

SUNSET

During the long years of war the White Ensign flew night and day. On September 2 1945, after the formal surrender of Japan, ADMIRAL FRASER ordered the resumption of peace time routine and invited the senior officers of British Commonwealth ships and a token representation from the lower deck to the first Sunset for 6 years on board the *Duke of York*.

Allied and Commonwealth flags were flying from the fore and main yard arms with the Commander in Chief's flag at the masthead and the White Ensign at the gaff. Every space on the after gun mountings and the superstructure was packed with men while, in the distance, the decks of US ships were also crowded as they had been notified of this strange Limey rite.

When ADMIRAL FRASER came on deck the quartermaster reported:

“Sunset, Sir.”

The Still sounded. The Royal Marine guard presented arms while the band played *The day thou gavest Lord is ended* together with *Sunset* as only a Royal Marine bugler could sound it.

For the first time in six years the White Ensign came down; the war was over—and the vast crowds on the US ships were at attention and saluting.

Based loosely on the account by VICE ADMIRAL (then Cdr E) Sir Louis le BAILEY in *The Man around the Engine*
