

SHIPS AWAIT SAILING

ORDERS

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

SOUTHAMPTON, SEPT. 13

A fleet of ships with a total tonnage of over 130,000 is anchored in Cowes Roads, awaiting sailing orders. There are some 20 vessels between Cowes and Wootton—freighters and Ministry of Transport ships with military equipment and stores. The ships were loaded at Southampton, Portland, and other ports.

Apart from naval reviews, it is the largest assembly in the roads since D-Day. The demand for reading matter on the ships has been so great that the Missions to Seamen library at Southampton is almost empty. Over 2,000 books and magazines have been sent to Cowes Roads for the soldiers and crews.

12.44 P... SAILING TO MEDITERRANEAN HASTENED.
THE 23,000 TONS AIRCRAFT CARRIER HMS ALBION WILL SAIL FROM
PORTSMOUTH AT 9.30 A.M. TOMORROW FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN,
A NAVAL SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED TODAY.
SHE WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO JOIN THE MEDITERRANEAN FLEET
LATER IN THE YEAR BUT HER PROGRAMME HAS BEEN BROUGHT FORWARD
AT SHORT NOTICE DUE TO THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION.

ALBION HAS BEEN UNDERGOING AN EXTENSIVE DOCKYARD REFIT
WHICH WAS BROUGHT FORWARD SEVERAL WEEKS DUE TO THE RECENT
DEVELOPMENTS.

COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN R.M. SMEETON R.N., SHE SAILS
IN A FULLY OPERATIONAL ROLE WITH SQUADRONS OF AIRCRAFT.

14-9-56

PRESS HANDOUT

H.M.S. ALBION

Details are taken from "Jane's Fighting Ships" and are NOT official.

Displacement: 22,000 tons standard, 27,000 tons full load.

Dimensions: Length: 650 (p.p.) 737 $\frac{1}{2}$ (o.a.) feet,
Beam: 90 feet Extreme. Breadth: 123 feet.
Draught: 26 feet.
Fitted with angled deck.

Guns: 26-40 mm. AA. (2-6 barrelled, 5 twin
4 single). 4-3 pdr. (saluting).

Aircraft: 45.

Machinery: Parsons geared turbines, 2 shafts.
S.H.P. 78,000 - 28 kts.

Boilers: 4 Admiralty 3-drum type.

Complement: 1,037 (ship's company, including ship's
air complement), 1,330 to 1,390
(including attached air squadron personnel).

Builders: Harland & Walf, Ltd., Belfast.

H.M.S. ALBION is proceeding to the Mediterranean on a General Service commission to work up.

H.M.S. ALBION is commanded by Captain R.M. Smeeton, M.B.E., R.N.