

18th March 1955

Med: Combined Fleet Manoeuvres

The central Mediterranean ~~is~~ battleground for many a Malta convoy during the last war - was the realistic setting for large-scale refuelling tests during the five-day Combined Fleet Exercise.

Over fifty ships took part, and here, Admiral Sir Rhoderick McGrigor, the First Sea Lord, inspects ratings aboard H.M.S. Agincourt, a battle-class destroyer.

~~150 aircraft, too, flew constant sorties as the Navy tested its defensive measures - to combat atomic attack at sea.~~

~~During the operation,~~ Two aircraft-carriers, the Centaur and the Albion, provided fighter cover. Both ~~warships~~ have the new angled decks for safer landings - and ~~also~~ operate top-speed jet-fighter squadrons.

So - ~~back~~ to Malta - where ~~armed~~ ~~forces~~, fired by ships and shore batteries, greeted the Royal Yacht, "Britannia", ~~as~~, (Flying the Duke of Edinburgh's personal standard) she led the Fleet into harbour.

In her alternative role of hospital-ship, the "Britannia" had proved herself during the manoeuvres.

Coming ashore by Royal Barge, the Duke <sup>WELCOMED</sup> ~~met senior officers after being~~ ~~greeted~~ ~~by~~ ~~the~~ ~~island~~ ~~where~~ ~~he~~ ~~spent~~ ~~so~~ ~~many~~ ~~happy~~ years of his Naval career.