

2063

N.A.T.O. ships in Exercise "Mariner"

9th Oct. 53

Heavy seas made a realistic background for the 1953 "Battle of the Atlantic" when 300 warships took part in "Mariner", an exercise designed to test those vital sea-lane defences.

The operation ranged from the Arctic to the Mediterranean so ships were refuelled at sea. Here, the oiler "Wave Victor" closes in to replenish the battleship "Vanguard". ~~A manoeuvre made these difficult~~

One "casualty" of the battle was the cruiser, H.M.S. Swiftsure, which limped into Sheerness with a gaping hole in her side, <sup>The</sup> ~~after~~ result of an after-dark collision with H.M.S. Diamond, off the coast of Iceland.

The "Diamond" (one of the new Daring class destroyers) arrived at Sheerness minus her bows.

Despite the conditions, carrier-based aircraft made constant strikes - among them Attacker Jets - operating from H.M.S. Eagle - our most powerful carrier.

And in such flying ~~the~~ conditions there were casualties. A sea hornet made a forced landing; but the crew were rescued by helicopter.

Next day, a Firefly crashed. And again, that helicopter went into action in a real-life <sup>rescue</sup> ~~manoeuvre~~. ~~OF RESCUE~~ ~~was picked up and~~ ~~aboard~~

For many months during the last war, the British Commonwealth fought the "battle of the Atlantic" alone. Now the burden is shared in the interests of Western Defence.

*by willing neighbours in the West.*