



## THE HMS HOOD ASSOCIATION

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

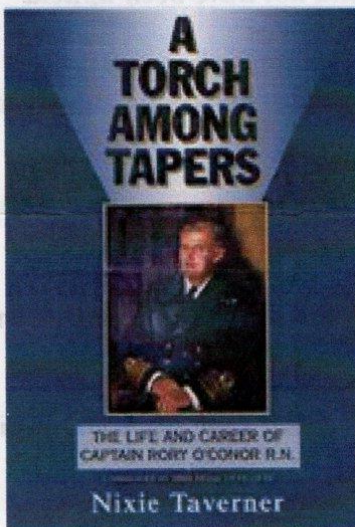
Shipmates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

March 2001

Yet another Christmas past and another reunion on its way. This special one is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sinking of our beloved ship and the loss of our shipmates, God bless their souls.

The Association is very strong at the moment as our website ([www.hmshood.com](http://www.hmshood.com)) is being seen all over the world. This in turn has led to many more requests for membership from around the world.. Many thanks are therefore sent to Frank Allen in America, the web site founder and editor, Paul Bevand in Worcester England, the website chief researcher and to Mike Ware in Bingley Yorkshire. Mike does a lot of printing for us and it was Mike who designed and printed our last Christmas card. Long may the HMS Hood Association website continue to expand and flourish.

As I mentioned previously this is the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and I do hope there will be a bumper turnout at the Reunion in May to honour our lost shipmates. So come on Shipmates, make an extra effort to be there!! Ken Clark, our Treasurer, has made a good effort by being able to subsidise the entrance fee again from the normal price of £21.50 to last years price of £18.00. This has been done by good bookkeeping. He's not called *Scrooge* for nothing. I have included a ticket request form for the Reunion with this newsletter.



A new book written by Nixie Taverner, the daughter of Captain Rory O'Connor R.N., has been recently released relating the life of Captain O'Connor and deals with his time served as Commander in HOOD. Unfortunately Captain O'Connor was lost, when in command of HMS Neptune, when she was sunk in 1941.

The book written by Nixie is entitled '*A Torch Among Tapers*' and is published by **Bernard Durnford Publishing** at a price of £24.99 (including postage and packing) and is well worth a read.. Copies can be obtained from:

**BERNARD DURNFORD PUBLISHING**

**THE OLD MUSEUM**

**BRAMBER**

**WEST SUSSEX**

**BN 44 3WE**

**Tel (01903) 816677**

In my last Newsletter I stated that the Associations A.G.M would be held on the evening of the Reunion in the Brock Bar of The Royal Sailors Home Club at 17.00. I would now like to inform you that the A.G.M. has been brought forward by a half hour to 16.30 (at the same venue) as we have a lot of business to attend to and a lot of gifts and bequests to the Association to announce. This can only be done at the A.G.M. so please be there. To all of you intending to go the Boldre Church service on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2001, would you please let the Treasurer, Ken, know as soon as possible. This is so the Vicar at Boldre can organise extra seating if required as we are expecting a large turnout

The Boldre service is on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2001 at 11.00 hrs, the Reunion 2001 is on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2001 at 18.00hrs for 19.00hrs and the service at St. George's church on the Hard Portsmouth, is on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2001 at 11.30hrs following the march. Remember all members are welcome to march and that includes the ladies. No one is excused boots (except of course the disabled), so come on lets show the good people of Portsmouth that 'HOOD' still remembers our lost shipmates.

(Please turn over).

the Reunion Dinner raffle.

Thank you all and the members of the Committee including Mrs Clark, who we have as our hostess once a month, special thanks go also to Rev. Ron Patterson our Padre, the Rev. Orchin at St. Georges, and to the Vicar of Boldre for organising the church services. Our thanks go too to our Standard Bearer, Mr. Anthony Middleton. Once again our *Scrooge* (Ken 'Nobby' Clark) has asked me to remind you all that Association subscriptions for 2001 are due before 1<sup>st</sup> May 2001.

## **POINTS OF INTEREST**

### **BRIGHTON HERO of HMS HOOD**

Mrs Jeffs has recently bequeathed a large sum of money to Association funds. Mrs Jeffs was the brother of CPO Archibald Henry Surrey of Brighton, Sussex who was lost in Hood on that tragic day in May 1941. CPO Surrey spent most of his wartime period in Hood but did serve for a time in Renown and indeed was on board Renown when she encountered the German battlecruiser Scharnhorst near Narvik in 1940. 'Archie' as he was known joined the Navy in the summer of 1928 on the advice of his father who had served in the RN for 37 years. Archie was generally regarded as one of the best qualified shorthand writers in the Royal Navy and was detailed for special duties on at least two occasions. These were at the Inquiry into an incident involving the battleship HMS Royal Oak when he was specially sent out from England to the Mediterranean to take the official shorthand notes at the Court Martial proceedings and he was also given similar duties at the Inquiry into the loss of the submarine HMS Thetis. In the New Years Honours List for 1941 'Archie' was Mentioned in Despatches for

***'Outstanding zeal, patience and cheerfulness, and for never failing to set an example of wholehearted devotion to duty without which the high traditions of the Royal Navy could not have been upheld'***

Archie had served in the cruiser HMS London in the Mediterranean for three years before the war and was engaged in duties at the Admiralty in London when war broke out in 1939. At the time of his death CPO Archie Surrey was 33 years old and left a wife, Dorothy, and twin boys.

### **PHOTOGRAPHS of shipmates lost in HMS HOOD**

Mr. Paul Bevand, our Website researcher, is trying to obtain as many photographs as possible of shipmates who were lost in Hood in 1941. These will be posted on the website alongside the men's details on the Roll of Honour. Paul has already received a great many photos (over 100) but would like to obtain as many as he possibly can. If you have any photos or know where these may be obtained please contact Paul by writing to him at

Mr. PAUL BEVAND  
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WORCESTER, WR2 6UE

Or by email at [paul.bevand@btinternet.com](mailto:paul.bevand@btinternet.com)

**I do hope you are all keeping as well as possible.**

**God Bless.**

**Your Chairman  
John Russell Williams**