

V ACTION ON SUEZ

Life

Mechanised ~~Regiment~~ Guards at Windsor were set for orders to proceed overseas; part of the military operations touched off by Nasser's seizure of the Suez Canal; measures Great Britain is taking to ensure that Egypt does not close the waterway. International rights there cannot be left unprotected. Across at Brent Wood, Essex, the 1st Battalion Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry were issued with tropical kit at Warley Barracks. The 3rd Infantry Division of the strategic Reserve was under orders for Middle East service.

The French National Assembly, in extra session, heard Foreign Minister Pineau's report on Suez events. Not only is France, like Britain, a big canal shareholder, she is anxious about her army in ^{Algeria} Algeria, should the canal be closed. Premier Mollet informed deputies that three-quarters of the French Navy was in the Mediterranean and that in Toulon orders had been received to be instantly ready to sail. In these waters the French have men-o'-war of tonnage totalling 200,000. The most important vessels there are the aircraft carrier Arromanches and the 35,000-ton Jean Bart. As the ^{U.S.} ~~6th Fleet~~ 6th Fleet has put to sea ~~the Big Three have strong forces in the Mediterranean.~~ The Big Three have strong forces in the Mediterranean.

(131) The report of Mr. Dulles to the President and people of America was broadcast and filmed.

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The Royal Navy swung into action. The aircraft carrier Theseus sailed to the Mediterranean from Portsmouth, her deck laden with transport of the 16th Independent Parachute Brigade Group. The flight deck, 230 yards long, provided fine parking space for rows of three-ton lorries, and other military vehicles. Then came the men. Farewells were not tearful. It was felt that what was now under way was an operation of military policing. Given enough men on point duty there are no delinquents, senior or junior.

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(af/gangway)

The Paratroopers and their transport were a reassuring sight on the flight deck as Theseus set ~~main~~ sail.

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Ironically spectators of the ~~main~~^{departure} included sailors of the Al Quaher, an Egyptian destroyer in Portsmouth, ~~formerly~~ formerly a ship of the Royal Navy. And as the carrier Bulwark also left Portsmouth people felt that Britain followed the right course. The Middle East respects a firm attitude taken by countries with enough power to carry it out.

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