

GODFREY DYKES

From: <andrew.baines@hmswarrior.org>
To: <godfreydykes@msn.com>
Sent: 01 September 2008 21:22
Subject: Robert Turrell and HMS Warrior

Dear Mr Dykes,

I am the archivist for HMS Warrior (1860) and since my appointment in the middle of last year I have been working my way through many of the Warrior-related websites.

Naturally, I was very interested to come across your site on Robert Turrell as it was so very informative - in this job I all too often spend my time handing out information than receiving it.

I did of course come across the subpage entitled 'a gift to my old ship'. I'm afraid I really am at something of a loss as to why the message you sent to the website administrator was not followed up - I can only suppose that 5 years ago such emails went to the company that ran the website, rather than the ship itself, nevertheless - I apologise for the ship not having given the website its due consideration.

Robert Turrell is known to us because Peter Godden made contact a few years ago, but we have very little on the man himself. I wonder if, as you are local, you would consider coming down to the ship and allowing us to photocopy Robert's service certificate and/or photographs, as they would be of tremendous interest for our 'Old Warrior's' archive. In addition to this, I edit the Warrior News, which is the magazine of the Friends of Warrior association. I wonder if you would consider writing an article of, say, 800 words on Robert to be accompanied by a photograph for inclusion in the newsletter? I think it would be very interesting as an example of the type of men that served in Warrior at the start.

One thing I must correct you on - the reason for Warrior carrying 3 yards instead of 4. At present Warrior has the correct mast and spar dimensions - i.e. heights from the deck of 169' 175' 138' for the fore, main and mizzen masts respectively. However, RN warships would not ever have 4 yards aloft if alongside in harbour - they would drop the lower three yards and the 4th would be sent down to the deck, where indeed we have our Royal yards housed today. During the restoration of Warrior it was decided she should be depicted correctly for her location, which of course means 3 yards and a slightly less forceful visual impact, but at least historical accuracy is assured.

I shall close by saying that in your e-mail to the ship, included on your site, you mention the possibility of coming on board in some role as a hobby/interest. Warrior is always on the lookout for volunteers in a large number of roles, from archive work to guides, painters, engineers and the like and should you remain interested, please contact us and we would be happy for you to come down to the ship and see what we are about.

With best wishes and kind regards,

Andrew Baines BSc MSc MA