

Thomas Del Mar Ltd Antique Arms, Armour & Militaria including the Property of a European Prince Sale 02 Dec 2015 12:00 GMT



1) Lot 116 A FINE FRENCH SMALL-SWORD WITH CHISELLED AND GILT IRON HILT, CIRCA 1770, RETAILED BY CULLUM, CHARING CROSS, BY TRADITION THAT OF CAPTAIN ALEXANDER HOOD AND A PORTRAIT MINIATURE OF CAPTAIN ALEXANDER HOOD R.N., ATTRIBUTED TO RICHARD BULL (ACTIVE 1777-1809), CIRCA 1785

the first with tapering blade (not visible, seized in its scabbard), iron hilt chiselled in low relief against a gilt matted ground, comprising double shell-guard decorated with differing trophies-of-arms partially enclosed by fronds within a framework of scrolls on each side, quillon-block, knuckle-guard and ovoid pommel decorated en suite with the shell, globular quillon decorated with foliage, and a pair of arms, and original grip bound with plaited silver wire and ribband between 'Turk's heads', in its parchment-covered scabbard with iron locket, chape and middle band, all decorated en suite with the hilt, the locket and middle band each with a ring for suspension and the former signed by the retailer, together with an early paper tag inscribed in ink 'Sword of Captain Alexander Hood killed in Mars at capture of L'Hercule'; and the second with powdered hair,

blue coat, white facings and white jabot, on ivory, gilt-metal frame, glass lacking. the sword: 79.5 cm; 31 3/8 in (in scabbard), oval 4.8 cm; 1 7/8 in (2)



Alexander Hood was born on 23 April 1758 at Netherbury, Dorset and the second son of Samuel Hood, a purser in the navy and first cousin of Samuel Hood, Viscount Hood, and of Alexander Hood, Viscount Bridport. His elder brother, Arthur, also served in the navy, and was lost in the sloop Pomona in August 1776. His younger brother was Sir Samuel Hood, baronet, and naval officer. Alexander's entry into the navy is a matter of uncertainty, as an Alexander Hood appears on the books of two ships simultaneously, namely the Romney, carrying his cousin Samuel's broad pendant on the North American station, between 15 April 1767 and 9 November 1770, and the yacht Katharine, commanded by his father, from 4 July 1768 to 4 March 1772. Although the Dictionary of National Biography places him in the Romney, it is not known by what authority, as his passing certificate for lieutenant mentions only the yacht, from which he was discharged into the Resolution (Captain James Cook) for the latter's second voyage of exploration.

In 1776 Hood went to North America under the patronage of Lord Howe, by whom he was promoted lieutenant in the *Raisonable* on 18 July 1777. In March 1780 he was appointed to command the cutter *Ranger*, which in the early part of 1781 was sent to the West Indies, where Sir George Rodney gave him the rank of commander on 17 May 1781. On 27 July he was appointed to the *Barfleur* as flag-captain to his cousin Sir Samuel Hood, then in temporary command of the station. As captain of the *Barfleur* he took part in the action off Cape Henry on 5 September 1781, and again in that at St Kitts on 25-6 January 1782. A few days later he was appointed to the frigate *Champion*, one of the repeating ships in the actions off Dominica on 9 and 12 April, specially attached to the Red squadron under Sir Samuel Hood, with whom she was afterwards sent to the Mona passage; there she had the fortune to capture the corvette *Cérès*, with whose captain, the baron de Parois, a nephew of the Comte de Vaudreuil, Alexander Hood became friendly. On the arrival of the squadron at Port Royal he was moved into the *Aimable*, another of the prizes, which he took to England in the summer of 1783. In 1790-92 and again in 1793 he commanded the frigate *Hebe* in the channel, and in the

following year he was appointed to the Audacious, but was compelled by ill health to leave her. He was unable to resume active service until February 1797, when he was appointed to the Mars (74 guns), attached to the Channel Fleet, then commanded by Lord Bridport. He experienced the mutinies at Spithead and St Helens, and was one of the captains sent on shore by the mutineers on 11 May. In the following spring the Mars was with the fleet off Brest, and late on the morning of 21 April 1798, in company with the other ships of the inshore squadron, the Ramillies and the Jason, discovered a French ship, the Hercule (74 guns), making for the harbour. About 9 p.m. the Mars, by herself, found the Hercule at anchor off the Pointe du Raz, waiting for the tide to turn. The darkness and the strength of the current prevented any attempt at manoeuvring. After an interchange of broadsides the Mars fell alongside the Hercule with the effect that the anchors at the bows became hooked together with the two ships touching, and the guns, which could not be run out, were fired in many cases from onboard. Such conditions led to the Hercule's losing 315 men killed or wounded and with her guns dismounted she struck her colours. Casualties on the Mars, a similarly sized but older ship, totalled no more than ninety. Early in the action Hood had been shot in the thigh by a musket-bullet which cut the femoral artery. He was carried below, and expired just as the sword of the French captain, who also died later, was placed in his hand. That sword is now preserved in the National Maritime Museum (see below). Hood's body was taken to England, and buried in the churchyard of **Butleigh**, Somerset, beneath a monument erected by his widow, Elizabeth, daughter of **John Periam** of **Butleigh**. Although Hood undoubtedly benefited by his family connections, and he also showed some signs of being excessively strict, which resulted in his being put ashore in 1797, examples of his consideration also exist, and he was clearly an officer of ability and good powers of leadership.

His will, leaving all to his wife, was made after he received his fatal wound, and gives no indication of his financial position. He was survived by their two children, of whom Alexander (d. 1851) succeeded to the baronetcy conferred on his uncle **Sir Samuel Hood**; his children in turn included Sir Arthur William Acland Hood, naval officer. Abridged and taken from the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography.

Two further swords belonging to Captain Alexander Hood, including that presented to him on his death from the French Captain of the Hercule, are preserved in the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich. See May and Annis 1970, p. 358. Estimate £2-3000 sold for £4350 [I, RCS, was the under-bidder – the miniature has what is probably the only known portrait of Alexander Hood]



2) Lot 117 A ROBE SWORD, EARLY 19TH CENTURY, BY TRADITION THE LAST WORN BY SIR SAMUEL HOOD, VICE ADMIRAL AND HIS COMBINED KNIFE AND FORK

the first with straight double-edged blade (not visible, seized in its scabbard), gilt copper hilt comprising a pair of straight flat quillons, ovoid pommel and the grip bound with plaited silver wire and 'Turk's heads', in its leather-covered scabbard with gilt-brass chape, together with an early paper tag inscribed in ink 'Sir Samuel Hood's Sword, the last worn by him'; and the second with three slender prongs, a fourth broader prong incorporating a cutting edge, and ivory handle applied with a label inscribed in ink 'Sir Samuel Hood's knife & fork after he lost his arm as admiral'

the sword: 83.2 cm; 32 ¾ in (in scabbard) (2) est. £700 – 1000, sold £890 to RCS (now back in **Butleigh**)



Sir Samuel Hood, the third son of Samuel Hood of Kingsland, Dorset, was born on 27 November 1762. Captain Alexander Hood (1758-1798) was his brother (see previous lot). He entered the Navy in 1776 on the Courageux with his cousin Samuel (afterwards Lord) Hood. In 1778 he was moved to the Robust with Alexander Hood, the future Lord Bridport, and was present at the action off Ushant on 27 July. In 1779-80 he served in the sloop Lively in the channel. When Sir Samuel Hood was appointed second in command in the West Indies he took Samuel into his flagship, the Barfleur, on which he was promoted lieutenant on 11 October 1780. He was present in the several actions with De Grasse-off Martinique on 29 April 1781; at the Chesapeake on 5 September 1781; and at St Kitts on 25-6 January 1782. In 1831 a subscription monument to his memory, in the form of a column 110 feet high,

was erected on the Polden hills above Butleigh, and in Butleigh Church is another memorial, with an inscription written by Southey.



3) Lot 118 AN ENGLISH SMALL-SWORD WITH CHISELLED AND GILT HILT, CIRCA 1750, BY TRADITION THAT OF JOHN PERIAM OF BUTLEIGH

with tapering blade (not visible, seized in its scabbard), gilt brass hilt cast and chased in low relief against a punched ground, including double shell-guard decorated with differing scenes of putto, quillon-block and pommel decorated en suite, and the grip bound with plaited silver wire, in its leather scabbard with gilt-brass locket and chape, the former with a belt-hook (loose), together with an early paper tag inscribed in ink 'Dress sword of Mr Periam'

68.8 cm; 27 1/8 in blade

John Periam of Butleigh was the father-in-law of Alexander Hood (see earlier lot). Est £4-600 sold £960 to RCS (now back in **Butleigh**)



4) Lot 119 THE NAVAL OFFICER'S SWORD OF COMMANDER ARTHUR AVALON MACKINNON, 36TH CHIEF OF MACKINNON, O.B.E., BY HENRY WILKINSON, NO. 44108 FOR 1913

of regulation type, with etched blade, brass hilt, sharkskin-covered grip, sword knot, in its scabbard and complete with its leather carrying case (top loose) the top cover embossed 'A.A.M.' in black letters, with a label inscribed 'Arthur Avalon Cdr. A. A. Mackinnon His Naval Sword'

80.2 cm; 31 5/8 in blade est £400 – 600 sold £700

The Wilkinson records state that sword no. 44108 was sold 8 July 1913 to Gieve & Co (outfitters).

The papers relating to the Hood family especially **Captain Alexander Hood** 1758 – 98 form part of the collection at the National maritime Museum, Greenwich, presented by this descendant, **Commander Mackinnon**, in 1952. There was a further addition in 1954. **Arthur Avalon Mackinnon** was born 8 Nov 1893 in Kimberley, South Africa and died in 1964.

In 1968 **Mrs Mackinnon** [nee Robb] presented some letters, a log and some printed material. Hood's papers consist of a log, January to September 1772, and some signal books for the *Barfleur* and the *Aimable*. There are also a number of private letters, 1772 and 1793 to 1794, a muster book for the *Audacious*, 1794, official correspondence, 1793 to 1797, and three signal books for the *Hebe*. In addition, there are some official service documents and a small collection of documents relating to the mutinies of 1797. These swords and miniature came from the Hood family via the MacKinnon family.

Francis Alexander Mackinnon [1848 – 1947] had married **Emily Isabel Acland-Hood** in 1888 [Daughter of **Arthur William Acland Hood** who lived in Wootton House up to his death in 1901]. Of their three children, Aline Emily died a spinster in 1971 and son Alexander was taken prisoner by the Germans and died in 1914 and the third child was **Arthur Avalon**, above. **Arthur Avalon** married firstly Gunhild Krøyer of Copenhagen who died in 1946 in Copenhagen then married secondly Kathleen Mary Nicholson (nee Robb).