

23rd October, 1999

Dear Editor,

When I learnt in 1995 that the DHB were creating a new cruise liner terminal on Admiralty Pier, I approached Budge Adams with the idea that now was the time to erect, in the vicinity of the old Marine Station, a plaque to commemorate the arrival, on the 10th November 1920, of the "Unknown Warrior".

Budge asked me to write to him on this matter so that the suggestion could be put before the committee. In the course of my letter I wrote: "My father who worked for the DHB at the time witnessed this historic event. from time to time he spoke to me about it and, even after 50 years, found it difficult to recall the solemnity of the occasion without becoming emotionally upset".

Last week I happened to come across various papers that my father had accumulated during the latter part of his life. He died in 1970. Among these was something he had written in November 1956, which, in many ways, explains the reason why the homecoming of the "Unknown Warrior" made such an impact on his.

Enclosed is a reprint of what he wrote.

Yours sincerely, David Atwood

#### THE ARRIVAL OF THE UNKNOWN WARRIOR

Samuel F. Atwood. 29th November, 1956.

It was the occasion of the homecoming of the body of the "Unknown Warrior" when passing through the Port of Dover on the journey from the battlefield of France for burial in Westminster Abbey.

As an employee of the Dover Harbour Board, with some colleagues I was enabled to witness the

ceremony from the cabin of one of the dockside cranes.

As the destroyer, HMS Verdun, bearing the body, approached the quay side we saw the coffin, draped with the Union Jack, on the after part of the ship. Below us on the quay side were representatives of Royalty, the Services, the Church and civic and other dignitaries. Awaiting on the quay was a guard of honour and the Band of the Royal Fusiliers, under Bandmaster Bradley.

The vessel safely moored, the pall bearers proceeded to bring the coffin ashore. As they approached the gangway the band prepared to play, the Bandmaster's baton poised in the air.

What music did we expect? Undoubtedly a funeral march, possibly Chopin's. But no, as the pall bearers descended the gangway it was to the stirring music of Elgar's "Land of Hope and Glory".

Triumphantly, the body of the "Unknown Warrior" was brought ashore to the strains of this martial music. It was a most moving moment, which brought tears to the eyes of all the onlookers and now, whenever I hear the music of "Land of Hope and Glory", I recall this scene with great emotion.

Shortly afterwards I spoke to the bandmaster, expressing my appreciation of the music. he told me that Chopin's Funeral March had been suggested, but he thought something more martial was required. He informed his commanding officer accordingly and was told, "Go ahead, Bradley, play "Land of Hope and Glory" if you wish. If everything goes off alright you take the credit, but if there is any adverse criticism, then say it was played under my orders".

## Ninety Years Young

On Monday, 15th November, at St Paul's Social Club, Maison Dieu Road, a party was held to celebrate the 90th birthday of Budge Adams. The hall was crowded with Budge's children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and friends and acquaintances from every decade of his life and every facet of his wide-ranging interests.

After the toasts Budge was invited by his two daughters, who had organised the event, to cut his splendid (and delicious!) birthday cake and to make a speech. He thanked everyone present, saying that each person he knew was part of his life, which he compared to a vast mosaic, with every person a stone in the intricate pattern. He was delighted that so many friends surrounded him on this special occasion. We, in turn, felt privileged to share it with him.

Merril Lilley