

H.M.S. ILLUSTRIOUS.

Back on active service after repairs and refit in American and British Ports, H.M.S. ILLUSTRIOUS is at sea again. From her hangars below deck, lifts ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ hoist the stowed aircraft up to the flight deck. In January last year, ILLUSTRIOUS was badly damaged during a heavy attack by German dive-bombers. It was intended that Lord Louis Mountbatten should command her; but the Commanders wanted him too. Today the 23,000 ton aircraft carrier is under the command of Captain Talbot. One of the aircraft to land on her broad deck, brings Rear-Admiral Lyster, Fifth Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Air Services. The Admiral flew his flag in ILLUSTRIOUS when she was participating in some of the heavy Mediterranean engagements. The aircraft seen here taking off, are American built Martlet fighters.

The deck landing officer guides pilots coming in to make their landings. By means of illuminated reflector-bats he signals the aircraft right down to the deck.

Straight away on landing, the wings are folded and the planes struck down to the huge hangars where the aircraft are stowed on a spacious deck.

Well, its grand to see ILLUSTRIOUS back on the job again, with her battle scars well healed and as ~~fighting~~ fighting fit as ever.