15.
 To my entire satisfaction. A clever and capable Navigating Officer with good judgment.
 AUBREY SMITH,
Captain.
- "DRYAD." 5/1/14 to 1/8/14.
 To my entire satisfaction on the Staff of the Navigation School. An able, cool, and zealous Officer.
 E. L. BOOTY,
Captain.
- "BOADICEA." 22/11/12 to 27/2/13.
 With zeal and attention and to my satisfaction. A most reliable Navigating Officer.
 E. S. CAREY,
Captain.
- 27/2/13 to 2/4/13.
 Has carried out the duties of executive Officer during the above period with great efficiency.
 E. OWEN TUDOR,
Lieut.-Comdr.
- 3/4/13 to 4/7/13.
 To my entire satisfaction. A capable navigator and a good pilot.
 CECIL H. FOX,
Captain.
- 5/7/13 to 8/1/14.
 In every way to my entire satisfaction.
 L. C. WOOLCOMBE,
Captain.
- "THESEUS" and
 "MAGNIFICENT." 4/3/12 to 22/11/12.
 To my entire satisfaction both as to his navigating and general executive duties.
 H. HEARD,
Captain.

- H.M.S.
 "SKIRMISHER." 14/9/11 to 7/1/12.
 To my entire satisfaction. An able and reliable Navigating Officer.
 J. U. FARIE,
Commander.
- "DOON." 13/6/11 to 25/7/11.
 Much to my satisfaction.
 WILFRED HENDERSON,
Captain.
- "SCYLLA." 20/8/10 to 24/5/11.
 To my entire satisfaction. Lieut. Wilson is a thoroughly good navigator and a trustworthy pilot.
 B. S. THESIGER,
Commander.
- "LATONA." 12/1/10 to 3/8/10.
 To my entire satisfaction. A most capable and reliable Navigating Officer, and has always carried out his duties both as navigating and executive Officer with much zeal and tact.
 ALEXANDER FARRINGTON,
Commander.
- "SURPRISE." 15/11/08 to 26/3/09.
 To my satisfaction, and has carried out the duties of Navigating Officer with due caution and ability.
 PHILIP FRANCKLIN,
Commander.
- 27/3/09 to 11/1/10.
 To my satisfaction.
 CECIL D. S. RAIKES,
Commander.
- "LEDA." 8/9/08 to 14/11/08.
 In every way to my satisfaction. A good executive Officer.
 O. H. STAHLKNECHT,
Lieut.-Comdr.

George R. I

George the Fifth, by the Grace of God
of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond
the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor
of India, Sovereign of the Distinguished Service
Order, to our Trusty and Well beloved
Maurice Piennes Fitz Gerald
Wilson, Esquire. Lieutenant-Commander
in Our Royal Navy.



Greeting

Whereas We have thought fit to
Nominate and Appoint you to be a Member
of our Distinguished Service Order We
do by these Presents Grant unto you the
Dignity of a Companion of Our said Order
And we do hereby authorize you to Have,
Hold and Enjoy the said Dignity as a
Member of Our said Order, together with
all and singular the Privileges thereunto
belonging or appertaining.

Given at Our Court at St James's
under Our Sign Manual this Seventeenth
day of May 1918 in the
ninth Year of our Reign.

By The Sovereign's Command.

Milner

Lieutenant-Commander
M. P. Fitz G. Wilson,
Royal Navy.

The Principal Secretary of State
having the Department of War
for the time being.



WIJ WILHELMINA, BIJ DE GRATIE GODS,
KONINGIN DER NEDERLANDEN, PRINSES
VAN ORANJE-NASSAU, ENZ., ENZ., ENZ.

13 FEBRUARI 1947

No. 34

Op de voordracht van Onzen Minister-President en van Onze Ministers van Buitenlandsche Zaken, Justitie, Onderwijs, Kunsten en Wetenschappen, Oorlog, Marine, Verkeer, Economische Zaken, Landbouw, Visscherij en Voedselvoorziening, en van Overzeesche Gebiedsdeelen van den 3 October 1946, Kabinet en Protocol no. 80116;

HEBBEN GOEDGEVONDEN EN VERSTAAN:

te benoemen tot

C O M M A N D E U R

in de

ORDE VAN ORANJE-NASSAU

M. F. F. W I L S O N

D.S.O., Captain R.N.

te bepalen, dat het versiersel der Orde zal worden gedragen met de zwaarden.

Onze voornoemde Ministers, Hoofden van Departementen van Algemeen Bestuur zijn, ieder voor zooveel hem aangaat, belast met de uitvoering van dit Besluit, waarvan afschrift zal worden gezonden aan den Kanselier der Nederlandsche Orden.

Soestdijk, den 13 Februari 1947

(get.) WILHELMINA

De Minister-President,
(get.) BEEL

De Minister van Buitenlandsche Zaken,
(get.) W. v. BOETZELAER

De Minister van Justitie,
(get.) J. H. v. MAARSEVEEN

De Minister van Onderwijs, Kunsten en Wetenschappen,
(get.) JOS. J. GIELEN

De Minister van Oorlog,
(get.) A. H. J. L. FIÉVEZ

De Minister van Marine,
(get.) J. J. A. SCHAGEN v. LEEUWEN

De Minister van Verkeer,
(get.) H. VOS

De Minister van Economische Zaken,
(get.) HUYSMANS

De Minister van
Landbouw, Visscherij en Voedselvoorziening,
(get.) S. L. MANSOLT

De Minister van Overzeesche Gebiedsdeelen,
(get.) J. A. JONKMAN

Accordeert met deszelfs Origineel,
De wnd. Directeur van het Kabinet der Koningin,
(get.) W. F. RÖELL

Voor eensluidend uittreksel,
De Kanselier der Nederlandsche Orden,

(H. KOOT)

Reserve-Generaal-Majoor

No. 502.

ROYAL NETHERLANDS EMBASSY,
LONDON.

HEREFORD HOUSE, FLAT 14,
117, PARK STREET, W.1.

MAYFAIR 8806.

The Netherlands Ambassador
presents his compliments to Capt.
M.F.F. Wilson, D.S.O., R.N., and
requests his presence at the Embassy,
21, Portman Square, W.1. at 11 a.m. on
Thursday, the 29th January 1948 to
receive the decoration of Commander in
the Order of Orange Nassau, with the Swords,
which Her Majesty Queen Wilhelmina has been
graciously pleased to confer upon him.

R.S.V.P.

Chancery of the Royal Netherlands Embassy,
Hereford House, flat 14,
117, Park Street,
London, W.1.



10 November 1947.

Sir,

I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to inform you that they are glad to learn that Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands has bestowed on you the decoration of Commander in the Order of Orange Nassau, with Swords, for outstanding services during the war, and that you have the King's unrestricted permission to wear the distinction.

An announcement to this effect will appear in a forthcoming Supplement to the London Gazette.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. P. Lambert".

Captain Maurice Fiennes Fitzgerald Wilson, D.S.O.,
Royal Navy.



H. & A. 2319/46.

The Secretary of the Admiralty presents his compliments to Captain M.F. Wilson, D.S.O., R.N. and with reference to his letter of 20th November would inform him that acknowledgement with thanks is made by the Foreign Office of foreign decorations bestowed on British subjects, but should you wish to write personally, he suggests that you should write to His Excellency the Netherlands Ambassador.

Admiralty,
S.W.1.

25th November 1947.

*Oh Sec! What horrible words are
written in thy name -*