



THE H.M.S. HOOD ASSOCIATION

(Official Website www.hmshood.com)

Message from the Chairman

Shipmates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The celebration in May this year of Hood's sinking was a great success. The changes to the table arrangements of not having a top table at the Reunion Dinner received many positive comments and we are likely to repeat this in the future. The Guests of Honour this year were Joanna and James Warrand, James having travelled from Sydney, Australia for the occasion. James was presented with a solid brass bell suitably engraved and Joanna with a framed photograph of Hood's bell discovered with the ship's wreckage in the Denmark Strait by David Mearns' expedition in 2001. A party of three representing the French Mers-el-Kebir Association were present as our guests and presented the Association with a booklet containing press cuttings and a report in French of the events of the 3rd July 1940 at Mers-el-Kebir.

The 70th Anniversary Memorial was held at the Naval War Memorial on Southsea Common. Our Chaplain, Archdeacon John Green, conducted the Service, which was attended by invited dignitaries including representatives from the Allied High Commissions/Embassies, the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire's deputy Rear Admiral Henderson and Rear Admiral Steel representing First Sea Lord. Rear Admiral Wilcocks, our President, and myself greeted the official guests on arrival. HMS Collingwood provided the band, Guard of Honour, wreath holders and car door openers. The invited guests, families of the bereaved and others, laid wreaths. The event was reported that evening on Meridian Television's news. A buffet lunch was provided at the nearby Queens Hotel. A total of 122 attended.

Only twenty-two members plus the six Committee members attended the AGM this year. We would wish to see a larger representation of our membership at future meetings. For those attending the Reunion in future, please make every effort to join us at the AGM.

It is with regret I have to report the death on 6th April of Pam Pavey widow of Frank. Frank a Hood veteran, had been a member of the Association since its early days in the 1970s. Pam always accompanied Frank to our events but her health had been deteriorating over the past few years. Alec Kellaway and myself attended her funeral at Portchester Crematorium on behalf of the Association on 21st April.

As previously reported, we urgently 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. We would like to embrace this role with the post of Secretary who will be responsible for taking minutes at our meetings. Paul Bevand has agreed to resume responsibility for membership renewals but wishes to relinquish the duties as Secretary. Please contact me for more details if any member or members are interested in undertaking these duties

At the last count we had 220 members, of which 29 live abroad. The membership includes 10 veterans and 12 veteran's widows. This is a reduction since last membership year but is likely to increase due to late renewals and new membership applications. Please make sure you have renewed your subscription by sending it to Paul Bevand.

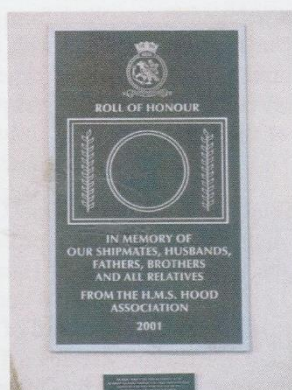
God bless you all,
Peter Heys

Important Events.

- **2011 Remembrance Service:** 1045 on Friday 11th November at Portsmouth Naval War Memorial
- **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:** 1130 on Sunday 27th May
- **2013 AGM/Reunion Dinner:** Saturday 25th May at the Royal Maritime Club, Portsmouth

Boldre Church-70th Anniversary Service.

The annual commemorative service was held at St. John the Baptist church, Boldre, to remember the 1418 Ships Company who gave their lives for their country 70 years ago. The service was conducted by Reverend Frank Willett and the sermon was given by Reverend Julian Richards RN. The service commenced with the procession of standards to the altar whilst the hymn "O God our help in ages past" was sung. Commander Keith Evans gave the introductory remarks on behalf of the association. The first lesson was read by Commodore Tim Lowe RN of H.M.S. Collingwood and the second lesson by Commander Tony Pearse RN. During the service the original pattern for the HMS Hood crest was dedicated in the Hood corner followed by the act of remembrance by Rear Admiral Phillip Wilcocks CB DSC RN and the Naval Prayer by Commander Keith Evans RN. The Second Sea Lord Vice Admiral Charles Montgomery CBE ADC and Julian Lewis MP together with a contingent of Cadets from HMS Collingwood attended. After the service the congregation had refreshments and an opportunity to chat with friends. Colin Vass brought along his models of Hood and other ships for all to see. There was a painting of Hood which was signed by veterans Alec Kellaway, Keith Evans and Lloyd Adams, copies will be on sale later this year. The proceedings were televised by ITV Meridian and shown at 1800 that evening.



Memorial Plaque



Veterans Viewing the Picture



H.M.S. Hood corner

Reunion Week-end – 70th Anniversary 23/24 May 2011

AGM & Dinner

This year it was decided to hold the reunion on the actual remembrance date so the reunion took place on Monday 23rd and Tuesday 24th May. Members started arriving during Monday morning having lunch together and catching up on the news. The AGM was held in the Brocks Bar at 1600 with 28 members present. After the mandatory items were concluded the bar was opened for all to enjoy before preparing for the annual dinner. It was regrettable that not all members were able to attend the dinner due to the restriction in numbers. However, having received cancellations at various times there were only five disappointed members who we were not able to accommodate. Although the dining area was restricted, one might say cosy, we were still able to display the memorial photographs, which now stands at just under 800, and Hood models. The honoured guests this year were Joanna and James Warrant, the children of Commander Warrant, HMS Hood's navigation officer. Joanna was presented with a photograph of the ship's bell which remains with the ship and James was presented with a Brass Bell suitably engraved, both were delighted with their gifts and they thanked members for their presents and for being asked to be the guests of honour on this special 70th anniversary. We were delighted to have with us 3 members of the Mers-el-Kebir association including Andre Jaffe a veteran but were sorry that Herve' Grall their President was unable to attend due to illness. We look forward to seeing him at a future event. A raffle was held with some delightful items available, together with donations by members and we thank them for their generosity.

70th Anniversary Memorial Service – Portsmouth Naval War Memorial Southsea.

The service of remembrance was attended by Deputy Lieutenant of Hampshire Rear Admiral Iain Henderson CB CBE DL, Lord Mayor of Portsmouth Councillor Cheryl Buggy, Naval Secretary Rear Admiral David Steel CBE, Rear Admiral John McAnally CBE LVO, President RNA, Commodore Tim Lowe, HMS Collingwood, Mr Julian Lewis MP, Colonel David Kassapian RM, Naval representatives from Australian, Canadian, New Zealand, Polish embassies and members of the Mers-el-Kebir Association. HMS Collingwood provided the Royal Marine band, Guard and Marching Platoon, Wreath Holders and car door attenders under the command of Warrant Officer Ron Barker. There were four veterans Lloyd Adams, John Kirby, Alec Kellaway and Keith Evans.

Once all the dignitaries had arrived our association chaplain Archdeacon John Green CB conducted the service of remembrance. There were 14 wreaths laid by dignitaries and many personal ones by members in remembrance of

the Hood Ships company. Although we had 160 members and friends attending there was also a large gathering of the public. There is a news report by ITV which can be seen at:-

<https://www.itv.com/meridian-east/remembering-hms-hood71396/>

Following the service members took a 10 minute walk across the common to the Queens Hotel for refreshments on arrival followed by a buffet lunch. Rear Admiral Steel, Naval Secretary gave an address on behalf of The First Sea Lord, followed by our President Rear Admiral Wilcocks. A cake suitably decorated was cut by two veterans Keith Evans and Alec Kellaway and alongside was displayed the Roll of honour. The HMS Hood models made by Colin Vass were on display together with the memorial photo display compiled by Paul Bevand. The whole weekend was greatly appreciated by all, and we had excellent weather to enhance the occasion.

To save missing anyone out the committee would like to thank collectively all those who assisted in making it a memorable occasion.



Standards Paraded



**HMS Collingwood's
Guard, Band & Marching Platoon**



**Alec Kellaway
Laying Veterans Wreath**



**Alec Kellaway and Keith Evans
Cutting the cake**



**Eric Grove with members
of Mers-el-Kabre Association**



Cake & Roll of Honour

The Ghost of the Denmark Strait.

1. *The Whale Road*

Dark green icy waters steel the sailor's breath.
On the Whale-road they are searching but finding only death.
With red ringed eyes and frozen feet they stare through biting angry sleet.
Spitting salt and shards of ice – can this rescue be complete.
Of 14 hundred and 18 sailors can there only be 3.

Where are the floats, the rafts; the old grey ship had many.
And fresh faced lads and nomad dads last letters home to Jenny.
Did mothers know? Did the Tarot show when a thousand hearts stopped beating.

2. *Einstein's Feast.*

Was it a fatal flaw, 20 years before, that drew her to this moment.
Or was it dice or star enticed to a fatal brief alignment.

There is no art to know or chart which screaming shell would find its mark.
Or which anarchic senseless spark, rent her heart and soul apart.
Now iron food is scattered on the earth's deep ocean crust

3. *Leviathan Sleeps*

Her shattered bones and burnt out heart now deep beneath the sea.
Remember once she glided through a sun-kissed southern sea.
Her earthquake guns so silent now deep sea fishes hide.
Her weeping wounds are gaping from her steel corroded sides.
And her ruptured iron carcass now sleeps in ocean dust.

Does revenge make any difference?
Will she sleep more safe and sound knowing her destroyer
is also sunk and drowned?
When that arcing ton of screaming steel, smashed her ribs and
choked her breath:
Was it Maths or was it God who drew the geometry of death?
From her burnt and twisted guardrail she is crying tears of rust.

4. *Sailor Lad*

Did she hear the sailor screaming as she carried him down and down?
How soon was colour stolen from the gaping dead and drowned?
Hatches sealed for safety became a cell and grave.
Lucky lads died quickly – the helpless freeze and fade.
Was he waiting for implosion – a hideous farewell?
Did the bulging steel give way or the bulkheads twist and crack.
We cannot know the pressure that gripped his lungs and throat and
crushed his flimsy body, forcing life and soul apart.
How cold were the iron walls of his lonely brass locked cell?

4. *Limbic Lullaby*

The rays come cruising slowly from the land without sunrise.
He has no seaweed bandage, or shells laid on his eyes.
There are no crystal nights bellow no northern lights to see : the
old grey ship in mountain's arms so deep beneath the sea.
The seagull's cries are silenced and from wide eyed fish no sound.
No sirens singing sweetly, no mermaids combing strands, just tapping
clams and scuffling shells – undertakers in the sands.

Our sailor lad drifts gently now, so dark and no reflection.
Just clicking claws in limbic mud – so dark and no reflection.
And our blue lipped sailor boy – he has no compass home.

This poem was submitted by a member Mr M J Woods

HMS Hood's 70th Anniversary Parade Naval War Memorial, Southsea.



HMS Collingwood Guard & Marching Platoon



HMS Collingwood Royal Marine Band



**Rear Admiral Steel, Naval Sec, D/L Hampshire
Rear Admiral & Mrs Henderson, Hood President
Rear Admiral Wilcocks**



**L-R Rear Admiral Steel, Lord Mayor Portsmouth
Cheryl Buggy, Rear Admiral Wilcocks**



**Rear Admiral McAnally RNA President
Colonel Kassapian RM, Commodore Lowe**

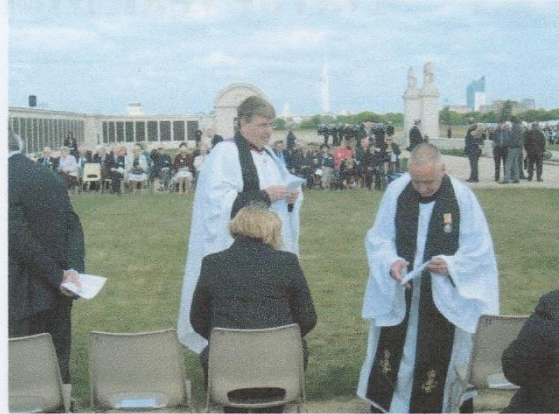


**Naval Representatives
Poland, New Zealand, Canada & Australia**

HMS Hood's 70th Anniversary Parade
Naval War Memorial Centenary



Cdr Keith Evans with David Mearns who was responsible for discovering Hood



L-R Association Chaplain John Green & Dockyard Chaplain Keith Robus



Andre Jaffe laying a wreath on behalf of Mers-el-Kebir Association



Members seated for the service



Julian Lewis MP with veteran Lloyd Adams



MAY THEY REST IN PEACE