

COMMONWEALTH FLEET MEETS IN PACIFIC.

Springtime in the South Pacific. The Royal Australian Navy - led by the cruiser "Australia" and escorted by the New Zealand Squadron, heads out to sea for the biggest combined naval exercise since the war ended in the Pacific. From the carrier Sydney flies the flag of Rear Admiral Beales, in command of the week-long manoeuvres. And it is from the Sydney's flight-deck that the Fireflies, (making rocket-assisted take-offs) give the exercise a flying start.

Sailing in the cruiser "Balena" are the manoeuvres' most interested spectators - a company of sea cadets from New South Wales. They see the exercise switch into second gear, as the Fireflies come within range of Red Force ack-ack guns.

Blue Force submarines are detected, and are countered with depth charges.

Happy ending to it all comes with a special issue of rum. Though the exercises are regarded primarily as routine training, added importance is given to them by events in China. With the Reds now entrenched along the entire Chinese coastline, Pacific defence must also be the concern of the Atlantic nations.

