

TERENCE ROBERT MEADEN 1939-

TERENCE (TERRY) was born 3rd June 1939 in DENMEAD. He was baptised 16th July 1939 at St Mary's Church Portchester, in the grounds of Portchester Castle, by the Rev C H Spinney. He was the eldest son of ROBERT WILLIAM HENRY and IVY MEADEN. He was born in the house owned by IVY'S sister, LILIAN and HARRY BLADES at no2 Park Road. This was later to become no10 when new building and re-numbering took place.

As TERRY was IVY'S first child, it was decided that she should stay, and give birth with LILIAN present, who had recently given birth to her daughter SHIRLEY.

After about six months he moved back to "IVYDENE" 40 Lonsdale Avenue Portchester with his parents, the war being a few weeks old. His recollections of the war are mixed, with some vivid and some more hazy. The most vivid being: taken to the air-raid shelter both day and night; talking to German prisoners of war whilst they worked in the field behind the bungalow, (learning a few German words, which apparently irritated his school teacher) the tanks and armoured vehicles with soldiers billeted at the bottom of the avenue on the foreshore, and his surprise to find them gone one morning. (Normandy invasion)

The more hazy memories are of Dad showing him how to catch rabbits, feeding the chickens and collecting the eggs; and walking into Fareham on market day to do the weekly shopping.

TERRY was christened in ST MARY'S church in the PORTCHESTER CASTLE grounds circa 1940. His first school was CASTLE STREET INFANTS SCHOOL in 1944 and then onto PORTCHESTER COMMUNITY SCHOOL in White Hart Lane in 1946. After a very short time the family moved to PORTSMOUTH.

He can recall visiting his grandparents at 16 Nelson Road before the end of the war, and can recall the name of the lodger who was a MR TAYLOR. Apparently his mother would take him to portchester railway station, were they would stand in the guards van to Portsmouth.

He started school in Portsmouth at CHURCH STREET JUNIOR SCHOOL, before leaving there in 1950 to attend ST LUKES C of E SCHOOL. After 4 years he left to join the DOCKYARD as an Electrical Fitter Apprentice 1954-1959, studying at the Dockyard Technical College. He is rightly quite proud of the fact that he came 34th out of all England in the Royal Dockyards Entrance Examination, there being approximately 900 candidates. On completion of his apprenticeship he took the Royal Navy entry examination, achieving 75% and so joined the NAVY as an Electrical Artificer in October 1959.

The first year in the Royal Navy was spent in training and qualifying courses, and in mid 1961 was drafted to HMS ARK ROYAL, and began to study navigation for which he had always had a keen interest. In January 1963 he was drafted to HMS VERNON and in November 1963 to HMS MAIDSTONE. Here he was able to study navigation more seriously, so much so that he understudied the navigation officer (Lt Cmd Dyer) until he left in June 1965, having been recommended by the above N.O. to a survey ship.

TERRY joined HMS DAMPIER at Singapore which was in the Dockyard undergoing maintenance. He was with the ship doing survey work off the coast of Borneo, Manus, The Solomon Islands, Port Moresby and later Darwin. Due to an accident to HMS COOK, in Fijian waters, an important survey was not completed, and so the ship went to Fiji in order to complete the task. This was Christmas 1965 and it was whilst here that he met JEMIMA NORMA O'CONNOR. They married 2nd July 1966. He left HMS DAMPIER in September 1966, meeting up with JEMIMA in Singapore before flying home together to England.

TERRY joined HMS BELLEROPHON from autumn 1966 until August 1968, where he had a stint as the acting navigator for the trials/training ship HMS CORUNNA. He joined HMS FIFE as a Navigation Instructor, for the Midshipmen and Officers under training. This was seen as a trial, which proved a success, and he was drafted to HMS EXCELLENT in November 1970 as a sail-training Instructor, where he remained until April 1974.

Next stop was HMS BLAKE where he was again tasked to instruct Officers and Midshipmen under training. From July 1976 to July 1978 he spent his time at HMS DRYAD and HMS MERCURY honing his skills as a Navigation Instructor, going to RNC DARTMOUTH and to sea on special training courses for technical navigation knowledge.

TERRY tells the story of failing one of his trainees who should have been the N.O. of the "MOHAWK", requiring him to quickly train up a replacement. Having done this it was decided it would be better if TERRY joined also. Unfortunately the captain of the MOHAWK, whom TERRY had known from a previous ship, did not agree with C.P.O'S instructing officers. He left the ship in August 1979, just after the crew mutinied in the West Indies against the Captain. With a change of Captain they came home with engine problems. TERRY then spent three months leave with JEMIMA and the children, with JEMIMA'S parents in FIJI.

In July 1980 he joined HMS ANTRIM again instructing Officers (O.U.T's), and left in June 1981. He was pensioned out of the navy in October that year. In his time in the navy he went round the world four times, through the Suez Canal six times, through the PANAMA four and the Kiel Canal twice. He set foot on every continent except ANTARTICA, crossed the equator dozens of times (on one survey, 10 times in twenty four hours.) and crossed the Arctic Circle four times. He was required to become a qualified Skiing Instructor, but never put skis on his feet again from that day on. Never the less he did enjoy two weeks in Northern NORWAY; he also qualified as a Nuclear Fallout Monitor in the event of a nuclear accident.

After leaving the Navy he worked for PETA teaching hand skills to young trainees. He spent some time at Warsash College obtaining the academic part of his Master's ticket. From here he joined OMRON in London and worked for them from 1984 to 1991, travelling around the U.K, and countries; Ireland, Germany and Gibraltar.

March 1991 saw him travel to Fiji with JEMIMA and SCOTT to take up the post as Naval Officer in the Fijian Military Forces, as a Navigational Lecturer. He remained in the post until June 2000 before coming home to 127 Laburnham Grove Portsmouth. At the time of his return the coup against the Fijian Government by George Spreight took place.

From the time he returned home, until his retirement in June of 2004, he worked on HMS WARRIOR as a quartermaster, enjoying every minute.

TERRY and JEMIMA live in Gosport at 31 Vernon Close.