

Mercury 4-7-68

# YACHTSMAN TO BE MET BY 250,000

**PORTSMOUTH.**—This historic naval port will go wild today for one of its quietest heroes — the globe-circling lone yachtsman Alec Rose.

The 59-year-old greengrocer moved briskly up the Channel yesterday, planning to anchor overnight outside the Portsmouth harbour, so he can sail into harbour about noon today—to the cheers of an expected 250,000 crowd.

His 38,000-mile round-the-world voyage will end with the firing of a cannon at the Royal Albert Yacht Club.

Rose, who shunned publicity throughout a voyage which began almost a year ago, will be feted by his admiring home town as he steps ashore for the first

time since he left New Zealand on February 5.

Royal Marines and sailors will line the route along which he and his family will drive to a civic reception at the city's Guildhall.

Bars have special permission to stay open for 90 minutes longer so that the people of the town can drink ample toasts to their latest hero.

An extra 400 police will control the crowds thronging Portsmouth harbour and clear the port's clogged approach roads.

At sea the traffic problem will be equally acute, as yachtsmen put out to sea to welcome Rose home. Already his 37ft. ketch, Lively Lady, is part of a large flotilla heading up-Channel, escorted by two British Navy minesweepers.—(Sapa-Reuter.)

**candidate**

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