

Richard Jones

My name is Richard Jones, but the navy christened me Jonah. From the age of 11 I had a fascination with ships following my obsession with the Titanic. Over the years I dreamed of going to sea and so when I turned 18 I moved from the restaurant job I had held down since school and joined the Royal Navy in November 1998. After ten months training I joined my first ship HMS Northumberland out in the Caribbean where I got a taste of real navy life when we did a £137 million drugs bust, search and rescue and had some great runs ashore in places like Trinidad and Puerto Rico.

The next six years were spent going to and from the Med/Gulf areas on exercises, gaining my first medal for operations after the September 11th attacks on Afghanistan. It was in 2005 that I left the navy and decided to become a civvy again. This lasted two years before I returned to the fleet!



Since I rejoined I was selected for promotion to Leading Hand (after only 16 years!) and then Petty Officer just over two years after picking my rate up, not to mention visiting some of the most amazing places in the world. In 2008 I took my research into shipwrecks and disasters to a new level by publishing my first book on the Great Gale of 1871 and by August 2021 that had risen to 14 books published and seven plaques installed to commemorate such events.

After over 20 years I have served on 13 ships - Northumberland, Fearless, Kent, Grafton, Chiddingfold, Brocklesby, Cattistock, Diamond, Hurworth, Ledbury, Quorn, Richmond and Westminster - and sent away on 14 deployments (Gulf, Caribbean, Balc, Med) including one foreign shore draft to Bahrain. In the future I would like to see the Falklands and South Atlantic area as well as serve on the new QE class carriers at some point. Currently I am publishing several more books, undertaking a degree in Naval History and working on promoting future projects. Photo taken during 2015 trip to the Gulf on board HMS Richmond.

Many thanks to Jonah for taking the time to pen this article for us. Jonah lives in Bridlington and has been a member of our branch for several years. When available Jonah can be seen at many Armed Forces and community events as well as running talks for history groups.