

## LONG SERVICE AWARDS



Among the recipients of Imperial Service Medals at Rosyth Dockyard on Tuesday was Mr Frederick Booth, a qualified pilot, who piloted the Royal Yacht Britannia into the Dockyard when the Queen and Prince Philip visited the yard in 1958. Mr Booth, who formerly lived at 199 Admiralty Road, Rosyth, has been in charge of berthing ships at Invergordon for the past three years and, although he hails from the south of England, he is going to spend his retirement at Invergordon.

Mr Booth is qualified to pilot ships in and out of Rosyth, Portsmouth, and Malta Dockyards and during his 48 years of Crown service he has piloted many large Naval vessels in and out of port. He piloted the aircraft carrier Victorious when she came to Rosyth as the first angle-decked carrier ever to enter the Dockyard. Of the berthing of the Royal Yacht he says: "It was no trouble at all. A very nice ship."

Mr Booth's Admiralty service began in 1915 when, at the age of 14, he entered Portsmouth Dockyard as a yard craft boy. In 1918 he left the Dockyard to serve in the Royal Navy and in 1920 he returned to Portsmouth. Since then, he has served as an ordinary seaman, able seaman, mate, master and higher scale master at Portsmouth, Rosyth, Malta and Devonport. In 1960 he was transferred from Rosyth to Invergordon where he served as pilot and piermaster until January this year when he retired. During his three years at Invergordon Mr Booth was entirely responsible for the berthing of ships with a very small berthing party and no tug. In all that time there was not one incident.