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H.M.S. HOOD ASSOCIATION



Standard Bearer
D.G.Finden.

August 1992.

Dear Shipmates & Friends,

Thank you all for your letters and correspondence of various types. It's nice to think the ship is so well remembered and respected. I find it very difficult to understand at times that the younger generation of our great country do not do a bit of remembering, also some of the serving members of the Royal Navy. I had an occasion to dine at the Senior Rates Mess at R.N.B. with the committee after one of our meetings there, and when asked who we were by the Leading Cook I said H.M.S. HOOD ASSOCIATION, and to my great surprise he said, What was the HOOD?. On another occasion when visiting the R.N. Chaplain I was asked if we were the new or old HOOD. Please inform me if we have one, and I will lay on a visit. I somehow wonder with all the reductions in the forces if we are not getting back to pre 1939 when we had very little to fight with, out of date ships, very little R.A.F. and the Army with no up to date weapons. I think with all these reductions we ought to be watching our sterns as God Forbid it could all happen again. Well enough of my politics. Lets get on about our last Re-union. I think everyone enjoyed themselves, and the food was a lot better and for a change was hot, and plentiful. The prices were a bit high, but next year we will do our best to keep them down, also we will with the help of our gallant treasurer Nobby subsidize the cost. Our very welcomed guest of Honour and his good lady arrived home safely to their farm in Cornwall, but found a few hic-cups on their arrival namely the PEAHENS had gone A.W.O.L. and the Donkey had misbehaved.

Our thanks to Commander Brown and his Wife Jane for attending, and for the very interesting speech by the Commander.

The Committee has decided that next years guest of Honour will be our treasurer "Nobby" Ken Clark and Gladys his Wife, to show our appreciation for all his good work that he puts in for the association and for the help he gives me during the year. The Standard has been paraded at most of local events during the year including the Dedication of the "H.M.S. DORSETSHIRE" Standard which took place in Dorchester. On this occasion we met Hans Zimmermann who was a Survivor of "Bismarck". He was very cordial and wished to be remembered to all the Gallant sailors of "H.M.S. HOOD". Our Standard Bearer young Den Finden displayed his usual smartness and to our minds was the best of the bunch.

Our church service at Boldre was as usual a great success and our thanks go to the Rev Julian Richards who always looks after us so well also to his gallant team of workers who provide us with refreshments after the service and allow us to mingle with his parishioners who make us all so welcome. We must also thank the choir who sang so well. Being a young choirboy myself many years ago it brought back many memories to me. Those who attended the reunion know the sad time that our Shipmate Roy Harby was having will be pleased to know that he is well on his way to recovering after having sustained a slight stroke. We wish him a speedy return to good health.

At the A.G.M. a Shipmate whose name was not taken at the time stated that he would provide the music for us at the next re-union. Would he kindly get in touch with me as soon as possible. Please. Also at the A.G.M. our Padre the Rev Ron Patterson suggested that the 1993 church service be held at St. Georges Church. This church is just a short distance from the Home Club in Queens Street. The secretary and myself visited the church and met the Rev Hill who said that he would be very pleased to accommodate us and for the Padre to arrange the

service. The reason for not going to St Ann's was our disappointment at the arrangements there, as we told not to parade our Standard in the church but to take it in before the service. The committee and myself did not agree with this. After consulting the Standard Bearer and Escorts I asked them to still carry out our usual practice and parade the Standard, and this was done. After all we were respecting our lost Shipmates not St Ann's church.

I have received a letter from the Rev J. Richards confirming the date of our next service at Boldre, this will be on the 23rd May 1993 at 1030hrs.

The next re-union will be on the 29th May 1993 at the Royal Sailors Home Club Queens St, Portsmouth.

A further News Letter will be sent out before that date, with ticket arrangements etc, but it is advisable to book your accommodation as soon as possible as the Home Club gets booked up very quickly, and there was a lot of Shipmates looking for a place to sling their hammocks this year. So get cracking.

I am enclosing a letter I received from a Mr A . Joyce. If anyone can give me any information on this subject please let me know.

The Treasurer has asked me to point out that all cheques for subs etc must be made out to H.M.S. HOOD ASSOCIATION and crossed a/c payee.

We extend our sympathy to our vice chairman Tom Hooper on the sad loss of his Wife (Olly) and thanks to our Padre Rev Ron Patterson who officiated at the church. We also extend our sympathy to Mrs R Higginson whose Husband Wesley crossed the bar.

Thank you Committee for the help you have given me during the year. I hope all Ex Ships Company and all members are well . God Bless you all.

J.R. Williams. (Bungy)

P.S. A get to gether has been arranged to take place at the Royal Sailors Home Club Queens St Portsmouth on the 7th November 1992 at 1930hrs This is the day before Armistice Sunday Names to me please before or by the 1st November or its too late Please come and make it a Grand evening. The buffet will be laid on at a cost of £2=50p See you there.

STOP PRESS

Here is some good news I hope you will agree on and that is that the cost of the dinner for 1993 will be £13=50. As we have been able to subsidize it by £2=50. which I think you must all agree is very good news.

Nobby say's thank you all who have sent a S.A.E. when writing to us. Yes it makes a difference.

Also thanks to all members who have sent donations

Here is a reminder to some members who may have over looked it , and that is that two A.G.M.'s ago the subscription was put up to £3=00 for every one.