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NEW SUB. ESCAPE TECHNIQUES.

All submarines in the royal Navy are soon to be fitted with new escape systems. This tower at H.M.S. Dolphin, Gosport, houses a water tank 100 feet deep and here research work has been going on into the best methods of surfacing from a disabled submarine. A simple nose-clip, a life-jacket, and a pair of goggles, it has been proved, are all that are needed to make the ascent from the bottom of the tank. This method supercedes the Davis Escape system. A mixture of oxygen and nitrogen is breathed by the escaper who then enters the escape chamber. This is flooded and the man comes to the surface in the air bubble. If he is injured, a piston will force him from the chamber. The only thing an escaper has to do is to breathe out on the ascent. It takes just sixteen seconds from the moment of release.

This same method can be used to depths of more than 300 feet. Training courses at Gosport last only a day and a half. All British submarines are to be equipped with the new escape chamber, and will adopt the free-ascent method. The Navy believes that, should an accident occur to a submarine, the crew will stand a far greater chance of survival than before.