

FORMIDABLE COMES HOME

Back from years of wartime seafaring in the Mediterranean and Pacific comes Formidable, 23,000 tonner and one of our biggest aircraft carriers. Portsmouth is her home port and no returning wanderer ever got a grander welcome.

NAT. SOUND

Launched less than a month before war started, Formidable quickly built up a list of battle honours. Her aircraft were the first British carrier planes to take a crack at the Japanese mainland, and when Kamikase suicide bombers tried to get her, she put up the famous signal, "Little yellow baskets." Now she flies her paying off pennant.

The reunion of wives and husbands is a moment of infinite happiness aboard this very gallant ship.

One victory medal Formidable has brought back; a four-foot steel plate on the flight deck. How it got there and what it feels like to be home, you can hear from the famous broadcaster Captain Anthony Kimmins :-

"Well it's absolutely heaven to be home again. It makes you think, only last year August 4th I was the next-door ship to this one and saw her hit by a Kamikase bomb, and she went right up in smoke, I never saw anything like it in my life, she was absolutely smoking from end to end of the whole ship, and it didn't leak from

where we were that she could possibly ever come through it at all. It was an absolute miracle the way in about four hours they got her going again and landing on her aircraft, and now that I have been on board, and I came in her, now I know how it happened, because in the ship they've got the most wonderful teamwork and most happiest, the biggest heart of a ship's company I have ever seen. One thing they've never forgotten, they've left behind out there very gallant shipmates which they lost in Kamikaze attacks -left behind a posthumous V.C., and a lot of very gallant aircrews of the Pacific, and although everybody is so interested now and everjoyed at coming back, believe me the comrades they've left behind will never, never be forgotten."