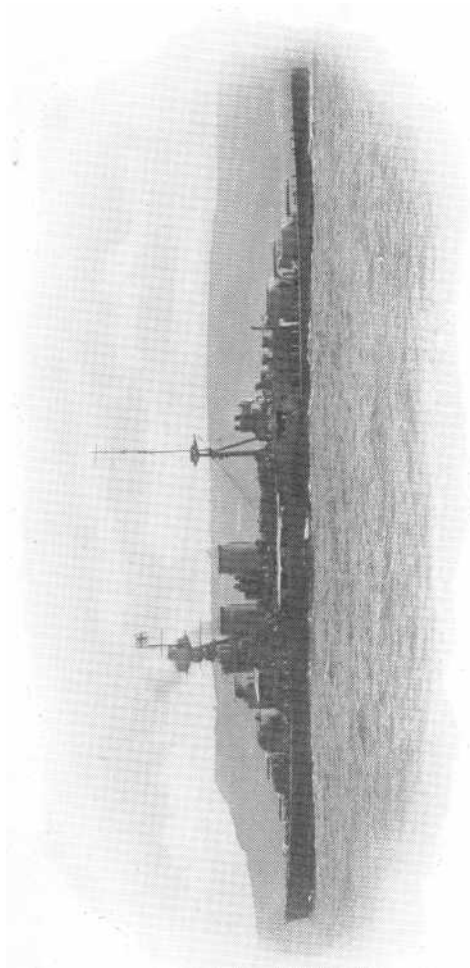




H. M. S. HOOD.



H.M.S. "Hood"



# H.M.S. HOOD



A short account  
of her forbears  
and of herself



HORNS & MILLER  
NAVAL PRINTERS  
DEVONPORT

## THE SHIP'S NAME

His Majesty's Ship "Hood" takes her name from Samuel Hood, Admiral of the Blue and first Viscount Hood.

The name Hood was famous in the Navy at the end of the eighteenth and beginning of the nineteenth centuries. Four officers of the same family served with distinction in those days of active service and their careers are sketched in the following pages.

Famous descendants from the same family have been Admiral Lord Hood of Avalon, who was First Sea Lord from 1885 to 1889, and Rear-Admiral the Hon. Horace Hood, who was killed in action at the battle of Jutland in 1916, while commanding the Third Battle Cruiser Squadron in H.M.S. "Invincible."



## **SAMUEL HOOD- ADMIRAL LORD HOOD**

1724-1816



The Revd. Samuel Hood, Vicar of Thorncombe, in Dorset, was the father of two famous sons, Samuel, who became an Admiral and the first Viscount Hood, and Alexander, afterwards Admiral Lord Bridport.

Samuel Hood was born in 1724 and joined the navy in 1740, serving in the "Romney" under Commodore Smith. He was promoted to lieutenant in 1746, commander eight years later and post captain in 1756, that is to say at the age of thirty-two, but it was not until twenty-four years later that he became a Rear-Admiral of the Blue. He had one notable fight during those years, for while in command of the frigate "Vestal" (32 guns) he took a French frigate of equal strength after a fierce action.

Almost as soon as he was promoted in 1780 Admiral Hood sailed in command of a squadron to reinforce the fleet on the North America and West India stations under the orders of Admiral Lord Rodney. That was the time of the American War of Independence and England was at war also with France and Spain. The West Indian Isles were the scene of great naval activity, and Hood found many opportunities of showing his abilities and distinguishing himself during the three years before peace was

signed. After minor actions in the West Indies and off the Chesapeake River, Hood, flying his flag in the "Barfleur," found himself in command of the West Indies station during the absence of Rodney in England. In the actions fought in the Bassterre Roads off the island of St. Kitts in 1782, he showed himself to be a brilliant tactician in the series of manoeuvres by which he outwitted the French Admiral Comte de Grasse. After the return of Rodney, Hood became once more second in command, and as such he had a large share in the victory of 12th April, 1782, which is known as the battle of Dominica. The "Barfleur" received the surrender of the "Ville de Paris," and in the pursuit which followed the action Hood captured four more French ships. For his services on that occasion he was made Baron Hood of Catherington in the Irish peerage.

In 1788 Hood became a Lord of the Admiralty, a post he held until the War of the French Revolution broke out in 1793, when he was appointed to the Mediterranean station. While there he directed the occupation of Toulon and operations in the Gulf of Lyons and on the coast of Corsica. Admiral Hood hauled down his flag for the last time in 1795 at the age of seventy-one, and in the following year he was made Viscount Hood of Whitley in the peerage of Great Britain. He died at Bath on 27th June, 1816.

Lord Hood's fame rests mainly on his masterly ability as a tactician, and Nelson, who served under him, held him to be the ablest of our admirals in the early years of the revolutionary war. It is said that a plan which Hood drew up for an attack on a French fleet at anchor had some share in inspiring the plan of attack which Nelson adopted at the Battle of the Nile.



SAMUEL, 1ST VISCOUNT HOOD

# **ALEXANDER HOOD-**

## **ADMIRAL LORD BRIDPORT**

**1726-1814**



Alexander Hood was born in 1726, two years after his brother Samuel. He joined his first ship, the "Rodney," in 1740 at the same time as his brother, was promoted to lieutenant in 1746 and commander in 1756. A few months later he became flag captain to Admiral Charles Saunders in the "Prince George" in the Mediterranean. In 1759 he was captain of the "Minerva" under Admiral Lord Hawke at the victory of Quiberon Bay. In 1761 while still in command of the "Minerva" he had a successful action with the "Warwick," (a ship which the French had captured some years before), re-taking her after a six hours' fight in the Bay of Biscay.

During most of the remainder of his service as captain he was in command of the yacht "Katherine," being Treasurer of Greenwich Hospital during part of the same time.

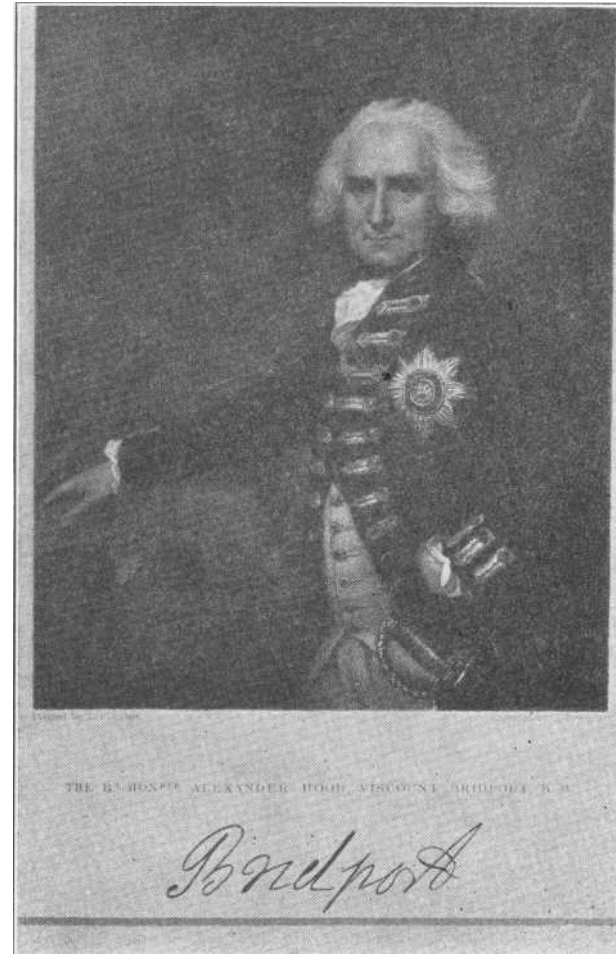
He was promoted to be Rear-Admiral of the White in 1780 on the same day that his brother became a Rear-Admiral of the Blue. Two years later he hoisted his flag in the "Queen" of 90 guns, serving in her under Admiral Lord Howe in the Mediterranean, and while there he took part in the relief of Gibraltar.

In 1787 he was promoted to Vice-Admiral, and in 1793 he hoisted his flag in the "Royal George" as second in command of the Channel Fleet under Lord Howe, and in the following year he helped to win the action known as the Glorious First of June. For his part in it he was created Baron Bridport.

In 1795 while in command of the Channel Fleet, he fought an action off Lorient with the French fleet under Villaret Joyeuse, the revolutionary commander, and it was only their nearness to the harbour which enabled the French to escape with the loss of three ships.

Lord Bridport hauled down his flag as commander-in-chief of the Channel Fleet in 1800, and in the following year he was made a viscount for his services. He died on 2nd May, 1814.

Though not so enterprising and much more cautious than his brother, Lord Bridport was a very able officer.



THE. RT. HON. ALEXANDER HOOD, VISCOUNT BRIDPORT, K.B.

# **CAPTAIN ALEXANDER HOOD**

**1758-1798**



From another branch of the Hood family and a generation later two other brothers entered the navy. The eldest, Alexander Hood, joined in 1767 the "Romney" commanded by his cousin Captain Samuel Hood. In 1772 and the following years he served in the "Resolution" under the famous Captain Cook and took part in the latter's second voyage round the world.

He was promoted to lieutenant in 1777 and commander in 1781. In the same year he became flag captain to Rear-Admiral Sir Samuel Hood, then in command of the West Indies station and later, while in the "Champion," he took part in the successful action off Dominica.

After several commands in the Channel Fleet, he was appointed in 1797 to the "Mars" (74 guns). While in her in the following year he met his death in action with the French "Hercule" (74 guns), which surrendered to the "Mars" after a desperate action at close quarters.