

SUBMARINE THETIS. 567

As each new submarine is launched to fulfil the needs of a modern navy, it calls for an increasing number of officers and men to perform a difficult and dangerous duty. From the ranks of the Royal Navy there is never any lack of volunteers. And when disaster overwhelms one of the undersea warships the world is poorer by the loss of many brave men. ~~That it is with Britain's youngest submarine --- Thetis.~~ In Liverpool Bay on trials, the Thetis dived at ~~ixxx~~ 1.30 p.m. The alarm was raised when she failed to return to the surface three hours later and destroyers raced out to sea --- spread fanwise over a wide area to search for the missing submarine. At the yard of Cammell Laird who built the ship, relatives of those on board waited in strained anxiety. The following morning the Thetis was reported found by the destroyer Brazen --- 14 miles off St Orme's Head. Her stern stuck out of the water --- her bow was buried and held fast in soft mud 130 feet below the surface.

Rescue ships gathered round and every human effort was made to raise the Thetis, but all were in vain. It is superlative tragedy that help should be so close at hand, yet no hand can stretch out to save these doomed men. Trawlers were fixed round the hull in an attempt to pull her out; this ^{also} plan failed. The stricken vessel was too firmly gripped in the bed of the sea. Tugs with acetylene apparatus were sent out to burn a hole in the exposed part of the stern; but ~~failure of~~ this plan ~~to~~ ^{failed} ~~was reported~~.

Rescue ships then ~~formed~~ ^{formed} a circle

SUBMARINE THETIS. (2)

✓ 567

The Llandudno lifeboat was carrying a doctor to aid any ~~xx~~ rescued men --- and it was by means of the Davis ^hescape Apparatus that four men ~~survived~~ came out alive. ~~Explain~~ This demonstration shows how Captain Oram and Lieutenant Woods came to the surface with messages tied to their ~~hand~~ wrists --- ~~they had not known that salvage vessels were overhead and~~ their gallant intention was to establish the whereabouts of the Thetis, which they would have done even if they had died in the attempt. The Apparatus works by allowing men to enter an escape hatch which is filled with water to equal the pressure outside. The men are then shot to the surface. Four men were saved in this manner. ~~The officer commanding the Thetis was Lt. Comdr. Bolus; he remained on board the ship.~~ But through the long night and the following day the womenfolk of the crew had waited --- trying to console each other on their desperate, weary vigil. Another of the rescued men was MR F. Shaw, of Carmel Laird's. Still the rescue attempts went on --- while on board the Vigilant our camera picked out the light-coated figure of Captain Oram.

7 The tide rose and the stern of the Thetis disappeared once more. When the tide receded in the evening the stern was expected to ~~xx~~ appear again, but it did not. The Admiralty announced that hope of saving any further lives was diminishing.

The officer commanding the Thetis was Lt. Comdr. Bolus - he remained on board his ship.

