

POLAR HEROES ARRIVE:

Her Majesty's New Zealand Ship "Endeavour" docks at Wellington, where a big welcome awaits the members of the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition - Sir Edmund Hillary, Dr. Vivian Fuchs and their colleagues. Their families are on the quayside to greet the first men to reach the South Pole by land since Scott and Amundsen.

Mrs. Fuchs and Lady Hillary wait side by side - and their husbands are the first down the gangplank. This is really a triple welcome; New Zealand is greeting its own party, so brilliantly led by Sir Edmund Hillary, conqueror of Everest; the United Kingdom's party (whose courageous journey across under Dr. soon to be Sir Vivian Fuchs across the entire width of the Antarctic Continent held the world spellbound. The company of "Endeavour" who have done a tremendous amount of invaluable scientific work on their own account, complementing that of Fuchs and his team, and Hillary and the New Zealanders.

Some small but important explorers have to stay on board while Wellington gives a civic reception to the Polar Heroes at the City Hall; the Mayor of Wellington, Mr. Frank J. Kitts, M.P., presiding. The city's welcome is of the kind usually reserved for royal tours; for New Zealand feels the double honour of having contributed to the expedition in men and money (Wellington citizens alone donated £12000 in one week) and of being the first country to welcome back the men who achieved this historic triumph.