

1970

Sailing to the Happy Isles

William Brady

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/iowareview>

Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Brady, William. "Sailing to the Happy Isles." *The Iowa Review* 1.2 (1970): 21-21. Web.
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.1049>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Review by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact lib-ir@uiowa.edu.

SAILING TO THE HAPPY ISLES

On the Decennial of His Enlistment in the Navy

One might have thought, the skids well juiced,
the soft-drink bottle broken on the bow,
such a jury-rigged vessel would go down
ch-gunk at its berth as soon as it got loose
from the supporting and restraining ways.
A real abortion: no place for the crew,
iron to the water, balsam below, boosted
by paddle wheels, propellers, oars and sails.
Yet there it wallows by, seagoing farce:
the S. S. Brady ten years out of port,
bound for the baths of all the western stars.
On the canted bridge the captain blots a chart,
curses his sextant and lays another course
to calm his paddling, screwing, rowing, tacking heart.