

**Lieutenant
Commander
Charles Collins
Royal Navy**

**Commanding Officer
MCM2 CREW 5
&
HMS LEDBURY**



Lieutenant Commander Charles Collins joined the Royal Navy as a sponsored university graduate in 2004. Following initial training at BRNC Dartmouth his early fleet time appointments included HMS Exeter conducting carrier escort duties in the Mediterranean, and HMS Pembroke as part of the NATO SNMCMG1 task group operating off Cape Verde.

Completing Junior Warfare Officer Course in November 2006, he joined HMS Gloucester as OOW and Boarding Officer, thriving on the challenges of refit, subsequent trials and NATO Exercises. Specialising in Navigation, he went on to serve in HMS Mersey conducting Fishery Protection duties around the UK before deploying to the Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic Corvette HMS Clyde in June 2009. Furthermore, he joined the Type 23 Frigate HMS Sutherland in early 2010 as the Navigator, deploying to America with the UK Carrier Strike Group prior to generating the ship for Operation Cougar as part of the Response Force Task Group (RFTG).

Collins completed Staff Course at the Defence Academy, Shrivenham in Summer 2011 before taking command of HMS Raider, HMS Dasher and Bristol University Royal Naval Unit, seeing through the Ship Swap to Op Imperious and HQ move to HMS Flying Fox. On completion of the Command Tour, Collins graduated as top student from the Principal Warfare Officer Course prior to joining HMS Iron Duke as the Gunnery Officer. He enjoyed a diverse programme spanning the Caribbean, Operations Officer for BALTOPS 2015, Exercise KONKAN and SNMG1 deployment to the Arctic and Baltic Sea. He joined COMPORFLOT in April 2016 as the first incumbent Staff Warfare Officer which was a highly rewarding role implementing a variety of new initiatives to improve warfare standards and advise the DDH on Operational Capability. Selected for Sea Command of MCM2 Crew 5, he assumed Command of HMS Hurworth in November 2016 carrying out an array of DT1 National Tasking and Defence Engagement prior to Force Generating the Crew ready for the Gulf. Collins took Command of HMS Ledbury in Dec 17 for a 7 month Op Kipion deployment.

Charles is married with three children and currently lives in Hampshire. In his spare time he enjoys being with his young family and getting involved in any sport particularly Rugby, Golf and freestyle Skydiving.