



## The H.M.S. Hood Association

June 1999

Dear Shipmates, Ladies, Gentlemen,

Another year has passed, where does the time go? The Reunion seems to come around very quickly, I wonder, is it our age?

Well, this year we started off at a different time for the Boldre service. This seemed to go down very well as the church was packed to capacity as usual. We met a number of new people who were interested in 'HOOD' and also gained a few new members. It was very nice to see one of our overseas members, Mike Collins from Australia, who laid a wreath at St. Georges's Church. We all had a surprise when the cadets from 'TS LONDON' arrived as we had had no prior notice of this, and of course they were most welcome and looked very smart in their uniforms. I was very pleased to see our Hon. Vice Chairman Tom Hooper in the company of Jack Moulden. Jack very kindly picks up Tom from his nursing home and looks after him. Thank you Jack!

Our bugler, Mr Alan Flood was perfect as usual. Then came the Reunion. The AGM was held in the boardroom in the R.S.H.C. at 17.00 hrs. This was very well attended by 32 of our members. It was put to the vote for our next guest of honour and 'young' BILL STONE was proposed. Bill will be in his 100<sup>th</sup> year at the next Reunion, the vote was carried and young Bill accepted. I might also add that Bill is fitter than most of us ! He was up on the dance floor with some of the 'young' ladies and was enjoying himself. He also told us he has a chest expander, which he uses.

After the AGM a German sailors choir entertained us, and the singing was very enjoyable. Our thanks to Commander Grenfell who organised the choir. Our President Lt. A. E. Briggs MBE RN (Retd) was presented with a book by Commander Grenfell; this was from a survivor of 'BISMARCK' who unfortunately was unable to attend due to ill health. I was then presented with a plaque for the Association. At the Dinner our guest of honour Vice Chairman Mr. Peter Heys and his wife Jean (our secretary) were presented with an engraved Bell, and earrings, to show our appreciation for the help they have given us. The usual toasts and speeches took place, the last one by our parade marshal Lt. Roy Dumbleton who spoke about 'TS HOOD'. This speech was in regards to having the four new training rooms named after the three 'HOOD' survivors and 'HOOD's' Captain. I think everyone enjoyed themselves. I must also thank the music man for playing some of the good old tunes. The next day Nobby got up at 06.30hrs to talk on Radio Solent at 07.15hrs about his time in 'HOOD'. Did anyone hear him? Later that morning some weary and thick headed bodies fell in outside the Club to form up to march to St. Georges's Church under the command of the parade master Roy Dumbleton. Roy had a clear head and a loud voice. The parade marched off to the band of 'TS TENACITY', and a guard of honour from 'TS SULTAN'. The band and guard were well turned out as usual and a credit to their instructors. Our Standard and escort, and 'TS TENACITY's' Standard followed, then our members and then the German choir. Lt. A. E. Briggs MBE RN (Retd) took the salute from the steps of the Home Club. The church service was arranged and conducted by our Padre, Rev. Ron Paterson MBE, thank you Ron. I would like to thank all those who took part in the service at St. George's and Boldre.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our friends who have now got 'HOOD' and the Association on the Internet. We are now known worldwide. Thanks to the Committee for their help over the year, they have put in a lot of time and energy. Thanks also to our Standard Bearer Den Finden for his good work and to young Dick Turner for his Master of Ceremonies duties. Thanks go to our Treasurer who has had such a lot of work to do, and also to our President for his help over the year. Thanks also go to Shipmate McConnell's daughter, Mrs. Brown, who made the wreaths and flower arrangements for the Reunion. Last but not least thanks to Mrs Gladys Clark who tends to our wants and needs at our Committee meetings.

(continued overleaf)

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## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

The date and venue for the next Reunion and AGM is:

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May in year 2000 Royal Sailors Home Club, Queens Street, Portsmouth**

The date and venue for the Church Service is:

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May in the year 2000 St. Georges Church**

The date and venue for the Boldre service is:

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May in the year 2000 Boldre Church**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November in the year 2000**

Members will meet at the Southsea Front War Memorial before 11.00 hrs where our President will lay the wreath. Medals will be worn and the Standard will be paraded.

Let's have a bumper Reunion and make the Year 2000 one to remember. (It's hard to spell Millennium!)

A Video was taken of this years Reunion and of the Church service. It runs for about 1 hour 45 minutes. If any one wishes to buy one just make out a cheque for £12.50 (Post Paid) made payable to **PERSONAL VIDEO PRODUCTIONS** and send it to **PERSONAL VIDEO PRODUCTIONS 81, BROMPTON ROAD, SOUTHSEA, HANTS PO4 9AJ.**

It was proposed at the AGM that, owing to the higher costs of postage and materials, UK subscriptions will increase to £5.00 and overseas subscriptions will increase to £10 for the Year 2000. This was agreed unanimously. New membership cards will be issued from now when you send your subscriptions to the Treasurer. Please note that following this News Letter no more News Letters will be sent to any member who has not paid their subscriptions for 1998/1999.

Subscriptions for 1999 were due on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1999, so come on members, **PAY UP!** Keep being a member in such a **GREAT ASSOCIATION.** If you don't pay you won't be. (This previous paragraph is from Nobby, our strict Treasurer !!)

I hope I have not forgotten anyone and I wish all those in sickness a speedy recovery,

## **GOD BLESS YOU ALL**

John Russell Williams  
Chairman

**PS I KNOW IT'S A LONG TIME TO GO BUT DON'T FORGET ALL THESE IMPORTANT DATES,**

**HERE IS A THOUGHT;**

**'WORRY IS INTEREST PAID ON TROUBLE BEFORE IT COMES'**