



Obituary

Derek Collins

We are saddened to learn of the death of Derek Collins in October 2003.

Derek had a long history of involvement with the battery industry. At the end of World War II, as a lieutenant RNVR (Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve), he was sent to Germany as part of a team investigating the German battery industry, later publishing a report on their primary battery activities.

In the mid-1950s Derek, together with Frank Booth, as a member of the Inter Departmental Battery Committee, was invited to one of the annual US Army Power Sources Conferences in Atlantic City, USA. This sowed the seed for what emerged as the International Power Sources Symposium in 1958, of which Derek was Chairman from 1961 to 1967. From the late 1950s, Derek worked on submarine batteries at the Admiralty Engineering Laboratory, West Drayton. For many years he co-operated with chlorides, who were the sole supplier of submarine batteries to the British and Commonwealth navies.

Derek's achievements were recognised by the award of the MBE during the 1970s and the IPSS Frank Booth Award in 1976. Those who worked with Derek have fond memories of him as the archetypal English gentleman, an image set off by his monocle!

The first issue of Journal of Power Sources, of which Derek was founding editor, was published in 1976. Having emigrated to Bejar, Almeria on his retirement, Derek conducted his editorial activities from Spain helped by a network of European contacts. He remained involved with the journal until the mid-1990s. In the editorial foreword of the inaugural issue, Derek wrote, "The objective of this Journal then is to advance the progress and ultimate development of sources of power." That the Journal exists and continues to prosper with the same aim some thirty years later is a testament to Derek's experience and foresight.