

In 1983 Phillip transferred to the Ministry of Defence (MoD) headquarters in London as Assistant Director of Defence Procurement for cryptographic devices and strategic communications systems. He and Helen moved to Fleet, from where he could commute to London by train each day. He became project manager for a number of major contracts to develop and install new systems for the RAF, including the command centre at High Wycombe.

At the end of 1987 Phillip took early retirement from the Civil Service and joined Admiral Management Services in Camberley as a management consultant. He put together a successful bid for a multi-million-pound contract with GCHQ and was then appointed as the facility manager for a software evaluation facility, looking particularly at security issues on behalf of the MOD.

Phillip retired in 1989 but continued giving occasional lectures at the Royal Military College of Science, and was external supervisor for an Australian officer working on a Direction Finding project as part of his MSc course. He kept busy throughout his retirement: serving on the management committee of Fleet Citizens Advice Bureau for 13 years, and as lay member of the medical ethics committee for North and Mid Hampshire, with monthly meetings at the Royal Hampshire Hospital in Winchester.

Chess had been one of his main hobbies from school days onwards, and in various periods Phillip had represented Bedfordshire, Gloucestershire, and Hampshire in county matches. He also enjoyed creative writing, and belonged to writing circles in Slough, Waterlooville, and Fleet. He had a number of short stories and articles published, and one-act plays performed.

Phillip and Helen celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 2003. However, Helen's health began to fail and she passed away the following year. Phillip died peacefully on 2023 July 12 and is survived by two sons, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. — MARTIN GETTING.

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### *Here and There*

#### JUST MISSING A MILLION?

R136a is, of all the stars known to astronomy, the brightest and most massive. It shines ten times brighter than the Sun, and the only reason we don't notice it is that it's so very remote. — *A History of the Universe in 100 Stars* (Quercus Press), p. 290, 2022.