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WELCOME BACK TO AMETHYST HEROES

Hong kong - uneasy British outpost in war-torn China - receives its biggest boost to morale: the arrival, just at the right moment, of unexpected reinforcements: the gallant sloop Amethyst. She rejoins the British Far-East Station seaward, and temporarily patched up after her dash down the Yangtze.

Quick to enjoy their first taste of shore leave for three months are the men who, only a few hours before, were virtual prisoners of the Chinese Communists. Hong Kong has done what every British town wants to do - feted the Amethyst heroes.

In civvies for a brief spell, is Licut-Comdr. Kerens, skipper of the sloop who was awarded an immediate D.S.O. Now, the Amethyst's navigator - Lieutenant Berger. And, from Portsmouth, Engineering Officer Williamson. Not forgetting the wounded veteran, ship's cat Simon. To their families in the West Country - where many of the 75 officers and men were recruited, the Yangtze heroes send their best of greetings ... the Amethyst smile.