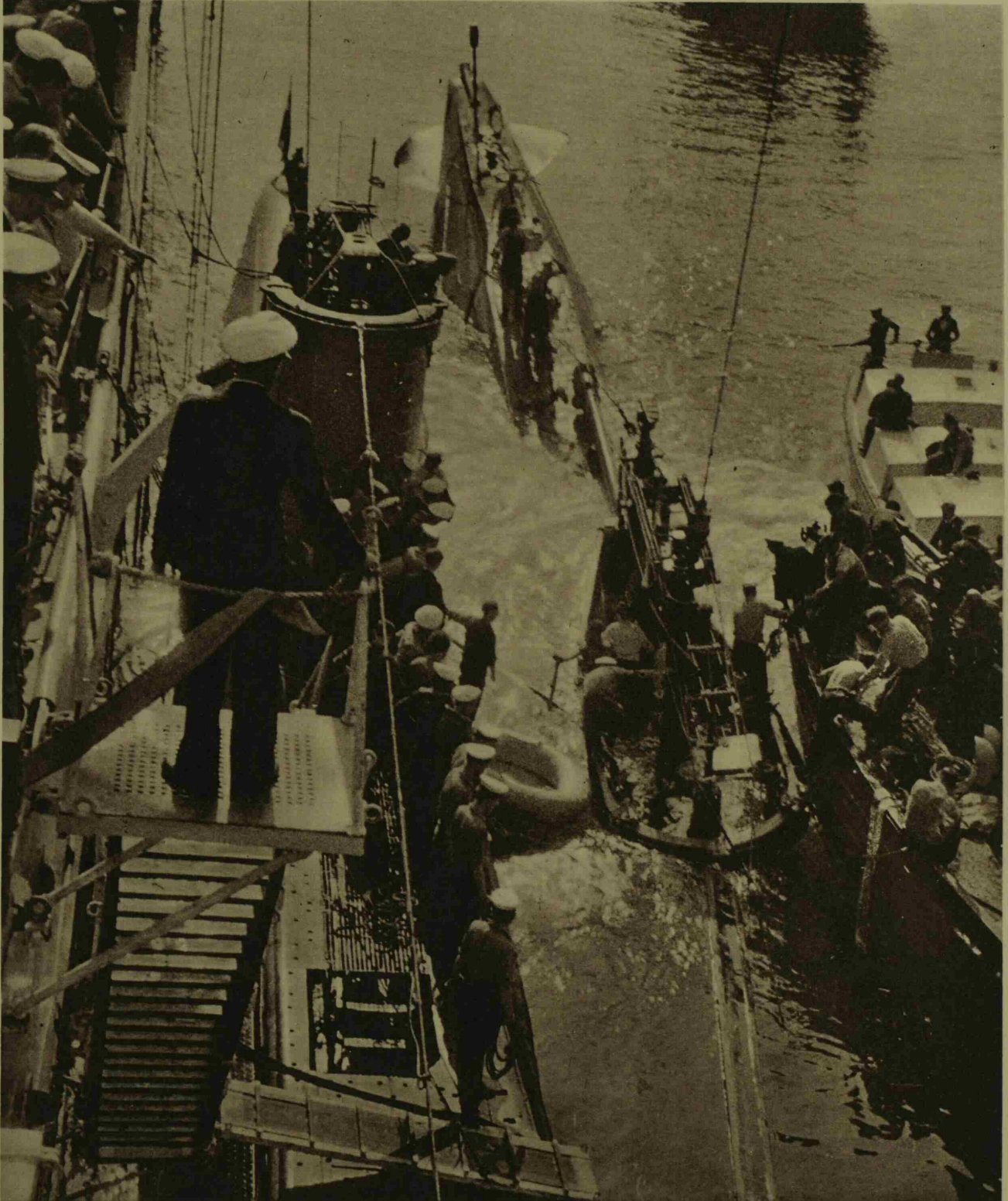


# THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

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SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 1955.



JUST BEFORE SIDON SANK IN PORTLAND HARBOUR, DORSET: AN EXCLUSIVE PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING THE DOOMED SUBMARINE AFTER THE EXPLOSION, WITH OFFICERS AND RATINGS PREPARING TO ABANDON SHIP.

On June 16 the submarine *Sidon* (1000 tons) sank in Portland Harbour after an explosion in a torpedo compartment. There were fifty-six people on board and all hope was abandoned for three officers and ten ratings who went down with her. *Sidon* was about to go on a training exercise in the Channel and practice torpedoes were being embarked when the explosion occurred in the forward torpedo compartment. The submarine was lying alongside her parent ship, H.M.S. *Maidstone*, the depot ship of the Second Submarine Squadron, less than 100 yards from the dockyard precincts. During the twenty minutes between the time of the explosion and the sinking of the submarine in 36 ft. of water, members of *Sidon's* crew escaped from the doomed vessel and rescue parties went

on board. Among the rescue workers was Surgeon Lieutenant C. E. Rhodes, R.N.V.R., of *Maidstone*. After passing two injured members of the crew to safety he returned to help others and was not seen again. As *Sidon* was sinking the salvage vessel *Moordale* came alongside and got a hawser round the submarine's stern, but the bows still sank and *Moordale* had to let go as *Sidon* touched bottom. The last to leave the vessel, after it was decided that nothing could be done for the men still trapped in her, was Lieut.-Commander H. T. Verry, the commanding officer. Our photograph, which was taken after the explosion, shows H.M.S. *Maidstone* (left), another submarine, rescue vessels (right), and *Sidon* sinking by the bow as members of her crew prepared to abandon ship.