

HMS HOOD ASSOCIATION



VENTIS SECUNDIS

January 1996

Dear Shipmates Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you all for your letters and Christmas cards. Well this last year has not been a good year for a number of us. So many have crossed the bar, and sickness has taken its toll. Our sympathy goes out to all relatives who have lost loved ones, and to the sick we wish you a speedy recovery, and may 1996 bring you all good health and happiness.

Our Vice President, Tom Hooper sustained a stroke and is now in the Gosport War Memorial Hospital in Gosport. Get well soon Tom.

Well not a very cheerful start to this Newsletter, but it will get better I hope as I go along. The get together at H.M.S. NELSON was well attended. Forty-odd members and friends took part, and I think everyone enjoyed themselves.

Now for functions taking place this year:

On 19th May 1996 at 1030 hrs the Church Service at BOLDRE will take place, and I advise you to arrive early as the church fills up and the seating goes so quickly.

The Reunion will take place on the 25th May 1996 at the Royal Sailors Home Club, Queens Street, Portsmouth (1800 hrs for 1900 hrs) but please remember the A.G.M. will take place in the boardroom at the Club at 1700 hrs on the 25th May 1996 so please attend if possible as it's your Association's welfare that is discussed, and you may have something to say that may help the Association.

On Sunday 26th May 1996 at 1130 hrs a Church Service will be held at St Georges Church, The Hard, Portsmouth. The church is near the old "H.M.S. Vernon". The parade will form up at 1100 hrs and march with the Band of T.S.Tenacity and the Guard of Honour from T.S.Hornet leading us. I do hope that as many as possible will march with us, and show respect for our lost Shipmates.

The closing date for the dinner tickets, which will cost you £16.50 per head, will be the 1st May. It will be too late after this date, as the number attending has to be known by then. Please return your application forms (which are enclosed) as soon as possible please.

You will be pleased to know that our Nobby the Treasurer has now recovered from his two operations this year, and if he keeps on the N.H.S. will go broke, or has it already! Although he has been cut about he has managed good book keeping so we have been able to knock £2.00 off the price of the tickets. Of course if I win on the lottery you won't have to worry, I'll treat you all.

The Service at St Georges Church will be conducted by our Padre The Rev. Ron Paterson. I thank him for arranging this for us, and for so many other things he has done for us.

There has been no further news about the diving on the "HOOD" at the moment to place a plaque on her as the company concerned are operating elsewhere, but I will inform you as soon as we get any news.

I would like to thank our Standard Bearer, Dennis for the good work he has done in this last year. Also I thank the committee for helping me through the year. Many thanks to Mrs Gladys Clark for allowing us to use her home for our committee meetings and giving us refreshments. Thanks you also Lt A. Ayling for helping with the Christmas cards etc. Also not last but first and foremost thank you all for keeping the Association afloat and, Oh the subs are due 1st May. Also Nobby tells me there are a lot who have not contacted him to let him know if they are still interested in the Association. If they don't do so their names will be struck off as members so let him know before the 1st May.

Cheerio my Shipmates and friends, best wishes to you all.

J. R. Williams, Chairman.

TO A LOST SAILOR

J. R. Williams

Deep, deep the sea that is your Arctic grave,
Ice-cold and dark above your metal tomb
Where you and many other sailors, brave,
By fire from alien guns, came to their doom.
There was no pleasure then and none today,
Too cold for mortal men to find delight,
Even the dolphins choose elsewhere to play
Sleep, sleep in your uncharted ocean bed,
Untroubled by the turmoil of this world,
In that quiet solace, -dueness to the dead;
And let the ocean, whipped by wind and the tide
Make fit memorial to courageous men
Who left our shores that fateful day in May,
Never to enjoy this life again.e

RANK DOESN'T ALWAYS RATE

Yeoman on bridge of ship in a light fog to Captain, "Signal received by lamp Sir, Alter course 30 degrees to south".
Captain to Yeoman, "Reply, YOU alter course 30 degrees north".
Yeoman, "Message passed sir, further message, Alter course 30 degrees to south immediate"!.
Captain to Yeoman, "Make, I am the Captain of Cruiser, YOU alter course"
Yeoman, "Message passed sir, Reply sir, I am a one badge ex-hunting tosser, this is a lighthouse".

GOD PUT ME ON THIS EARTH TO ACCOMPLISH CERTAIN THINGS
RIGHT NOW I AM SO FAR BEHIND, I WILL NEVER DIE