

**A**N example that the home authorities would do well to follow has been set by General Sir Francis Grenfell, the Governor of Malta. Considering that Great Britain is an essentially Naval Power, and that in all warlike operations which she undertakes her Naval and Military forces must necessarily work hand in hand, it is strange that combined Naval and Military manœuvres have not been of frequent occurrence—instead of being practically unknown. However, a step in the right direction has now been taken, and every credit is due to Sir Francis Grenfell for having initiated the very interesting and instructive exercise which was recently carried out in combination with a part of



A TEMPORARY LANDING-STAGE.

adopted included a false as well as a real attack, and, in the event, covered by the guns of the fleet, the invaders actually succeeded in effecting a landing, together with their stores and equipment. The Naval brigade, which consisted of two battalions of seamen and one of marines, landed at 8 a.m., and had a very hard day's work

over a very difficult country, being under arms for nearly ten hours, yet, in spite of the heat and the terribly relaxing climate, not even one man fell out. The officers and men have therefore excellent reason to feel proud of their achievements. Upon the second day, after some heavy fighting, the invaders were ordered to retire to their ships, and this



ADMIRAL SIR G. NOEL.



A MIDSHIPMAN AS A D.C.

the Mediterranean Fleet. The task of landing or embarking troops in face of opposition is a very difficult one, and, indeed, even when there is no enemy to make things especially unpleasant, it is not an easy matter to embark or disembark any considerable force, with the necessary stores, upon a shore where there are no wharfs or piers.

Our sailors are, however, equal to every sort of occasion, and in the "Invasion of Malta" the various difficulties quickly disappeared. There is generally some way or other by which almost anything can be done, and so sure as there is, Jack is certain to find it. In this particular case the first thing to be done was to choose the most suitable landing-places in the required locality, and a Naval reconnaissance accordingly took place.

The plans

very delicate manœuvre was so excellently managed that the whole force was safely withdrawn, after having first secured the re-embarkation of all the stores and equipment that had been landed with the expedition. The effective co-operation of the fleet with the invading force, both in the attacks upon the defenders' position and also during the retirement, was admirably maintained.

The operations were conducted under the general direction of Sir Francis Grenfell, the soldiers of the invading force being commanded by Colonel Smith-Dorrien, D.S.O., and the Naval brigade by Commander Madden of the "Cæsar." The defending force was under the command of Major-General Lord Congleton, C.B. The Naval umpire-in-chief was Rear-Admiral Sir G. Noel, whilst



Photos. R. Ellis.

BLUEJACKETS DRAGGING UP MACHINE GUNS FROM MELLIEHA BAY.

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