

Lt. Peter Frean RN

1955 - 57 - Training Ship HMS Worcester (Thames Nautical Training College) left ship as Captain's Coxwain to join the P&O line as cadet and as Probationary Acting Midshipman RNR. Served as cadet in P&O ships Sunda, Strathaird, Socotra, Pinjarra, Arcadia and Soudan.

1960 - Second Mate's Certificate (Ireland).

1960 - RNR P42 course at Naval Establishments around Portsmouth (RN Barracks HMS Victory, and HM Ships Vernon, Dryad, Mercury, Heron, Excellent).

1961 - 5 year Short Service Commission as Helicopter Specialist Pilot. Joined HP Course 98 flying training at RAF Linton On Ouse.

1962 - Helicopter training to Wings at RNAS Culdrose. Short spell in 846 and 848 NAS (Commando) before Wessex conversion and appointment to 819 NAS (Anti Submarine) at RAF Ballykelly (HMS Sea Eagle). Work ups with HM Ships Ark Royal, Hermes, Lofoten, and RFA Tidepool.

1965 - Conversion to Wasp and appointment as flight commander HMS Nubian.

1966 - Left RN and joined Bristow Helicopters Ltd as instructor at AACC Middle Wallop.

1968 - Left my UK service life when Bristow Helicopters (BHL) won a contract to start a helicopter flying training school in Tehran for the Imperial Iranian Armed Forces.

My background before and after my service career:

I was born in 1939 near Stockholm where I spent my early years. In 1947 my family moved to Helsinki after which my childhood was spent going round the world, mostly by ship, with schooling in Helsinki, Sydney and British Guiana before returning to England in 1954 and starting my naval career in HMS Worcester.

My flying career with Bristows took me to Iran, Singapore, Indonesia, Western Australia, the Middle East and the North Sea. I flew more than twenty types of single and twin engined helicopters and was a training captain and examiner on most of them retiring in 1999 from Stavanger with 15000 hours. I was involved in many operations, mostly related to the oil industry, from geological and seismic survey to moving helirigs in Sumatra, and from flying to an oil rig at 12000 ft in the Zagros mountains in Iran to the Caspian Sea which is below sea level. A lot of our work was offshore to rigs in the Persian/Arabian Gulf, the Timor Sea and to the big platforms and rigs in the North Sea.

Now retired and enjoying life in Budleigh Salterton!



Front cover of commemorative book showing blue ensign defaced with 'W' and naval crown. Cadet 1955-'57.



Culdrose 705 NAS 1961 with Hiller HT1 - as Sub Lt - pre wings!



HMS Nubian in Hong Kong 1965 - this time a white ensign! Flight Commander of Wasp helicopter



At stern of P&O ss Soudan with red ensign 1960 as cadet.



Peter Frean 2018 at leisure on Budleigh beach!