



## THE HMS HOOD ASSOCIATION

(Official Website [www.hmshood.com](http://www.hmshood.com))

Shipmates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

December 2000

Firstly may I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Our next Reunion in May 2001 will be the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sinking of our great ship 'HOOD' so it would be nice to see as many of our old shipmates attending in honour of our brave shipmates lost on that fateful day in 1941. Prior to our last Reunion we had a number of calls enquiring who could attend our get together. The answer is that everyone is welcome, members, their wives, relatives and friends. In fact everyone who is interested in our great ship.

The next Reunion will take place at the Royal Sailors Home Club, Queen Street Portsmouth (18.00 for 19.00 hrs) on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2001. We will be having our A.G.M. immediately prior to this in Brocks Bar at the Club (17.00 hrs) and we hope as many of you as possible will also attend. After all this is 'your' Association and you should all be aware of our activities and plans and most importantly register your vote. Tickets for the Reunion will be available from your Treasurer, Mr. K. A. Clark, priced at £18.00 each. Ken, with his keen eye on our finances has again managed to keep the price as last years. We appreciate it may seem a little expensive at £18.00 but it is only once a year and is well worth the price. The following day, Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2001, we will be holding our church service at St. Georges Church round by the Hard at Portsea commencing at 11.30 hrs. The Association padre, Rev. Ron Patterson M.B.E., ably assisted by the Vicar of St. Georges, the Rev. Orchin, will again take the service. The band of T.S. Tenacity will lead the March to the Church, together with the Association standard escorted by the guard of T.S. Sultan. Having formed up at the road alongside the Home Club, the march will commence at 11.00hrs. Please also note that in 2001 the church service at Boldre will be the week before the Reunion on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2001 commencing at 11.00hrs. With it being the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our loss, it is expected that the attendance at Boldre will be high therefore the Vicar of Boldre has asked all members planning to attend the service to drop a line to our Treasurer so as arrangements can be made to accommodate you all.

In the time that 'The Mighty Hood' has been featured on the Internet ([www.hmshood.com](http://www.hmshood.com)) we have had a great deal of interest shown in all things 'Hood' from all around the world. This has also led to a great many more applications for membership of our great Association. Our thanks go out to the founder and editor of the website, Mr. Frank Allen who lives in Colorado USA. Our thanks also go to Mr. Paul Bevand, the website researcher, and to Mr. Michael Ware, both who live in England.

It is surprising how time flies and to think that it is 60 years since the loss of such a great ship. She was my home for two years, and Ken (Nobby) Clark, our Treasurer, served aboard for three years. She was such a beautiful ship that all who served in her will agree and I well remember all the good times we had. When the war came and we spent all those hours closed up at Actions Stations I can recall the good spirits that the whole of the ships company were in (even the officers !). This makes it much harder to accept her loss along with all our brave shipmates, God bless their souls.

On September 7<sup>th</sup>, our President Ted Briggs M.B.E., Committee members, and several shipmates attended the funeral of shipmate Joe Hayter. Joe will sadly be missed by many and our condolences go his widow. Our new standard bearer, Mr. Anthony Middleton, together with escorts S/M McConnell and S/M Clark led the coffin cortege. Mrs Toe, a lady from Rayleigh in Essex, presented us with a painting of 'Hood' together with a £40 cheque to pay for framing it. The painting, measuring 3' 3" x 2' 6", will be hung in the Sailors Home Club. I have written to Mrs. Toe thanking her for such a generous gesture. I would also like to thank our President and Committee for all their help over the years and a special thanks to Nobby, our Treasurer, and his wife Gladys, for their help with Committee meetings and refreshments.

Talking of Nobby, he is still concerned that some members are forgetful (as we ourselves sometimes are) about subscriptions. These are now £5 for UK members and £10 for overseas. These are to be paid in £ Sterling and to be made out to HMS Hood Association and not to Nobby Clark please. It would be nice if any shipmates could write to Nobby and let him know of any good times (or bad) that happened to them when serving in Hood. Does anyone remember the Harmonica Band, runs ashore in Gib, Malta (down the Gut), Palma, Gulf Juan, the Spanish War etc, One of Nobbys memories is his time served in the French Navy ship 'L' Incomprise' (pictured below).

Lets have more memories shipmates!!



There are several other points of interest to relate in this newsletter. Firstly, the Hood Associations own radio station, GB2HA Special Event, was held this year on the weekend of 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> August 2000 and our call sign was aired for the sixth year. Over that weekend there were over 100 contacts from all over the UK and the Continent. A lot of Radio Amateurs told how they remembered the fateful day in 1941 when Hood was sunk. Others said they had friends and relations who served in her or were lost when she went down. Many also commented how professional and informative they thought the Hood web site was. The Royal Naval Amateur Radio Society (RNARS) is using HMS HOOD as its Millennium QSL card. All in all it was a good weekend and I would like to thank all the people and organizations that contributed to its success

Nixie Taverner's book 'A Torch among Tapers' chronicling the life and career of Captain Rory O'Conor will be published in January. Rory served as a Commander in Hood 1933 – 1936. That commission was later immortalized in his book 'Running a Big Ship on Ten Commandments'. Old Hoods may like to know that Rory's lavishly illustrated log, which formed the springboard for his daughter Nixies book, now reposes in the Royal Naval Museum at Portsmouth. Sadly Rory's torch was extinguished in 1941 at the age of 43 when his ship HMS Neptune was sunk by enemy mines in the Med. In conjunction with your Association Nixie is now working on another book to help commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sinking of Hood. Although she has received a tremendous amount of interesting material via the website she would still welcome any other Hood related memories. If you have any you would like to share please contact Mrs. Nixie Taverner at 21, Kingsdale Court, Tower Street, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8TA or telephone (01962) 867605.

Ted Briggs and Nobby went up to Old Oak Common in West London to see the ex BR railway engine named after our great ship Hood, (number 50031) Photographs of the visit are shown below.

Nobby, Ted and Andy Lickford (the organizer) with railway engine HOOD



No. 50031

HOOD

Association members pictured at Church Parade



Left to right  
Nobby, Rev. J. Richards, JR Williams, JM Taylor, Dick Turner,  
Ted Briggs, Bill Stone, J. McConnell, Frank Pavey, Cmdr Keith Evans

Finally I will end with a poser from a friend in Australia sent to our website researcher Paul Bevand.,

“About 25 years ago when playing as a kid in Derby (Western Australia) I found an old round bronze medallion about 4cm in diameter inscribed with the words, ‘HMS Hood, Jack’s Day 1924’ “

Anyone any ideas?

*God Bless you all,*

**And to all those of you not enjoying the best of health, Get Well Soon**

**Sincerest Regards,**

**Your Chairman, John Russell Williams, and the Committee**



