



*This is the first of what I hope will be a series of members telling us a little about themselves. I had always assumed that Harry had joined just before Trafalgar (although that may have been Harry Winterbottom) - Ed.*

## Harry (Brian) Hobbs

The World became a better place on 28th.June, 1935 when I arrived in Ely, Cambs. Born in the heart of the Fen Country hence recognised as a "Fen Tiger".

I quickly made an impact by throwing my first dummy out of the bedroom window and me nearly with it.

Educated (somehow) at Soham Grammar School (recently scene of the Soham murdered girls). I spent most of my time dodging lessons and left school at 15 to join my Father working on a local farm. My education was completed later in life when I did all my G.C.S.E.'s by Correspondence courses whilst in the R.N. Before joining the R.N. I was a commercial printer's apprentice in Ely.

At 18 I entered the R.N. at Portsmouth in June,1953, just in time to view the Fleet at Spithead for the Coronation of our present Monarch.

## My Naval History

June-Oct 1953 Training at Portsmouth and Wetherby - **HMS Ceres**.

Oct.1953 - 1956 **HMS Mull of Galloway** and **HMS Narvik**, both based at Harwich. At that period there were over 100 ships in reserve down river at Manningtree including the Aircraft Carrier, HMS Glory.

1956- 1957 **HMS Royal Prince**, R.N. Rhine Squadron we had 4 bases in Germany, with LCT's LCM's and LCA's - manned by Royal Marines & R.N. stokers.

1958-1960 **HMS Forth** based in Malta Depot ship for 4th.S/M Squadron including WW2 subs. inc. Tally Ho!, Sea Devil, Sanguine, Tiptoe and Seraph.

1960-1963 **HMS Cochrane** then joined **HMS Malcolm** - type 14 frigate on which spent 2 years plus on fishery protection duties, Iceland and Norwegian Patrols -this woke me up to the real sea-going Navy! Hence I could always claim I had seen more ripples on my tot than some people had seen at sea.

1963-1965 **HMS Messina (L3043)** 12 months spent in the Persian Gulf before clanking our way up the red sea through suzez canal for 6 months refit in Gibraltar.

1965-1966 Shore based at R.N.R. Mersey based at **HMS Eaglet**, Liverpool.

1966 Volunteered for Trials crew when **HMS Caprice** came out of reserve at Rosyth to take on the crew of HMS Blackpool which was sold to the New Zealanders. 6 months spent on Caprice before being drafted to **HMS Protector** - 4 months on her before I went P7R and was drafted into Victory Barracks to await



the return from the Far East of **HMS Caprice** which I rejoined in 1967.



**THEN  
Miyazu  
1968**

**1968 The CapriceWorld Cruise**

1969 **HMS Ganges** - some of you may remember this place!

1970-1972 **HMS Afrikander**, staff of the Senior British Naval Officer, based at Simonstown.

1972-1973 **HMS Intrepid** Dual role of Commando Carrier and Midshipman's training ship.

1973-1975 **HMS Bulwark** A real Commando Carrier.

1975-1978 Having been in possession of my Chief's Buttons for the past 5 years I was now eligible to apply for the **RN and RM Careers Service** before finally leaving the RN in 1978.

1978-1980 I became self-employed running a Post Office & General store. Soon tired of stamping Pension Books so changed tack to go to college and qualified as a Social Worker specialising in Education.

1980-1996 Various jobs in Cambridgeshire and Norfolk centred

around social work. Went part-time until 1998 when I retired altogether.



I married my darling wife in 1956. We have 3 lovely, adorable children Daniel, Jeremy and Sally We have 6 grandchildren and enjoy their visits immensely.

**Likes** Most sports, Travel, Reunions, Gardening , Sleeping. Not forgetting RUM

**Dislikes** All Smartarses, Badly Behaved Children and Smelly Tiffies.

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*Talking of Tiffies, Gordon Duffy has passed on this picture taken during R & R in HMS Terror. To the right of member Graham Jackson is none other than the infamous ERA Bungy Williams.*

*He will be remembered, amongst other things, for the night he went ashore in HK and crawled back the following morning with a full pack of hounds tattooed over his back chasing a fox, whose tail could be seen emerging from a certain aperture. I would love to track him down to see what the hounds are up to these days - Ed*

