

TANKER RESCUE

A life and death drama 200 miles off the west coast of Australia. The Stern part of the tanker Bridgewater which broke in two in an 80-mile an hour hurricane was sighted by an airforce Neptune bomber. 25 of the crew were on this part of the ship. The tanker was New Zealand bound from the Persian Gulf when she broke in two.

The bow section lay several miles away, listing badly. Aboard were the captain and six men. Radio S.O.S. brought the Italian tanker Elios on to the scene. In heavy seas her lifeboats rescued the men from the almost sinking bow. Then the Italian ship went to aid the 25 on the stern section. All were safely got off. The only mishap was to the Chief Officer. He injured a leg.

Soon afterwards the Elios brought all the crew to Geelong. Later, the stern part of the tanker was salvaged. So the loss was half a ship and the cargo of oil.