

NAVY JOINS WESTERN UNION FLEET

British, French and Netherlands warships ride at anchor in Mount's Bay, off Penzance, prior to joining Belgian ships already at sea, in the first combined Western Union Fleet manoeuvres. Following immediately on the "five-power" air exercise over Britain, the project is aimed at developing co-operation among the fleets, with the emphasis on communications. A "shoot" off the Scillies, and air attacks on the main naval force, are on the programme.

Arriving by air from France, Field Marshal Montgomery is welcomed aboard the IMPLACABLE by Admiral Sir Roderick McGrigor, the Western Defence Chief, and the Over-all C-in-C of the manoeuvres, are later joined by Rear Admiral Willinge, the Dutch naval chief.

Then comes Vice Admiral Lambert, of France. Flying the Admiral's flag, the IMPLACABLE is next visited by Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands.

Below decks Admiral McGrigor outlines the plan of the manoeuvres. The fleets will leave Mount Bay in six groups - divide, and come together in a final attack. The most modern battle tactics, emulating war conditions, will be employed. ANSON, the only battleship taking part, leads Group 5 of the combined fleets putting Western Union's sea defences to the test. Other exercises will follow, with America probably joining in later.