



THE H.M.S. HOOD ASSOCIATION

(Official Website www.hmshood.com)

Message from the Chairman

Shipmates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with regret I have to report Vice Admiral Sir Louis Le Bailly, KBE CB OBE, crossed the bar on 3rd October last aged 95 years. He served in HMS Hood as a Midshipman in 1933 and as a Lieutenant (E) from 1937 to 1940. He was a survivor of the sinking of HMS Naird in 1942. Sir Louis had a distinguished career in the Royal Navy. Vice Chairman Keith Evans attended the funeral at the Parish Church of St. Tudy, Cornwall, on behalf of the Association.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the sinking of HMS Hood. To celebrate this occasion we are holding a Memorial Service at the Naval War Memorial on Southsea Common on 24th May. The Service will be conducted by our Chaplain, Archdeacon John Green, and will commence at 1130. We anticipate about 140 people will attend including invited dignitaries, representatives from the Allied High Commissions/Embassies and the French Mers el Kabir Association. Seating has been arranged for all attendees. A buffet lunch will be provided at the nearby Queens Hotel for those who have returned their invitation requests.

As a result of the Memorial Service being held on the Tuesday, the Reunion Dinner has been rescheduled for Monday 23rd May at the Royal Maritime Club. The ballroom is unavailable this year so the Dinner will be held in the Nelson Lounge, which only has a capacity for eighty diners. To avoid disappointment you should return the Reunion ticket request form, included with this Newsletter, as soon as possible. Please do not forget to include a **stamped addressed envelope** with your request. This year we have decided not to have a 'top table'. Instead the traditional occupants of this table will be spread around the other tables enabling closer contact with the participants.

There are to be some changes to Committee members' duties. Paul Bevand wishes to stand down as Membership Administrator responsible for membership matters and Dinner ticket sales. For the time being, Derick Collins, the Newsletter editor, will handle these matters. Please therefore send your membership renewals to Derick and not Paul. Derick's address is included with the Reunion Dinner ticket application form. Paul will continue to assist Frank Allen with the website and maintain the database. He has also agreed to become Secretary and will be responsible for taking minutes at all meetings.

More recently it has become apparent that we need a person to undertake the duties of publicity officer. This is a new Committee post and will have responsibility for advising and reporting our activities to the press and media and keeping contact with other appropriate organisations and associations. If any member is willing to take on this position please contact me for more details.

Paul's research has recently discovered a few more Hood veterans, bringing the total now known to us of 15. At the last count we had 263 members, of which 28 live abroad. The membership includes 12 veteran's widows. 52 new members have joined so far in this membership year.

God bless you all,
Peter Heys

Important Events.

- **2011 Boldre Church Service:** 1100 on Sunday 15th May
- **2011 AGM/Reunion Dinner:** Monday 23rd May at the Royal Maritime Club, Portsmouth

- 1110 for
- **2011 Memorial Service:** 1130 on Tuesday 24th May at Portsmouth Naval War Memorial
 - **2011 Remembrance Service:** 1045 on Friday 11th November at Portsmouth Naval War Memorial
 - **2012 AGM/Reunion Dinner:** Saturday 26th May at the Royal Maritime Club, Portsmouth
 - **2013 AGM/Reunion Dinner:** Saturday 25th May at the Royal Maritime Club, Portsmouth

HMS Hood Memorial Gallery

10 years ago in recognition of the 60th anniversary of the loss of the ship, we decided to make an effort to obtain photographs of as many of the men who lost their lives as possible. Our aim was to have 60 for the 60th, in the end we had just over 100 by the Reunion in May 2001. We have continued to collect photos of the casualties ever since and at present the total stands at 783 which is more than half but still leaves 632 to find. So our collection has grown into the largest photographic memorial to any Royal Navy ship. Those of you who have attended a Reunion in recent years will have seen the display we do which makes an impression on everyone who sees it. The photos are also displayed on the website throughout the year.

1. Often there is an article about any local man who was lost and these sometimes have photos which you can print off.
2. Write to your local paper to see if any relative still lives in the area. Of course there maybe relatives living locally of casualties from other parts of the country.
3. Research and photograph any local war memorial that casualties are listed.

If you are interested in helping with this please write to me : Paul Bevand, 98 Monarch Drive, Worcester. WR2 6EU. I can provide you with a list of the local casualties. If people have already written to me about their area I will let you know so that you can co-ordinate your efforts.

Membership Renewals

In recent years we have been very successful in keeping membership levels up, in fact, they are now at record levels. Although this is obviously good news it does mean that the membership secretary gets rather inundated in work in the spring. We are looking at ways of easing this burden by reducing the administrative work involved. In the next few months the committee will be looking into the possibility of offering multi-year or life membership. We will let you know of any changes in due course. You can currently pay by two easy methods, Direct Debit, PayPal, details are on the website www.hmshood.com and of course by post.

Reunion Week-end 23/24 May 2011.

Accommodation – members who have booked accommodation at The Royal Maritime Club will find a confirmation slip enclosed. If anyone has not received one please contact me a.s.a.p

Saleable Equipment

During the week-end Alec Kellaway will be on hand should members require any items.

Memorial Service.

Members who have requested to attend the Buffet Lunch will have an invitation and name badge enclosed. If I have missed anyone please contact me a.s.a.p. Any member who has not already asked to attend and would like to please contact me by 31st March 2011. **Please note that the Buffet Lunch is by ticket only**

Transport.

The committee are investigating the possibility of providing transport from the Royal Maritime Club to the War Memorial if sufficient numbers require it. Those who are interested please let me know.

All request to be made to:- Derick Collins, 12 Coghlan Close, Fareham, PO16 7YF Tel 01329 825965