

Naval service: Lt. Cdr. W.H.Brereton

- September 1936 - April 1937: Cadet - HMS Frobisher – naval training cruiser at Chatham. Most of the time was spent at sea
- April 1937 - March 1939: Midshipman - HMS Royal Oak, flagship, 1st Battle Squadron, Home Fleet. This time included about five weeks each on destroyer HMS Escapade and aircraft carrier HMS Courageous for training
- May 1939 - August 1939: Training courses at Portsmouth. Withdrawn from training for imminent war service August 1939
- August 1939 - October 1941: Joined HMS Valorous (which was a 1914 destroyer, modernised and rearmed). When he joined her, she was being commissioned for service from reserve at Glasgow. They sailed two days later to join the Rosyth Escort Force operating out of the Firth of Forth, Rosyth. Valorous carried out convoy escorting with very frequent air attacks and a few E-boats.
- December 1941 - July 1942: Assigned to shipyard work, River Tyne
- August 1942 - October 1943: HMS Obdurate, based in Scapa Flow; fleet and convoy cover: North Atlantic, Arctic Ocean, Russia. Involved in Battle of Barents Sea, 31 December, 1942
- October 1943 - April 1944: HMS Duke of Wellington (combined service operations, preparing for D-Day landing)

Transferred to HMS Prince Charles, landing ship infantry

6 June 1944 (D-Day)

HMS Prince Charles: Landed US Rangers during assault on Pointe du Hoc batteries, eastern end Omaha beach, Normandy. Same day: transferred to Juno beach head.

6 June 1944 - 9 September 1944:

In command of "Gooseberry" small vessel shelter, Juno beach ("a convoy of old medium-sized freighters, sunk overlapped, head to stern in a horseshoe off the beach"). "I was put in charge of this shelter, with a small crew and soldiers to man the few guns provided. There was much sea traffic and all kinds of freight and stores being landed by freighters, working the tides, using amphibious trucks, etc. This was a very busy three months, many surprises, some minor air attacks early on only. A German long-range gun exploded a shell overhead every five minutes at night for several days. It took a while to work out a routine to suit a 40-odd feet tidal rise and fall".

September 1944 - December 1944:

Belgium

January 1945 - July 1946:

HMS Speaker (on loan from US Navy), Sailed to Far East to join British Pacific Fleet. Fleet replenishment role between Fleet bases – Manus Island, Admiralty Islands, Sydney. Returned HMS Speaker to US Navy Yard, Norfolk, Virginia, July 1946

Returned to U.K via Queen Mary via New York 2 August 1946

August 1946 - April 1947	HMS Opportune, Portsmouth
February 1948 - April 1948:	Joint Services Anti-Submarine Exercises, based in Northern Ireland
September 1948 – April 1951	On loan to Royal New Zealand Navy. Temporary command of HMNZS Tutira and in command of HMNZS Tamaki training establishment at Motuihe Island, Hauraki Gulf
July 1951 – June 1952	HMS Dieppe, Arabian Gulf
July 1952 – February 1954	Reserve Fleet, Devonport, Devon
May 1954 – July 1956	On Staff of Commodore, Hong Kong. Boom Defence and Moorings Officer for Hong Kong Harbour.
November 1956 – July 1959	On staff C in C Plymouth. Part of Operations Room team, responsible for HM ship movements in local area.

Retired from Navy July 1959, returned with family to New Zealand Joined Marine Department, New Zealand Insurance Company until retirement in 1982.