

10827-5

'POMPEY'S' NEW FREEMAN

In the dark days of 1940 Portsmouth elected a Freeman of the City the Man who stood for all that Britain stood for. Today he comes to receive the city's highest honour and true to his love of the navy strikes a naval note.

When the war started, a signal flashed round the Fleet, "Winnie's Back!" And when the hour was darkest, his own signal spurred us on to victory.

"I am most grateful to you My Lord Mayor and the Council that are here. This casket of Victory Oak, which I have received from you with this scroll, will always be preserved among the most treasured possessions of my descendants and will always give them the feeling that at this time, on this day, I had the honour to touch, with the approbation of the Royal Navy and all who represent its spirit, the actual timbers of the famous "Victory" on which Nelson fought his immortal and final struggle."