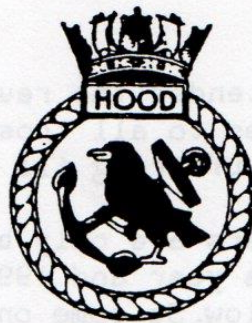


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Aug 97

Shipmates, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

Thankyou for your letters over the past months. We had one of the best reunions. the food was good, there was a very good raffle, music was not too loud, and they got up and danced. There was some good surprises which some of our young old sea dogs did for whom I must say thank you. More of this you will see from other items enclosed. Our guest of honour was Fred Carrington and his Wife. Fred made the plaque which was sent to the church owned by Mr James Clark at Eriboll Estate. Fred was a great mate to Albert R. N. and sadly misses him. Thank you Fred for all that you have done for the Association. They were known as the Knot men. Mr Clark wanted to dedicate the church to all those that lost their lives when "HOOD" was sunk on MAY 24th 1941. The service was held on MAY 25th this year which was attended by some 140/150 who lost their loved ones on that fateful day. Many of them did not know of the H. M. S. HOOD ASSOCIATION. Many wish to be members of the Association. Loch Eriboll if you don't know where it is, its right up the top of Scotland, East of Cape Wrath at Durness. It was very nice to see our over seas members, Shipmate George Donnelly, from Canada, Ken Adams from Australia who was in a wheel chair attended to by his son- in- law Derek Andrews, They keep the the name of our great ship "HOOD" alive in their countries. The church service at ST Georges church was well attended. We marched to church to the band of T. S. TENACITY and the armed guard of honour of T. S. HOOD from St AUSTELL. who were all dressed very smartly and a pleasure to see, and we hope to see them again next year. Thanks to the Commanding Officer and First Lieutenant of T. S. HOOD for making arrangements for the Cadets. Also for them attending our reunion. Thanks to the Parade Master Lt Roy Dumbleton who tried to keep us all together with his usual smart orders and appearance. Thankyou Roy I'll buy you a tot when we meet again.

Our service at BOLDRE was excellant and I must thank our Standard Bearer Den Finden for his smart appearance, and the other Standard Bearers who were at ST GEORGES and BOLDRE. It gave me great pleasure to pass the wreath laying to Ken Adams who said it was a great honour doing this. Tom Hooper our Vice Chairman was also in a wheel chair in attendance with his escort Jack Moulden. It was very nice to see you there Tom. Thank you Jack for arranging the raffle. My thanks to the Rev Ron Patterson for arranging the service at ST Georges Church. Ron being our Pardre does so many things to help us during the year. Young Ted Briggs, I have to call him young as I am getting ruddy old, has been a great help to me during my eye operations , and I do thank you Teddy boy. Thanks to the committee for their help during the year, and especially to our Treasurer Ken Clark who has the full force of operations on his plate, also to Gladys his wife for her help during our committee meetings. Thank you Gladys. Just recently I have had a number of phone calls from Next of Kin of shipmates lost in HOOD regarding to medals that have not been claimed by their Next of kin . The address to write to is H. M. S. CENTURION. GOSPORT. HANTS. Giving full name and official

number. Many thanks to all who attended the reunion and hope to see you all again next year. Our sympathy goes to all those who have lost their loved ones, and may all those who are suffering ill health soon be well. God bless you all.

Nobby has told me that News Letters are only being sent to those who have paid their subscriptions for this year and 1996 Many have not paid these yet. our funds are getting very low. So come on shipmates try and keep us going. A S. A. E. is very helpful as well. We now have "HOOD" brooches and ties in stock. Brooches £2=30 each and ties £8=00 each post free. We can also get Base ball caps, Navy blue sweat shirts, and T/shirts. SM. Med. Lge. thats is if we get enough orders, as we have to order ten or more at a time. Membership is still £3=00 per member, payable by MAY 1st each year. We have some bad news and some good news. First the bad news, we cannot get the Home Club for our reunion in May 1998 as all weekends are booked up to September, now the good news our President Ted went along to see the manager and between them found that the 25th of April 1998 was free so he booked it on the spot. 1999 has been provisionally booked for the end of May. As the funds are a little low this year we will not be able to subsidise the dinner like we have been able to do in the years gone by so it will be at the full rate of £18=00 per person. Sorry to have to tell you this. Don't forget to book early at the Royal Sailors Home Club Queens Street Portsmouth for accommadation. Tel No 01705 837681 It has just been confirmed that the Church service will be at ST GEORGES CHURCH on APRIL 26th 1998, and that the service at BOLDRE will be on the 24th MAY 1998. If you can get on the INTERNET. you may find something of interest about HOOD. Address <http://warbird.newcastle.edu.au/warships/bismarck.htm> or <http://warbird.newcastle.edu.au/warships/hoodloss.htm> I. T. N. has made some Video's all about HOOD but when they will be shown over here we don't know as it has American backing. I do hope that they will be shown here soon. Cheerio for now. Best wishes to you all.

From J. R. Nobby, and the Committee.