



# Member's



# Profiles

## Dave (Duff) Cummings

I was born on the **5 April 1949** in **Edinburgh**, my father was a Royal Marine and my mum a Wren so it was on the cards from the start that I would spend some of my life with the Navy.

After St David's primary school and Ainslie Park secondary I became an apprentice **Brass Finisher** that I hated! I went round to the RNRM careers office and applied to join the Marines but as I was under age and my mother refused to give her permission so we compromised and she let me join the Navy if I forgot about the Marines!

On 19<sup>th</sup> July 1966 I joined **HMS Raleigh** and enjoyed that summer running round the parade ground with a 303 in the air (happy days). After basic training I went to **HMS Vernon** for my basic TAS course. I went for the TAS branch because I didn't want to run around a parade ground any more as a Gunner and I thought an RP stood for Raving Poof as my dad had told me. (I wonder how he knew?)

I completed my first drafting preference card (believing that the drafting people read these things). I requested a Tribal class Frigate in the windies. So you will understand my surprise when I was drafted to a Type 14 Frigate **HMS Russell** with the Derry Squadron in Jan 1967. On our first exercise

we ran into a force 10 and were badly damaged and towed back to Rosyth for repairs.

We moved into **HMS Cochrane**, it was made up of **Duncansbay Head** and 2 other rust buckets, so you can imagine how happy I was when told that I had a draft, not my draft preference but a CA destroyer **HMS Caprice**. I joined her on the 6 April 1967 and you can imagine my delight when I saw the luxurious accommodation, which was to be my home for the next couple of years.

Highlights on **Caprice** were living on board in dry-dock with the restaurant shore side, constructed for us but unfortunately we had to share it with some dockyard moggies and a few rats.

The 2 early baths we gave FOST at Portland. Collecting so much (parted) fuel hose from the Tide Spring. The trip to Fraser Hill in Malaysia and the great runs ashore we had around the world, good trip.



**Bill McCutcheon, Phil Briggs  
& Dave Cummings - Fraser Hill 1968**



I left Caprice in February 1969 and joined **HMS Lochinvar**, during my time there I met Janis my wife to be and the future mother of my children Rachel and David.

Next I joined a Ton Class Mine Hunter **HMS Kellington** (Fish Boat) in June 1969. I passed for Leading Hand and was made up to Buffer. Highlights on **Kellington** were gun running patrols in Ireland and visiting some lovely parts of the UK - South Shields, Shetland, Oban with lots more good runs ashore.

On the 8 August 1970 Janis and I got married.

In 1971 I attended a WA2 course at **HMS Vernon** and a Boatswains Yeoman Course at the Seamanship School at Portsmouth. I returned back to **Lochinvar** on the 24 January 1972 and spent 3 months on the Schools Liaison Team in Edinburgh during the school Holidays. So we discovered the pubs in and around Rose Street - for those who have been there no explanation required! I also completed a Leadership Course in Rosyth.

I completed a further drafting preference card, this time I thought put in what you don't want and you should get what you really want. So I put in for a Hekla type survey boat based at Gus surveying the Channel, 6 weeks at sea 3 days alongside for a couple of years, surprise I got it **HMS Hecate** which I joined in May 1973, Highlights NONE apart from a trip to the Med!

I returned to **Lochinvar** in Feb 1975, was made up acting local PO and closed the place. I was discharged from the Navy on the 4 April 1976.

I joined the **Fire Service** in Edinburgh, after

my training at the Scottish Fire Service College I was assigned to Sighthill Fire Station which was a rough area of Edinburgh so it was a busy station. Unfortunately the first of the strikes took place, so out for 9 weeks with no pay I had no option but to leave the service and joined **Chubb Fire Security** in 1978 as a Sales Representative.

During my long career with Chubb Fire I progressed to Sales Manager, then in 1981 was promoted to Regional General Manager in our Marine and Offshore Division based in Aberdeen. Eventually I became the Divisional General Manager for the North Division, responsible for the company's activities in the North of England, Scotland and Offshore and Marine worldwide.

In 2002 I was seconded to **India** to support our operation there, although I was based in Mumbai I travelled throughout the continent. From India I moved to **Malaysia** in 2004 for three years as General Manager PCS our trading company in the Far East. I was based in **Kuala Lumpur**, which is a fabulous city. During my time there my wife took the opportunity to see as much of that part of the world visiting Saigon, Hanoi, Thailand, Cambodia and Singapore.



Janis and Dave



On my return from Malaysia I took up the post of Regional Director for Major Accounts Scotland and The North Of England.

I took early retirement in April 2009 and have enjoyed every moment of it so far as it has given me the time to bond with my two granddaughters and twin grandsons. But just when I looked as if I was enjoying life my old company asked me to carry out a project for them 2 days a week for the next six months, my wife is ecstatic to get me out from under her feet.

*Likes* My Family, Retirement and a nice Pint of Cold Guinness.

*Dislikes* - Lawyers Second hand car dealers and ALL MPs (but not necessarily in that order)