

Here in Portland Harbour is the depot-ship Maidstone --- mother-ship to the Submarine Sidon which went down with the loss of thirteen lives. The Sidon sank as the result of an explosion said to have occurred in the forward torpedo-room, when preparing to leave on firing trials with other submarines of the squadron. Rescue work was begun immediately.

The Sidon's captain was Lt-Commander Verry, who has also seen service in midget submarines. He was among the officers and ratings who were picked up from the sea by the rescue-ships. It is thought that most of those who were ~~unable~~ unable to escape had been killed by the explosion. Beside the mother-ship, a circle of air-bubbles indicated where the submarine lay --- some forty feet below --- as divers and frogmen continued their work.

All these men who took part in the rescue operations, were risking their lives in the cause of duty. Outstanding gallantry was shown by Surgeon-Lt. Rhodes, who went on board the ~~Sidon~~ doomed submarine after the explosion, ^{to} and rescued ~~the~~ injured ~~members~~ members of the crew. He returned to try again --- and he ~~was still on board when the Sidon made her fatal plunge.~~