

**Lieutenant
Commander
W Edwards-Bannon
Royal Navy**

**Commanding Officer
HMS MERSEY**



Will Edwards-Bannon joined the Royal Navy as a Warfare Officer in 2005 having previously read Philosophy, Religion and Ethics at the University of London's Heythrop and King's colleges and been a member of the London University Royal Navy Unit. Awarded the Armada de Chile prize on passing-out from BRNC, he undertook his Common Fleet Training in HMS Richmond. Will then went on to complete his Specialist Fleet Training in HMS Walney, having been awarded a Captain Farmer memorial prize at Young Officers' Fleet Board. On successful completion of Initial Warfare Officers' Course, he was appointed back to HMS Richmond in 2008 as OOW3.

In just under two years in the Fleet Anti-Submarine Warfare Flagship, Will was involved in a number of multi-national exercises, operations in support of the Strategic Nuclear Deterrent and an Op TELIC deployment. During this period he also passed Preliminary Navigating Officers' course and volunteered to become the first participant in the Hardern Review-led General Service Warfare Officer loan to the Submarine Service.

Having successfully completed nuclear and submarine basic warfare training, Will earned his 'Dolphins' as Torpedo Officer in HMS Torbay while on operations conducting strategic intelligence gathering and supporting the Strategic Nuclear Deterrent in 2010. He passed Fleet Navigating Officers' and Intermediate Warfare courses in 2011 before moving-on to HMS Vanguard. Completing two OP RELENTLESS patrols, firstly as Signals Communications Officer and latterly as Navigating Officer, Will experienced first-hand the challenges of maintaining Continuous-At-Sea-Deterrence, including as a locally-endorsed PWO(SM).

Will moved straight from his final deterrent patrol to the Intermediate Command and Staff Course (Maritime) in 2012, during which he was selected to be the Military Assistant to the Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (Capability and Force Design). A frenetic but fascinating 18 months on the Third Floor of MoD Main Building followed, characterised by financial penury and the implementation of the Levene Review, during which Will enjoyed an insight into the strategic delivery of the business of Defence from both a cross-Whitehall and an international perspective.

Will joined HMS Dauntless as PWO(A) direct from PWO course in mid-2015. HMS Dauntless broke new ground in developing the UK's theatre ballistic missile defence capability before becoming the first Type 45 Harbour Training Ship. As part of this process, Will joined HMS Duncan as PWO(U) in early 2016 to allow him to continue his PWO appointment in a front-line unit. Having achieved OPS as a PWO(GS) and been seduced by the world-class capabilities of the Type 45, Will attended AWO course before returning to HMS Duncan in early 2017 as Ops/SWO for her deployment to the Mediterranean and Black Sea in 2017-18 as Flagship of the Commander, Standing NATO Maritime Group Two. Will was selected for Sea Command during this period and assumed Command of HMS Mersey in late 2018.

Will is married and is a member of the Shadow Navy Executive Committee and a trustee of the Surface Warfare Officers' Association. An avid armchair sportsman, his other interests include contemporary politico-military affairs, fair-weather hill walking and all-weather dog walking.