STEPHEN WALKER

RANK:COMMANDER
JOINED:1991
SPECIALISATION:
PREVIOUS UNITS:TORBAY, TALENT, TIRELESS, TRIUMPH, VICTORIOUS

Military experience

Commander Stephen Walker was born in Blackpool and educated at Hodgson High School, Poulton-le-Fylde. He served an apprenticeship with British Aerospace, Military Aircraft Division, and qualified as a skilled mechanical engineer before joining the Royal Navy as a Midshipman – 'Seaman Officer' – in September 1991.

After initial training at BRNC, he served in HMS Ariadne and HMS Lancaster before volunteering for submarine service. Early sea appointments were to HMS Torbay as Casing Officer followed by HMS Talent as Navigating Officer; most of this period of time was spent in the North Atlantic and Mediterranean. As an Operations Officer he served in HMS Tireless and HMS Triumph and saw service in the North and South Atlantic, the Far East, the Indian Ocean, the Mediterranean, and the Adriatic.

On successful completion of the Submarine Command Course (Perisher), he was appointed to HMS Torbay as the Executive Officer, deploying to the West Atlantic for developmental sonar trials.

After 11 years of sea service, he joined the staff of the Commnader-in-Chief in Northwood as the Submarine Special Operations Officer; a very challenging and rewarding appointment. This was followed by a very privileged opportunity to attend the USN Submarine Command Course based in Groton, Connecticut, and involving sea time in 3 USN Fast Attack Submarines. He passed the course with distinction and remained in the United States for an exchange post.

On return to the UK he took Command of HMS Victorious to complete 3 deterrent patrols and a short notice deployment to the East Coast of the United States during a busy 21 month period of operations. This was followed by 15 months as The Commander to Commodore Faslane Flotilla.

He took up his current appointment as the Commanding Officer of HMS Astute in September 2012.

Stephen is married and has a young son, who takes up most of their time. His other interests include walking, sailing, motorbiking, Ford Mustangs and trying to play his guitar or piano.