THE CHOICE AT THIS ELECTION

Dear Elector,

Many years separate the two pictures of me on this, and the previous page. Yet, surprisingly little has changed – except hair quantity (less) and waistline (more). I'm still campaigning to keep our country as safe as possible, and have twice been elected by MPs on both Government and Opposition Benches as Chairman of the Defence Select Committee. Before joining the Royal Naval Reserve in the late-1970s, I fought against Far Left infiltration of the Labour Party. After Margaret Thatcher's crushing victories in 1983 and 1987, the socalled Militant Tendency were booted out of Labour. Yet, now, the extremists are back with a vengeance.

- When Jeremy Corbyn was an isolated Backbencher, we frequently debated against each other on the question of the UK's Trident nuclear force. Our encounters were polite and respectful, and we never had a cross word, despite our utterly opposing views.
- At that time, neither we nor the vast majority of moderate Labour MPs – had the faintest notion that a mass influx of new Left-wing members would install Jeremy as Labour Party Leader. The vice-like grip of the Far Left Momentum group has continued to tighten since then, with moderate MPs resigning in despair or being forced out against their will.
- Meanwhile, the Liberal Democrats are praying that people are at last beginning to forget:

(1) how they voted to treble student tuition fees when in Government, despite previously promising to 'freeze' them;

(2) how they delayed renewing our Trident submarines, and wanted to send them to sea without any nuclear weapons – returning to the UK at the height of a crisis and thus inviting our enemies to attack us at the point of maximum vulnerability; and



Julian at the helm of the Southampton-based minesweeper, HMS *Glasserton*, in 1980

(3) how they refused to support a referendum on the Lisbon Treaty, demanding instead "an In/Out referendum" on our EU Membership. Now that it's happened, they want to overturn it!

If the Liberal Democrats once again hold the balance of power, they will exploit their undeserved advantage as ruthlessly and cynically as they did in Coalition with David Cameron's "Liberal Conservative" regime. We should be foolish indeed to allow them anywhere near the centre of power, so soon after they discredited themselves so comprehensively.

In New Forest East, two years ago, voters responded magnificently to my appeal to strengthen the then Prime Minister's hand in negotiations. Sadly, this response was not reflected to the same extent elsewhere in our country. Let us strengthen and support the new Prime Minister – with his proven record as a charismatic campaigner – so that his vision of a "high-wage, low-tax economy, with the highest environmental standards" can soon become reality.

Yours sincerely,

E COMMONS, ASKED BY JULIAN, CAN BE VIEWED ON HIS WEBSITE: NLEWIS.NET