

FLEET EXERCISES.

18/3/55a

Cruisers, aircraft carriers and many smaller warships took part in the Combined Home and Mediterranean Fleet Exercises in the Central Mediterranean --- a task force of some fifty vessels¹/₂. Coming aboard the destroyer H.M.S. Agincourt was the First Sea Lord Sir Rhoderick McGrigor, who inspected men of the flotillas engaged. The exercises included convoy work and the repelling of atomic attacks --- with spectacular high-speed take-offs and landings from the Aircraft Carrier Albion.

At the end of the exercise the Royal Yacht Britannia^x led the Fleet into Valetta. With the Duke of Edinburgh on board, a salute of twenty-one guns was given as they sailed into Grand Harbour.

As the Fleet dropped anchor, the Duke went ashore to pay a visit to the Headquarters Allied Forces Mediterranean.