

H.M.S. THESEUS COMES HOME

To Falmouth Bay a happy ship returns covered in glory, with a new name to add to its battle honours: Korea! "Theseus" is an old and honoured name in the Navy. Now Captain Belt gives the word for the last flight of the commission and Fireflies and Sea Furies prepare to fly off to Lea-on-Solent. More than four thousand sorties they flew in support of our men in Korea. Time and again, with bomb and bullet, they struck when help was most needed. To those who flew and to those who remained behind to keep them flying, the nation offers its gratitude ... And now (as so often off Korea) "Theseus" flies off her planes. But this time there is sorrow: the comradeship in action now nears the parting of the ways.

From Falmouth to Portsmouth and "Theseus" proudly signals her base, for she's a Pompey ship all right ... and the last of 36-thousand miles slips astern as she steams into harbour.

The waiting hours are ended. Home is the sailor, home from the sea - perhaps to a son he's never seen ... Here she comes, looking vast though only a light carrier ... first of her kind to be tested in active service and brilliant in her achievement.

Ship secured, the long line breaks as men dash to the side for the first long-awaited glimpse of their loved ones.

Sailor, what did you find on that far side of the world one half the worth of just this moment? What greater reward can others give you?

And now comes the First Sea Lord, Admiral of the Fleet Lord Fraser, to bring the official commend to a great ship's company. In three months they made naval history by flying 1144 sorties without accident, and earned the Boyd Trophy for an outstanding feat of naval aviation. To Lieutenant Commander Gordon-Smith Lord Fraser adds his praise as he honours those who sailed in "Theseus."