



THE H.M.S. HOOD ASSOCIATION

(Official Website www.hmshood.com)

Message from the Chairman

Shipmates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

When I was asked to succeed John Williams as Chairman of the Association over three years ago, I looked forward to the challenges it would present as the first Chairman who was not a Hood veteran nor a veteran of the Royal Navy. One challenge I never considered was having to take over most of the day to day work undertaken by Nobby, our Treasurer, due to the fire at his home last year. What soon became apparent to me was the considerable amount of work Nobby was undertaking on behalf of the Association. I am sure none of us – except Gladys his wife - appreciated how much time he had been devoting and now continues to devote to membership matters (renewals and applications), general enquiries by post and telephone, keeping the accounts, handling slops sales and Reunion ticket requests, etc. Thanking you for your efforts Nobby does not seem enough.

I wish to thank all the members and their guests who attended the Reunion weekend in May. Your presence ensured the event was once again a success. This year's attendance at the Reunion Dinner was 86, six of whom had travelled from abroad. Notable amongst these were David Chessum a new member from Australia and Heinrich Kuhnt a Bismark survivor. It was also very pleasing to see Mary Mochan from Dundee and Eddie Goggins our veteran from Edinburgh. Jean Winter from Portsmouth again brought along nine guests. Thank you Jean.

Membership numbers this year had dramatically fallen to 189 at the time of writing. Of these, 20 live abroad and 18 new members have joined us since April.

Finally may I remind you all, the last official event for this year is our memorial service at the Southsea War Memorial at 1100 on 11 November. The service will be followed by a 'get together' in the Home Club.

God bless you all,

Peter Heys

Important Events for 2006

- **AGM/Reunion Dinner:** 1600/1830 on 20 May at Royal Sailors Home Club, Portsmouth.
- **Memorial Service:** 1100 on 21 May at St George's Church, Portsmouth.
- **Boldre Church Service:** 1100 on 28 May.
- **Remembrance Service:** 1100 on 11 November at the Naval War Memorial, Southsea.

Trafalgar 200 Celebrations

To mark the bi-centenary of the Battle of Trafalgar, the Royal Navy held a programme of events in Portsmouth and the Solent commencing with the International Fleet Review and Son et Lumiere on 28th June, followed by the International Drumhead Ceremony on 29th June and the International Festival of the Sea from 30th June to 3rd July. Ted Briggs accompanied by Peter Heys was invited as guests of the Royal Navy at these events.

The International Fleet Review was the centrepiece of the programme at which Her Majesty The Queen reviewed a fleet of some 150 ships, representing about 40 countries, from her platform onboard *HMS Endeavour*. Ted and Peter were hosted for this event onboard the RFA ship *Sir Bedevere* sailing in convoy with *HMS Endeavour*. Ahead of the steam past, HRH The Princess Royal joined *Sir Bedevere* to witness the Review. During the evening a 'Son et Lumiere' was held off Southsea Common, staging a Napoleonic era sea battle using Tall Ships and state of the art pyrotechnics, followed by a rather spectacular firework display and concluding with the 'lighting up' of the Fleet in the Solent.

The International Drumhead Ceremony held the following day adjacent to the Naval War Memorial consisted of a solemn religious ceremony, led by the Bishop of Portsmouth, to remember the thousands of maritime men and women who laid down their lives in conflict and peacetime. The Ceremony then looked to the future and the passing on of memories to the youth. During this part of the Ceremony, our own Bill Stone was publicly interviewed by Kate Adey about his naval experiences. The event was attended by HRH The Duke of York and HRH Prince Michael of Kent, VIP guests and some five thousand maritime veterans and their partners from the UK and around the world, and was followed by a reception providing an opportunity to seek out comrades

The International Festival Of the Sea held in the Portsmouth Naval Dockyard offered an opportunity to climb onboard vessels from around the world including historic tall ships, the latest warships, elegant yachts and work torn boats. The event featured combat displays by our Armed Forces, the sights, sounds and smells of life in Nelson's day, interactive exhibitions, a theatre and an opportunity to look around the Museum, HMS Victory, HMS Mary Rose and other exhibits and exhibitions on site.

From the Vice Chairman Keith Evans who also attended the International Drumhead Ceremony and World War 2 60th Anniversary Festival of Commemoration on Horseguards Parade on 10th July, both events being blessed with glorious sunshine. The latter event was covered in the regional press, an extract from Keith's published letter read, The event on Sunday was graced by the presences of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh with whom, the then Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten Royal Arthur at Corsham in Wiltshire prior to his wedding to the then Princess Elizabeth. I feel sure that the entire nation will echo the words of Sir Tasker Walkins VC (1944) in his speech of thanks to the Queen at Buckingham Palace Luncheon when he said 'M'am keep well – stay with us much longer – you have our eternal and abiding Love. God Bless You.

I sent a birthday card to Vice –Admiral Sir Louis LeBailey KBE CB on the occasion of his 90th birthday on the 18th July on behalf of the association. Sir Louis served in Hood 1932 and 1937-40. He responded with 'Best Wishes to Briggs and Co. He wrote that Sir Harold Walker, Captain of HMS Hood in 1938 and later Admiral Harold Walker, had invited himself to tea at Sir Louis home in North Cornwall at the end of August.

In mid July I accepted an invitation to give a talk about my 35 years in the Royal Navy to some 30 members of the Surrey Military Collection Society at their hall in Reigate. The audience comprised of veterans and others of the Royal Navy, the Army, Royal Air Force and Merchant Navy.

During discussions much interest was expressed about the life of HMS Hood. One member Chief MEM Brian Mitchell has forwarded a copy of an interesting publication 'HMS Hood' by Lieutenant S Geary RNVR with a forward by Vice- Admiral W Whitworth and includes stories by two members of her ships company namely Chief Petty Officer Bill Lowe 1930 – 33 and Able Seaman Bob Tilburn one of 3 survivors on 24 May 1941 and by Leading Sick Berth Attendant Sam Wood in HMS Prince of Wales in action with Bismarck.

In my letter of thanks for the £30 I received in recognition of my talk which I sent to King George's Fund for Sailors. Commodore Barry Bryant the Director of Seafarers UK wrote ' My own grandfather served in HMS Hood several years before the war albeit as a lowly Leading Torpedoman, so I always had a personal interest in her history.

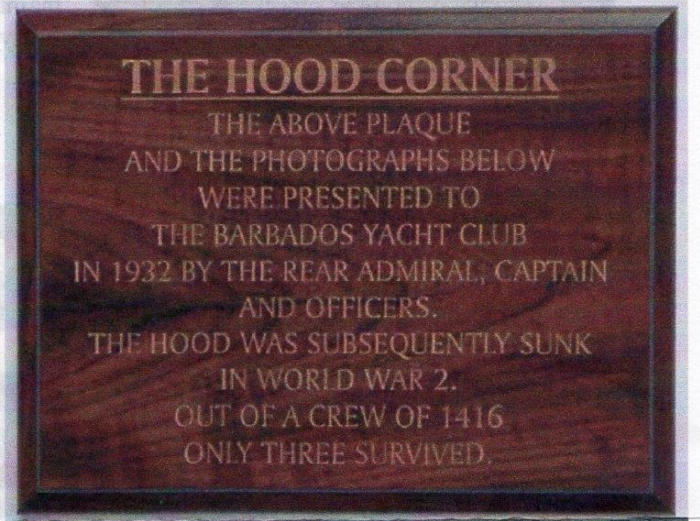
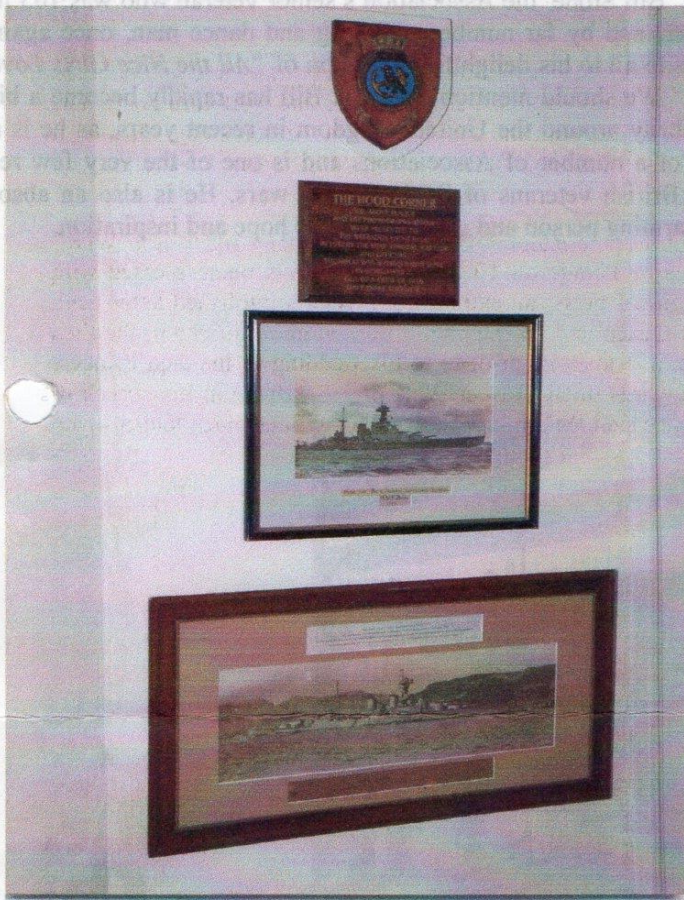
Reunions

At the AGM in May Dick Turner and Alec Kelloway meet for the first time in 60 years. They joined the Royal Navy together at HMS Victory (Nelson to day) in February 1936 and joined Hood in September 1937 as stokers. They left Hood together on 29th November 1939 for a 3 month engineering course at Pitt Street Engineering School and have never seen one another since the completion of the course.

Keith Evans who served in the Destroyer command of the East Indies Fleet in HMS Woolwich based at Trincomalee in Ceylon 1944 – 46 has had his application to visit under Return of Heroes programme approved, and will be visiting that country from 25th October to 6th November. We wish him a very safe and enjoyable visit.

Barbados Yacht Club—Hood Corner.

We received a letter from Major Michael Hartland saying that sometime ago whilst looking through a store room at the yacht club he came across a plaque of the Hood and photographs of the ship presented by the Rear Admiral, Captain and Officers in 1932. He has put them all together to form the 'Hood Corner' The picture below shows the picture display and the Plaque



HAPPY BIRTHDAY IVY

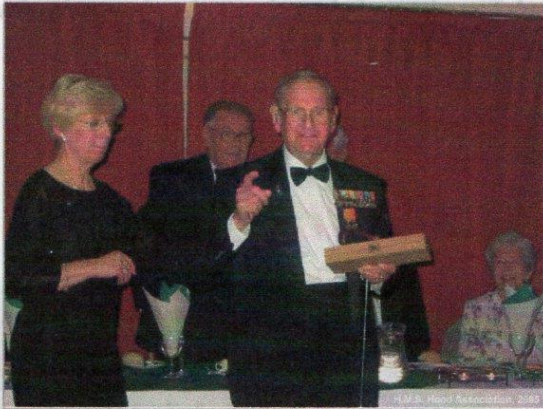
100 on 25th July 2005

The President, Committee and Members of the Association extend our Good Wishes to you and trust that you had a memorable day with family and friends.

The photograph is Leading Stoker Henry James and Ivy Maud Wannerton on their Wedding Day 9th September 1929

The Reunion Week End

The reunion weekend took was held on 20-22 May when members gathered for the AGM, Dinner, Church Parade and Service. For those members who do not have access the our website the photographs below are an extract complied by members Frank Allen and Paul Bevand.



Bill Stone with his daughter Anne

“ Young” Bill Stone the Association’s senior veteran who was 105 in September, and by far number one song and dance man, once again treated us to all to his delightful rendition of “*All the Nice Girls Love A Sailor*” We should mention here that Bill has rapidly become a bit of a celebrity around the United Kingdom in recent years, as he is a member of a number of Associations and is one of the very few remaining British veterans of BOTH world wars. He is also an absolutely charming person and gives every one hope and inspiration.



Wreath Bearers Left to right are Roger Tombs, Standard Bearer, Ted Briggs, Ward Carr, Heinrick Kuhnt, Alan Plant & Frank Allen



Veterans Dick Turner (left) and Alec Kellaway (right) meet for the first time after 60 years



Veterans Tim Taylor (left) and Robert Philpott (right)



Heinrich Kuhnt (left) and Nobby Clark (right) having a tot of rum after the parade