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KING THANKS AIRLIFT VICTORS

The nation salutes the men of the airlift. In London, timely recognition comes to a company of men, who made headlines. The King and Queen lead Britain's tribute to the airmen who overcame tremendous odds in a task without equivalent in history. In the quadrangle at Buckingham Palace, 260 represent the thousands of British, Commonwealth and American airmen, who won a victory for Western civilisation.

Represented, too, is the Women's Royal Air Force, which played its part in a job of work, that is now commemorated with a march through the streets of London. For the airlift's triumph was a triumph of teamwork. Pilots, navigators, riggers, fitters and staff officers, each did his duty - and more. Their efforts saved a city. Had they failed, disaster would have ensued. For Berlin was the Western world's last outpost. Failure to stay there might have meant war. By putting their faith in strength, the democracies kept the peace.

As the airlift men pass the city boundary on their way to Guildhall for the Lord Mayor's Luncheon, Londoners turn out to give them a cheer. Few have earned it more. Today, freedom-loving people everywhere join in London's praise for the men and women of the airlift.