

ATLANTIC DRAMA: GIANT AIR SEARCH ANSWERS S.O.S.

Daily off the British coasts fly weather planes of the Northern Ireland Meteorological Flight. From their crews, and those who work with them, comes the detail upon which the trend of our weather is foretold.

Theirs is a lonely job, way out over the vast Atlantic, and seldom do their exploits - or the cost - claim the columns of the world's Press.

Suddenly the tempo of routine changes. "Halifax weather plane and crew of seven missing. Last seen 500 miles off Shannon." At the Cornish R.A.F. Station, at St. Eval begins the greatest air-sea hunt for years. Crews are briefed, charts examined and those experienced in sea rescue, prepare to comb an ocean where seven men battle for life.

Soon giant Lancasters, ever ready for such calls, with lifeboats to be dropped to the missing men - await the take-off. And flying to the rescue are those who fought for life in more stirring times. Battle of Britain pilots, and pilots of other epic encounters. Yet bravery and courage does not wait solely upon war.

Far below, the serene Atlantic holds fast to its grim secret. Twenty-five aircraft for days fly high and low, skimming the shimmering sea like great birds of prey. In them are men, searching for comrades who worked in a quiet line of duty where nothing really ever happens.

Then gently the truth is known. The sea again has claimed her price.