



## HMS Conway 1859 - 1974

Britain's premier Merchant Navy school ship



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### **Poem read out by Tom Mason the president of Conway at the Funeral of Captain Geoff Arthur Burnham: 16th February 1932 - 26 April 2012**

#### **A Career At Sea?**

*On the bridge of mighty liners, or the grey clad men'o war,  
On the poop of Island schooners, Bare poled in the cyclones roar,  
In tramps and yachts and tanker-craft, And the ships off to explore,  
You'll find the men you knew as boys, In the Mizzen, Main or Fore.*

*In the Celebes and Siam, In the Caribbean cays,  
On the Niger and Euphrates, Praying God for a fine breeze,  
In the role of chief surveyor, or the Guardian of the Trees,  
You'll meet again the cutter's crew, Whose rowlock's you tried to seize.*

*On the fringe of every Ocean, On the frontiers of new lands,  
They are "Baas", or "Chief" or "Tuan", Controlling the sweating clans,  
In the mines and on the ranches, In HQ's and Ops and Plans,  
You'll meet the chaps you raced aloft, When the pipe called "Main-top hands".*

*On the bridge of sleek destroyers, And the freighters deep and long,  
With the Mounties on the prairies, Singing a maritime song,  
In the last foresaken rearguard, Where only the best belong,  
You'll find the comrades whose motto, Says "Quit ye like men, be strong".*

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**Commander WCA Robinson RNR (Ret'd) Conway (1911-13).**