

H.M.S. OPOSSUM



DEDICATION SERVICE

ON THE RECOMMISSIONING OF THE
SHIP AT SINGAPORE

FOR SERVICE ON THE
FAR EAST STATION

JUNE, 1957

Order of Service

Introduction by the Chaplain

BROTHERS, seeing that in the course of our duty we are set in the midst of many and great dangers, and that we cannot be faithful to the high trust placed in us without the help of Almighty God, let us unite our prayers in seeking His blessing upon this ship, and all who serve in her, now and in future times, that she may sail under God's good providence and protection, and that there may never be lacking men well qualified to offer in her their work and skill for His greater glory, and for the protection of our realm and empire.

LEAD US, Heavenly Father, lead us
O'er the world's tempestuous sea ;
Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
For we have no help but thee ;
Yet possessing every blessing,
If our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us,
All our weakness thou dost know ;
Thou didst tread this earth before us,
Thou didst feel its keenest woe ;
Lone and dreary, faint and weary,
Through the desert thou didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending,
Fill our hearts with heavenly joy ;
Love with every passion blending,
Pleasure that can never cloy ;
Thus provided, pardoned, guided,
Nothing can our peace destroy.

The Bidding

*(The Captain will call on the Ship's Company to ask for
God's Blessing on the Ship.)*

Captain : I call on you to pray for God's Blessing on this ship
Bless our ship.

Ship's Company : May God the Father Bless Her.

Captain : Bless our ship.

Ship's Company : May Jesus Christ Bless Her.

Captain : Bless our ship.

Ship's Company : May the Holy Spirit Bless Her.

Chaplain : O LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, who blessest those who put their trust in Thee, let Thy blessing be upon this ship, and upon all who serve and sail in her. May good success, and Thy protection, and the guardianship of Thy Holy Angels, be with them always.
In the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

ETERNAL FATHER, strong to save,
Whose arm doth bind the restless wave
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep ;
O hear us when we cry to thee
For those in peril on the sea.

O Saviour, whose almighty word
The winds and waves submissive heard,
Who walkedst on the foaming deep,
And calm amid its rage didst sleep ;
O hear us when we cry to thee
For those in peril on the sea.

O Sacred Spirit, who didst brood
Upon the chaos dark and rude,
Who bad'st its angry tumult cease,
And gavest light and life and peace ;
O hear us when we cry to thee
For those in peril on the sea.

O Trinity of love and power,
Our brethren shield in danger's hour
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them whereso'er they go ;
And ever let there rise to thee
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

Prayers

OUR FATHER, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name ; Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done; in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

OETERNAL LORD GOD, who alone spreadest out the heavens, and rulest the raging of the sea ; who hast compassed the waters with bounds until day and night come to an end ; Be pleased to receive into thy almighty and most gracious protection the persons of us thy servants and the Fleet in which we serve. Preserve us from the dangers of the sea, and from the violence of the enemy ; that we may be a safeguard unto our most gracious Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth and her Dominions, and a security for such as pass on the seas upon their lawful occasions ; that the inhabitants of our Island (Empire) may in peace and quietness serve Thee our God ; and that we may return in safety to enjoy the blessings of the land, with the fruits of our labours, and with a thankful remembrance of Thy mercies to praise and glorify Thy Holy Name ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O GOD OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, bless our efforts to make this ship efficient in thy service. Help us to drive out of her all dishonesty, greed, selfishness and lack of love, that she may be a pattern of the new world for which we strive ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WE THANK THEE, O LORD, that thou art in every place, and that neither time nor distance can ever separate us from thee, that those who are absent from each other are still present with thee. Have in thy holy keeping those whom we love from whom we are now separated, and grant that both they and we, by drawing nearer unto thee, may be drawn nearer to one another in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ shine through each one of us to lighten our fellows ;

May the Love of God draw us all ever closer to Himself and to each other ;

May the Fellowship of the Holy Ghost strengthen us and bind us together into a happy ship that may gallantly surmount all the difficulties and dangers which may come her way, and

May the Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost be upon you and upon all whom you love wherever they may be, this day and for evermore.

Amen.

God Save the Queen.