



BRIDLINGTON

ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION

Radio Electrical Mechanic Mike Adams

I was born and brought up in Sheffield. On leaving school, in 1965, I didn't have any occupational ambition, so my first job was working in the textile department of a discount warehouse. It was a bit mundane, so I decided I needed a trade. I went to the Royal Navy recruiting office and was told that I could train as an electrician, so I signed the dotted line.

At the age of 17, I joined HMS Raleigh on 16th January 1966 (was it really 50 years ago!) and after basic training went to HMS Collingwood for

branch training. I qualified as a Radio Electrical Mechanic 2 (REM2) and joined HMS Eagle in December 1966. We were due to go to the USA, but had a boiler fire, so had to return to Devonport. After repairs, we were deployed to the Far East, visiting Cape Town on route, due to the Suez canal being blocked with sunken ships, after Egyptian - Israeli hostilities. Had some good runs ashore in Perth Western Australia, Singapore & Hong Kong, before returning home, again via Cape Town. Whilst on HMS Eagle I worked on I-IHF transmitters and receivers, which were mainly used for aircraft communication, and 984 radar, (that large dustbin aerial) I had filled out drafting preference card and was given my 3rd choice, a shore base in Portsmouth, HMS Dolphin. I thought for ships company but, however, it turned out to be for Submarine training. After Dolphin went to Faslane and eventually joined the Polaris submarine HMS Repulse (S), working in the navcentre.

On Repulse, I did the usual patrols, a refit and DASO in Florida. I had passed for leading rate in 1970 but after 2 years of waiting for the leading rates course at Collingwood, having been told no replacements for me were available, I applied for premature discharge, as I was being prevented from taking further advancement. This was granted, so I regretfully left the RN in May 1973. On knowing my discharge from the RN was granted, I applied for and was accepted into the Metropolitan Police, joining in July 1973.

I served for 30 years at various North London police stations, with a 7 year attachment to the Magistrates Courts branch. In 1975 I became an instructor with the local Sea Cadet unit, TS Intrepid, and eventually served 11 years as commanding officer. Had some great times, with visits to various RN establishments, and sea trips onboard our affiliated ship, HMS Intrepid. Left the Police in 2003, decided to retire near the sea, hence, moving to Bridlington in 2007, transferring to Bridlington RNA from the Cheshunt branch.

