



THE HMS HOOD ASSOCIATION

(Official Website www.hmshood.com)

Shipmates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

July 2001

Another Reunion over...

I think everyone enjoyed themselves, the food was good, the company was good and I definitely heard no complaints!

It was very nice to see friends and members from abroad in attendance, especially Mr. Frank Allen over from Colorado USA. Frank is the man who started and runs the HMS Hood Association website. He is helped in this by Mr. Paul Bevand from Worcester and Mr. Mike Ware from West Yorkshire who were also there. We also had the pleasure of meeting the young Mr. Adams with his wife and two children. Mr Adams now lives and works in England. His father, who lives in Australia, came over a few years ago but was wheelchair bound and needed to be wheeled around by his son in law. Unfortunately he was unable to come over this year as he suffers very badly with his legs and was unable to travel. A pleasant surprise at the Church service at St. Georges on Sunday was the presence of two buglers of the Royal Marines. They were very well turned out as you would expect from the Marines and played for us on the bugle the tunes of 'The Last Post', 'Action Stations' and 'Reveille'. The Standard Bearer, Mr. Tony Middleton, was as usual well turned out and did his usual good job with his escort of Mac and Nobby. Overleaf I have included some pictures of The Reunion and the Church Service.

As you will no doubt have read and heard there is to be a search for the wreck of **HMS HOOD** this July. The enclosure with this newsletter will explain the details further. The television company Channel 4 is accompanying the search team on board the ship Northern Horizon and hope to film **HOOD** on the seabed. Film crews from Channel 4 were at the Reunion dinner and were filming the proceedings with a view to making a documentary about the Association and the search for **HOOD** to be televised later in the year. Rob White of Channel 4 was at the Reunion together with David Mearns, the search team leader, and Dr Eric Grove, a well known naval historian. Channel 4 has a website devoted to the search for **HOOD** which is updated daily by Rob White from the search ship. This website can be found at www.channel4.com/hood

For all those who can attend don't forget the Remembrance Day service at the Memorial on Southsea seafront on November 11th please be there about 10.45 for the Two Minute silence and the laying of the wreath. The Association standard will be there and afterwards we shall meet at the Royal Sailors Home Club in Portsmouth for a few drinks and a natter.

Next year's arrangements are that the Boldre church service will take place on Sunday 19th May 2002 at 11.00am, the Association dinner and Reunion will be at the Royal Sailors Home Club, Queen Street, Portsmouth on 25th May 2002 and the church service at St. George's, Portsmouth will take place on Sunday 26th May 2002, so come on shipmates please make a special effort to be there.

Our Treasurer, Nobby Clark, tells me that because so many of you are not sending in their membership cards when they renew their subscription (you must keep them in a safe place as they do cost money !!) in future you will only get a receipt in your SAE.

Many thanks go to Ted Briggs for his help at the Reunion, also to the Reverend Ron Patterson, for arranging the Church service, and Reverend Orchin, the Vicar at St Georges. Many thanks to the Committee for helping at the Reunion Dinner and also for their help over the past year. Thanks go to Jack Moulden for organising the raffle. and to Mr. McConnell's daughter for the table flowers and a big thank you to Mike for doing the printing etc for us

(Please turn over).

Last but certainly not least a very big thank you to Mrs. Gladys Clark, who attends to our needs and provides refreshments for our Committee meetings.

I do hope that everyone is in the best of health, and to those not so well 'Keep taking the tablets' and get well soon.

God Bless you all

Your Chairman,

John Russell Williams

PS. Did you know smiling is infectious? You can catch it like the flu!

' When someone smiled at me today I started smiling too. As I passed around the corner someone saw my grin. When she smiled I realised I had passed it on to her. I thought about that smile and recognised its worth. So keep smiling.'



Ted Briggs, David Mearns and Hood Plaque



Frank Allen, Ted Briggs and Paul Bevand



Standards and Escort



March passing HMS Warrior



Royal Marine Buglers in Church with HMS Hood Association Standard



Up spirits!, Ken Clark with 'young' Bill Stone