

Hero's welcome home for Rose

PORTSMOUTH, Thursday.

THE lone yachtsman Alec Rose, back from his round-the-world trip, sailed into home waters today to a welcome from waiting thousands and an invitation to lunch with Queen Elizabeth.

A huge throng of sightseers poured into Portsmouth to line the beach where Rose was coming ashore about noon today from his 36-ft. craft Lively Lady.

It was the same beach from which Rose set out on July 16 last year for his single-handed voyage round the globe via the furious waves of Cape Horn.

INVITED

An announcement from Buckingham Palace last night said the 59-year-old Rose and his wife Dorothy had been invited to lunch at Buckingham Palace next Wednesday.

The last yachtsman to sail round the world alone was Sir Francis Chichester who finished his voyage just over a year ago.

Chichester was knighted while still at sea and was met in person by Queen Elizabeth for an investiture ceremony when he sailed back to London.

Rose, the shy man who runs a greengrocers shop for a living, sought to shun the sort of publicity that blazed around the Chichester voyage. But he could not avoid the fanfare set up on his return home.

BUNTING

Portsmouth was loaded with bunting and banners saying "welcome back Alec."

The city dignitaries arranged to meet him en masse on the beach under the gaze of reporters and jostling television crews.

Rose took five months to reach Australia on the outward leg. He left Melbourne last January 14, but had to call in for repairs at Bluff, New Zealand.

Altogether Rose has been at sea 167 days during the homeward voyage. — Sapa-Reuter.