

I HAVE SO MANY MEMORIES OF MY WATERGUARD DAYS IN SO MANY PLACES AND PERFORMING DIFFERENT DUTIES.

I HAVE FISHED OUT A FEW PHOTOS WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST. I AM ASHAMED TO SAY THAT I AM NOT ON THE INTERNET, ALTHOUGH MY DAUGHTER WHO LIVES CLOSE BY IS ON IT AND IS AN AVID USER !!

MY SERVICE COVERS A LOT OF PORTS AND AIRPORTS IN THE U.K. I STARTED IN MANCHESTER DOCKS (SALFORD) IN 1950. I DID DETACHED DUTY IN DOVER, EASTHAM LOCKS, ELLESMERE PORT, FLEETWOOD. FIRST APPOINTMENT WAS TO GOOLE IN YORKSHIRE WHERE I SPENT MOST OF THE TIME IN THE RUMMAGE CREW.

IT WAS IN GOOGLE THAT TOGETHER WITH (2)  
JOHN BAKERSTOCK I STUDIED FOR THE P.G. EXAM  
THE P.S.A INSTIGATED A CORRESPONDENCE COURSE  
WHICH I TOOK VERY SERIOUSLY. EVENTUALLY  
JOHN AND I PASSED AND WE CELEBRATED  
BY DRINKING A WHOLE BOTTLE OF WHISKY  
LIQUER BETWEEN US !!

LATER I APPLIED FOR P.G.S VACANCIES IN  
LIVERPOOL, BRISTOL AIRPORT AND FINALLY IN  
BOSTON LINCOLNSHIRE WHICH I GOT AND SPENT  
SOME OF MY HAPPIEST YEARS THERE.

PRIOR TO MY FIXED APPOINTMENT I SPENT  
SOME MORE DETACHED DUTY AT MANCHESTER  
AIRPORT (KNOWN THEN AS RINGWAY), DOVER  
(AGAIN!) AND AT THE USAF BASE AT MILDENHALL  
WHERE I WAS THE ONLY REPRESENTATIVE OF  
HER MAJESTIES CUSTOMS ON THE BASE (MONEY  
FOR OLD ROPE !!)

THE WORK IN NEWRY INVOLVED PATROLLING  
IN CARS THE BORDER BETWEEN NORTHERN  
IRELAND AND THE REPUBLIC. THIS WAS AT  
A TIME WHEN THE I.R.A. WERE INCREASING  
THEIR ACTIVITY AND ONE OF THEIR FAVOURITE  
TARGETS WERE CUSTOMS POSTS - THE MAIN  
ONE AT KILEEN WAS BOMBED EARLY ON  
AND HAD TO BE REPLACED BY A LARGE  
CARAVAN. I WAS WORKING THERE ONE SUNDAY  
WHEN A CAR ARRIVED CARRYING MASKED MEN  
ONE OF THEM SUDDENLY WALKED INTO THE  
POST CARRYING A TRAY WITH A HUGE OBJECT  
ON IT. HE PLACED IT ON THE COUNTER  
AND THEN APPROACHED ME SEARCHING ME PHYSICALLY  
AND THEN ORDERING ME TO GET INTO THEIR  
CAR. THEY THEN DROVE AT GREAT SPEED ACROSS  
THE BORDER AND FINALLY DUMPING ME ON TO  
THE ROAD ISSUING ME WITH DIRE WARNINGS  
NOT TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THE POLICE  
I NERVOUSLY WALKED UP THE ROAD AND  
ACTUALLY WATCHED AS THE CUSTOMS POST BLEW UP

AT THAT TIME AND THIS WAS JUST ONE OF THEM. (4)

THE STORY OF THE I.R.A AND IN PARTICULAR ~~BE~~ THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE WATER GUARD IS REALLY A SEPARATE STORY WHICH NEEDS TO BE TOLD. SADLY AND INEVITABLY THERE WERE CASUALTIES AND ALSO A NUMBER OF DEATHS

I SHOULD PERHAPS MENTION THAT DURING MY PERIOD IN NEWRY, I MADE TWO "EXITS" ONE WAS TO SOUTHAMPTON WHERE I WAS MAINLY INVOLVED IN BOARDING CRUISE LINERS - (ONE OF WHICH WAS THE Q.E. II) - AFTER WHICH I RETURNED TO NEWRY - LATER I TOOK UP A POST IN LONDON AT SURREY COMMERCIAL DOCKS IN BERMONDSEY. IT WAS WHILST I WAS THERE THAT I RECEIVED THE NEWS OF PROMOTION TO H.E.O. - WHICH MEANT APPLYING FOR A POST IN THAT RANK. I DECIDED TO RETURN TO N. IRELAND AND GOT A POST IN VIAT AT BELFAST CUSTOM HOUSE. THIS WAS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT TO WATERGUARD WORK AND QUITE HONESTLY I FOUND BORING !! HOWEVER I WAS

GETTING CLOSE TO RETIREMENT AND THAT  
EVENTUALLY ~~ALL TO SOON~~. ARRIVED ALL TO SOON

FRED STEPHEN MENTIONED THAT I HAD  
HAD PUBLISHED SOME OF MY W.W. II MEMORIES  
- I DON'T HAVE ANY COPIES AVAILABLE AT  
PRESENT BUT I WOULD BE ABLE TO GET HOLD OF  
ONE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED ?

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO ASK ME ANY QUESTIONS  
ABOUT MY WATERSGUARD SERVICE :

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR CONTACTING  
ME !

NEVILLE HENSHAW

P.S. I STILL HAVE MY TIE WITH THE KNOTTED  
ENSIGN ON IT !!!