**Marian Christie**

**Burning Ships**

the ships burn

in Pearl Harbor
beneath a blue December sky
they burn the beginning of war

battleships blaze
at Skagerrak
blasted by torpedoes

smoke drifts
above the Medway
Royal Oak burns

below the rock
of Jabal Tariq
the way home is torched

in Sicily
the women
set the Trojan boats alight

ships burn
in all our memories
endlessly they burn

*the ships burn*

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The *Burning Ship* is a fractal generated by iterating, in the complex plane, the function:

\[ z_{n+1} = (|\text{Re}(z_n)| + i|\text{Im}(z_n)|)^2 + c, \quad z_0 = 0, \]