

was foul and he collapsed into the water which was covering the bottom. Seeing the man in a dazed condition, lying on his back in about two feet of water, Thomson immediately descended and took hold of him. Owing to the lack of oxygen Thomson soon began to lose control of himself, but he continued, even when semi-conscious, to keep the other man's head above water. Three other persons made attempts to rescue the Officers but they were forced by the bad air to withdraw from the compartment before they could take effective action.

A rope was lowered to Thomson but by this time he was not sufficiently conscious to be able to tie it around his companion. Thomas then arrived and appreciating the critical condition of both men, immediately tied a rope around his own waist and went down into the compartment. He was able to hand out Thomson, by then unconscious, and before he himself lost consciousness to pass a rope around the other Officer. Both were then pulled out of the compartment. Thomson and Thomas recovered. The other Officer died of asphyxia.

LONDON

Printed and published by HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE: 1958

Price Sixpence net