Launch of tanker (2397) 20th December 1956

The Suez crisis has revealed Britain's vital dependence on the once-humble oil tanker - so here's a welcome ADDITION ~~additional~~ to our rapidly-growing fleet.

A 32,000 ton vessel, she was built at Wallsend-on-Tyne - where shipyard workers are making final preparations for her launching ceremony.

The runways are thoroughly greased - and the SURPLUS ~~suplus~~ burned off to ensure a smooth passage to the water.

On the launching platform, Lady McMillan, wife of the Chancellor, performed the ceremony, and with the traditional blessing, the "British Valour" moved down to the River Tyne.

When completed, the "British Valour" will join the largest British oil fleet to sail under a single house-flag. Though not spectacular in size - (there are now tankers of sixty thousand tons on order), SHE ~~the vessel~~ sets a new mark in oil transport. For with a speed of eighteen knots, she is claimed to be Britain's fastest tanker.

Meanwhile, in Port Said, the Arab Town has been sealed off to prevent further attacks during the Allied withdrawal.

Once again, British troops have been "right in the picture" for they have undertaken hazardous patrols with their usual fortitude. And this, ~~in narrow streets of building~~ through streets dominated by house balconies that have proved ideal ~~ideal~~ positions for terrorist SNIPERS. ~~sniping attacks~~.

But with the Allied withdrawal into a narrow waterfront beachhead - the United Nations troops have taken over control of the Arab town.

So, Port Said becomes an international responsibility - surely the ultimate end for the Suez Canal?