



THE H.M.S. HOOD ASSOCIATION

(Official Website www.hmshood.com)

Message from the Chairman

Shipmates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year we have chosen to hold our Reunion Dinner in the Nelson Room at the Maritime Club on 26th May at 1830 for 1900. We are repeating the arrangements we had last year of using the Nelson Room and not having a top table as we received many favourable comments from the members who attended. However, the down side is that the room can only accommodate 80 diners in total.

Our Guest of Honour this year will be Lloyd Adams who is 96 years old and a veteran of Hood. Lloyd has been a member of the Association for the last few years but became well known following his interview last year at Boldre Church on Meridian Television for their news item on the 70th anniversary of the sinking of Hood.

On Sunday 30th October 2011, Alec Kellaway, Pat Davies and myself attended the Service of Rededication for the War Memorial inside St. Andrew's Church in the village of Laverstock, Wiltshire. Some four years ago it was realised the Memorial inside the Church only represented the First World War. The Memorial consisted of a large brass plaque mounted on the north wall of the nave and engraved with the names of those who sacrificed their lives. Through appeals to the public and via internet enquiries, eight Second World War dead from the village were established and two additional names to add to the First World War due to recent parish boundary changes. The additions to the Memorial were engraved on a similar brass plaque and mounted below the First World War original to form an inverted Tee. One of the Second World War dead was Petty Officer Steward R.G.H. Osborne who joined the Royal Navy in April 1921 and died in Hood when the Bismarck sank her. Revd. Jonathan Ball conducted the Service.

In recent years we have had less than thirty members attending the AGM including the six Committee members. This is a very poor turnout considering our total membership is approaching 240. For those attending the Reunion and any other members, please make every effort to join us at the AGM, which takes place in Brocks Bar at 1600 before the Dinner. Your contributions to the meeting and ideas on the future direction of the Association will be most welcome.

We have recently re-allocated some responsibilities within the Committee. Paul Bevand wished to relinquish the Secretaries duties, which have now been taken over by George Wronski with Derick Collins as his back up. George, of course, also retains his responsibility as Treasurer. Membership subscription receipts previously temporarily undertaken by Derick will now revert back to Paul Bevand although they can still be included with your Reunion ticket applications to be sent this year to Derick.

At the last count we had 234 members, of which 36 live abroad. The membership includes 14 veterans and 12 veteran's widows. This is an increase since the last report due to new membership applications.

Enclosed with this Newsletter is an application form for Reunion Dinner tickets. Please return your application as soon as possible to avoid disappointment, enclosing a SAE, as the number is restricted to 80 attendees. Please also make your bookings soonest at the Maritime Club, as there are only a few rooms still vacant at the time of writing. May I also remind you that membership renewals for the membership year May 2012 to April 2013 are now due.

God bless you all,
Peter Heys

Important Events.

- **2012 Boldre Church Service:** 1100 on Sunday 20th May
- **2012 AGM/Reunion Dinner:** Saturday 26th May at the Royal Maritime Club, Portsmouth
- **2012 Memorial Service:** 1200 on Sunday 27th May at St George's Church, Portsmouth
- **2012 Remembrance Service:** 1045 on Sunday 11th November at Portsmouth Naval War Memorial
- **2013 AGM/Reunion Dinner:** Saturday 25th May at the Royal Maritime Club, Portsmouth

Remembrance Service –Chatham Naval War Memorial

Members Bob & Margaret Harvey attended this service and here is their report. “November 11th was a cold, damp, overcast morning as we set off from Southend-on-Sea for Chatham heading for the Chatham Naval Memorial. We had previously contacted the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to establish if a service was to be held and had been advised that the only one would be at 0900hrs, which we felt was strange, so we checked with the gatehouse to see what they could advise as they are responsible for security at the memorial. They confirmed that the only one would be at the Garrison at 0900Hrs. We set off in plenty of time, not knowing what to find at the Memorial. In the event we arrived early to find that 5 minutes later a Catholic Priest arrived to confirm that there was indeed to be a service at 1100hrs, and he was assisting at the service and that the Garrison Priest, the Reverend Patrick J Aldred was officiating.

At 1100hrs, the service which was preceded by a cannon being fired – presumably from the Garrison – to mark the start of the regulatory 2 minutes silence, followed by another cannon to mark the end. The Garrison Priest gave a rendition of a naval incident which occurred during WW2 of a particular vessel that had been an escort for the North Atlantic convoys which emphasised the trauma of the time. The appropriate dipping of colours occurred at the correct times and the attendance of past serving members were smartly controlled at the appropriate times.

At the presentation of the wreaths, the official ones were presented and then those of us who had wreaths to lay were invited to do so. As we had four to lay we were invited to lay ours at the central memorial, but Bob indicated that he wished to lay them at the four panels where our boys were commemorated, Bob’s Uncle, Howard Lewis Charles King, being inscribed on panel 50 and the remainder on panels 45, 46, 49, 50 as follows:-

Panel 45- Walter Wilson C/JX 213835 Signalman

Panel 46- Sydney Frederick Pemberton C/MX 59796 ERA 4th Class
Charles Ben Dennis Print C/MX60179 ERA 4th Class

Panel 49- William Edward Atkins C?111409 CPO Steward, Robert Henry Burkin CH/X692 Marine
Alfred Edward Jilier CH/22942 Marine. Jack Lawson C/MX59364 Cook.
Ernest Percy Manton C/MX59796 Cook. John Frederick Thurogood C/SR8667 Cook (S)

Panel 50- Kenneth Charles Bridges C/LDX5409 Ord Telegraphist. Neville Trenear Hall C/WRX104 Signalman
Howard Charles Lewis King C/LDX4228 RBVR Signalman.
Fred Hodgson Piper C/TDX2012 Ordinary Signalman

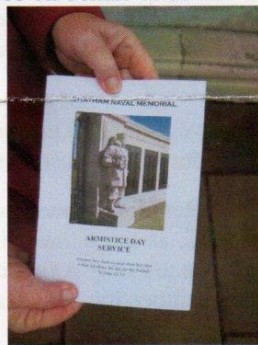
After the service, we spoke to the Garrison Priest and were invited to view the books of remembrance in St Barbara’s Garrison Church.

The Hood’s ships company have been remembered annually at the Naval Memorial on Southsea Common, Portsmouth and it was fitting that they should also be remembered at Chatham on the 70th Anniversary of the sinking of The Mighty Hood. Attending this service was very moving and more poignantly so as this appeared to be the first time that the lads had been represented at the Chatham remembrance service by the Hood Association. We enjoyed our day and were very pleased that we were able to pay our respects to those who gave so much for us all”.

Editor I am sure all members will join the committee in expressing our grateful thanks to Bob and Margaret Harvey for taking the time to attend the Service on behalf of us all.



Bob Harvey



Service Programme



Memorial Plaques of HMS Hood



Standard Paraded



Members assembled

Memorial Service Portsmouth Naval War Memorial-Southsea Common

This year the weather was kind to us it turned out to be a lovely sunny day. As it was a Sunday we had a lot of passing public who swelled our congregation to approximately 200 which made our service more poignant. Our association chaplain The Venerable John Green lead us in remembering our lost loved ones.

Royal Naval Boys Memorial

On Sunday 18th March 2012 at 1100 a service was held in the Portsmouth Cathedral to dedicate a Memorial Stone to the 534 Boys age 16 and 17 years old who lost their lives during 1939-1945 second World war. Of the 534 Boys 71 were serving in H.M.S Hood. The service was very well attended from many naval associations and 12 Standards were paraded at the entrance of the cathedral as the congregation entered. They were displayed around the memorial during the service. During the dedication a young sailor laid a Wreath together with James Reid who was a boy seaman at H.M.S. Vincent in 1937. After the service many associations and guests laid their wreaths in memory of the boys. After the service Standards were paraded at the entrance as the congregation left the cathedral to light refreshments provided by the cathedral. There are two Books of Remembrance one available for all to view the other kept in safe keeping.

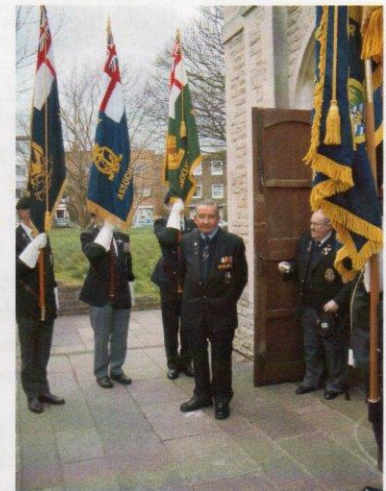
This memorial project was led by Mr James Reid who wanted the boys recognised for their sacrifice and ably assisted by his family.



**Simon Sillence
Hood's Standard Bearer**



Standards Lining entrance to Cathedral



Mr James Reid



Memorial Stone Hood's wreath bottom right hand corner

Royal Naval Boys Memorial Fund-unidentified Cheque.

I have received a substantial cheque from a member with no address. The cheque was from Systems Design & Analysis which regrettably I cannot find. Would the kind donor please telephone me so that the appropriate appreciation can be made. Tel No 01329 825965 If unavailable when you call please leave a number on my answerphone. Thankyou.

Editor- On behalf on the committee and Mr James Reid we would like to thank all those who made a donation towards the cost of this memorial stone. Member donations raised £825 and the association £500 making a grand total £1325.

Damage to War Graves

Over recent months many monuments have been desecrated which has been of great concern to everyone. Many members have written to the Chairman voicing their concerns over this destructive vandalism that has been rampant to our memorials. Your Chairman Peter Heys has written to the War Graves Commission highlighting your concerns. Their reply thanked us for our concerns over this issue and stated that they are monitoring the situation closely. They pointed out that of the vast number of memorials that are around the country many are in isolated locations which makes it very difficult to protect them from this sort of behaviour from a very small minority causing this distressful damage. We thank our members for raising their concerns and hope that this situation will be resolved soon.

Annual AGM and Reunion Dinner

You will find enclosed the application form for dinner tickets for our Reunion Dinner on Saturday 25th May 2012. May I ask members to return your application a.s.a.p. as there will be periods that I will not be available due to medical treatment.