



Nick 'Smudge' Smith here. Served as an AB(M) first commission from 1975 – 1977 and Ambuscade was my first ship. We were in SNFL in '77 and stopped at Bermuda for a week with the HMCS Margaree and the Dutch Leander Class Van Speyx and at the time I was the ship's painter. **I remember helping LS(R) Jerry Barrett and AB(R) Mark 'Ticker' Hart painting the Ambuscade Ship's Crest on a wall in the Naval Dockyard and we used a rat guard to obtain the crest shape!**

I recently had a holiday in Bermadu with the missus and took her around the old haunts having visiting the islands myself many times during my career. We of course had to pay a visit to Ireland Island which is now referred to as just 'Dockyard' and it is now a cruise ship terminal. HMS MALABAR is no more and The Trap sits on top of the hill as it was all those years ago doing nothing. Gone are the days of moby rash and fighting up at The Trap.

The Government of Bermuda wants the walls with the hundreds of ships crests demolished for real estate development. I spoke to some of the locals and they are not at all happy that this heritage should be disposed of. Of note, I saw two of ships crests obviously painted prior to the Falklands War (of which I'm a veteran also) of ships that we lost (Antelope and Coventry) so it hit a nerve with me that their memory should be brushed aside.

I couldn't make the reunion in Weymouth in May due to unforeseen circumstances so if there are any old Ambuscadsmen out there that remember our visit to Bermadu, do please get in touch.

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