



# Member's



## Profiles

### Dennis Friedl

actually hadn't seen the sea that many times let alone sail upon it. Nonetheless on 11<sup>th</sup> October 1966 I arrived at **HMS St Vincent** to begin my basic training. I was then sent to **HMS Cambridge** in February 1967 for gunnery training.

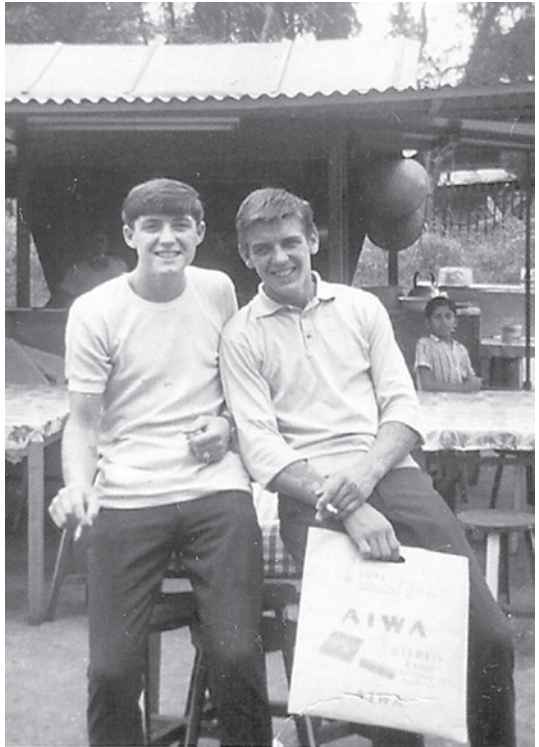
In April 1967 I joined **HMS Caprice** - my first ship, and I thought how lucky was I to be going on a round the world trip, and I wasn't seasick once. For the first three months at sea I slept in a hammock, which was quite comfortable once you got used to it. I really enjoyed my time on the Caprice and by the end of my draft I had gone from being a Junior Seaman 1<sup>st</sup> Class to AB.

After Caprice drafted to **HMS Victory** in February 1969 three months draft as working party just doing general duties. Members of the Association will remember the late Leading Seaman Mick Walsh, he was instrumental in me receiving my rum ration (earlier than I should have) whilst at Victory.

In May 1969 to **HMS Charybdis**, known as the "Cherry B". What a difference from Caprice! Charybdis was a brand new frigate; it seemed like luxury after being on board a WW2 destroyer. Once again I was off on another world trip. I had a cushy number as ship's "Posty" for nine

I was born Dennis John Friedl on 27<sup>th</sup> November 1949 in Wolverhampton, West Midlands, the second of five sons. I attended Holy Rosary Infant and Junior school and then St Joseph's Secondary Boys School, which I left at Easter 1965.

My first taste of working life was as an apprentice joiner with a friend's uncle's building firm. I'm not sure what led me to joining the Navy, after all being a Midland lad I lived about as far away from the sea as you could get. I



**Dennis & Geoff Scorey  
Sembawang Village 1968**



months as well as time off duties to play football. Whilst serving on board Charybdis in the Far East I started to write as a pen pal to my now wife Linda. We finally met on 16<sup>th</sup> August 1971 her 20<sup>th</sup> birthday.

In September 1971 joined **HMS Excellent** to do my FC2's course and also did the Sea Cat aimers course. Drafted in March 1972 to **HMS Warrior**. I had to be vetted for this draft as it involved shredding and incinerating confidential material and occasionally taking it to Battersea Power Station to be disposed of.

1972 - Joined **HMS Hermes** in September (also the month Linda and I got married). In November we moved into a naval hiring and then married quarters in Plymouth. The Hermes was in Devonport dockyard for refit after which in August 1973 we sailed round the Med and then on to Norway. It was during this trip I took early release from the Navy.

We then moved to Wolverhampton where I got a job as a **Tyre Builder** at the Goodyear Tyre Plant. My dad and three of my brothers worked there so it was quite a family affair. After a few months I realised it wasn't the job or the place for us so we moved to South Shields in May 1974.

I tried my luck at one of the local trading estates asking at factories if they were taking anyone on. I was in luck, and on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1974 I started training for a **Die Caster** a job I was to stay at for the next 32½ years finishing up as supervisor. In October 2006 the factory closed and I was made redundant at the age of 57.



**Linda and Dennis Friedl**

Fortunately **Sainsbury's** had opened a store in South Shields and I was successful in gaining employment with them. I have been there now over six years working night shift for 30 hours over three nights per week. I am looking forward to retiring in November 2014.

I have been married to my wife Linda for 40 years. We have two sons, Chris and Kevin, both married. Chris was born severely deaf, Chris's wife Michelle is also deaf but they now have two children Chloe 9 and Callum 2 with good hearing. Kevin is married to Becca and they have a daughter Mia who is nearly 2.

**Likes** – Spending time with my grandchildren, a flutter on the horses, watching England play football at Wembley.

**Dislikes** – Benefit cheats, people who let their dogs foul the footpaths, drivers who don't indicate