

THE SEARCH FOR "AFFRAY"

It is not for us to try to dramatise the tragedy of the **AFFRAY**. From the moment she was reported overdue, and the great search began somewhere 30 miles south of the Needles, where she made her last dive, there has been a prayer in every home. Word that she had been located lifted the weight from our hearts even as rescue ships plotted the position where faint signals were reported picked up by the submarine **SEA DEVIL**. Swiftly there arrived the heavy rescue ship **RECLAIM** whilst ships of four nations joined the search. Whalers hung ready in the falls to pick up survivors. Then an aircraft signalled a clue and the boats raced to her marking signal.

From base, extra doctors were rushed to the scene, all the Navy could lay on to comfort and succour those who might come up from the depths. But there came none. The hours passed. Again and again hope was born anew, only to falter and fade away. To those who waited there came not a sign; but still they try, those who best know what passes when man faces his Maker, deep below the silent waters ... but hope dies reluctantly. Hear the Commander-in-Chief Portsmouth, Admiral Power:

SPEECH