

TWO OLD LADIES

Rob Davis

“Hey Vera, d’you fancy a flight?”
“Ok Thump, we’ll get it right
You go first, and lead the way
We’ll show ‘em how it’s done today.”

“Right then, spin those props around.”
“Here we go, Ground/Flight to ground
Throttles set, pitch fully fine,
I’ll follow you down the runway’s line.”

“See the wavers standing there?”
“Yep, I’ll wave back if I dare
And shout back thanks if I could talk
Both my wings now fight the torque.”

“We’re up! Climbing power, please
My motors need a touch of ease
After such a mighty strain
Of launching this old aeroplane.”

“Ok Thump, I’m off your wing.”
“Gotcha Vera, now we’ll bring
Excitement to the watching crowd
And shatter sky with engines loud.”

“Blimey, Thump, it’s good to know
That crowds are cheering down below.
I’m sure the waving hands just mean
The best flight they have ever seen.”

“Fighter, fighter! Corkscrew, go!”
“Ha! There’s no need! Don’t you know
To thank the Air Force for its powers?
Fortunately – it’s one of ours!”

“Hey up Thump, those nine blokes there
Are leaving smoke trails in the air.”
“We’d do it, Vera, if we could
But holy damn ... those boys are GOOD!”

“Sorry Jane, we just can’t land
There isn’t room to make our stand.
A dozen Merlins must suffice

a view of Lancasters – thrice!”

“That’s OK girls, don’t despair
For as twelve Merlins split the air
We’ll be together this day, yet
Three Lancasters have truly met.”

“We’re done, let’s head home, get some rest
The spanner-boys will want to test.
Then fill my tanks as days of yore,
Two thousand, one hundred and fifty four.”

“G’night Thump, our day is done
It’s hard work - but it sure is fun!
We’ve thrilled the crowd of every nation
With you and me in tight formation.”

“G’night Vera, cousin mine
To fly with you is mighty fine.
Our success leaves no-one much surprised;
Long may our props turn, synchronised.”