

## Carrying a Monster Gun Under the Sea



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Now that we have peace, doubtless this submarine with a 12-inch gun is prepared to see that we keep it

**T**HE British submarine M-1, which mounts a 12-inch 45-caliber gun, is the most powerful undersea craft in the world, and represents a new idea in naval warfare.

It was completed in August, 1918, just before the end of the war, and was to have been used in convoying merchant ships which might have been attacked by enemy light cruisers. As a matter of fact, the M-1 has never been in action.

This unusual craft is 200 feet long, and has a displacement of 2,000 tons and a speed on the surface of about 16 knots. There is the usual recoil arrangement made for the big gun, but despite this the submarine goes back about ten feet in the water, from the recoil, whenever the gun is fired.

## Sunken Ships Lifted with Air-Bags

**A**METHOD has been devised and successfully tried by which sunken ships can be salvaged with comparative ease. Instead of using heavy steel tanks whose weight must be added to the lifting force employed, the new way is to place fabric bags in the hull of the vessel and inflate them with air. To augment the effect, a number of bags may be attached to the outside of the hull.

The bags are made of very strong rubber water-proof canvas, are from 30 to 40 feet long, and displace from 50 to 100 tons of water.

There is no difficulty in placing them inside the ship's hull. They are flexible and can be folded to fit a small space during transportation, in this respect being very different from the more clumsy steel tanks ordinarily employed.

In order that the compressed air within the bags will not be forced to the bursting-point, each bag is provided with an automatic blow-off valve. When placed in the ship the bags are flat and lie against the girders, and the vessel begins to rise when sufficient air has been blown into the bags.

Since the bags are placed just where the greatest weight is encountered, the ship can be lifted without any severe strain on the structure—a very great advantage over the old method.

The first vessel to be salvaged by this system was the steamer *Main*, which had been sunk by a German submarine in Luce Bay, off the coast of Scotland. The bags displaced one hundred tons of water each, and weighed only one ton complete.

Larger bags are being made, and it is rumored that the *Lusitania* may be raised from the bed of the ocean by this system of air-inflated bags.

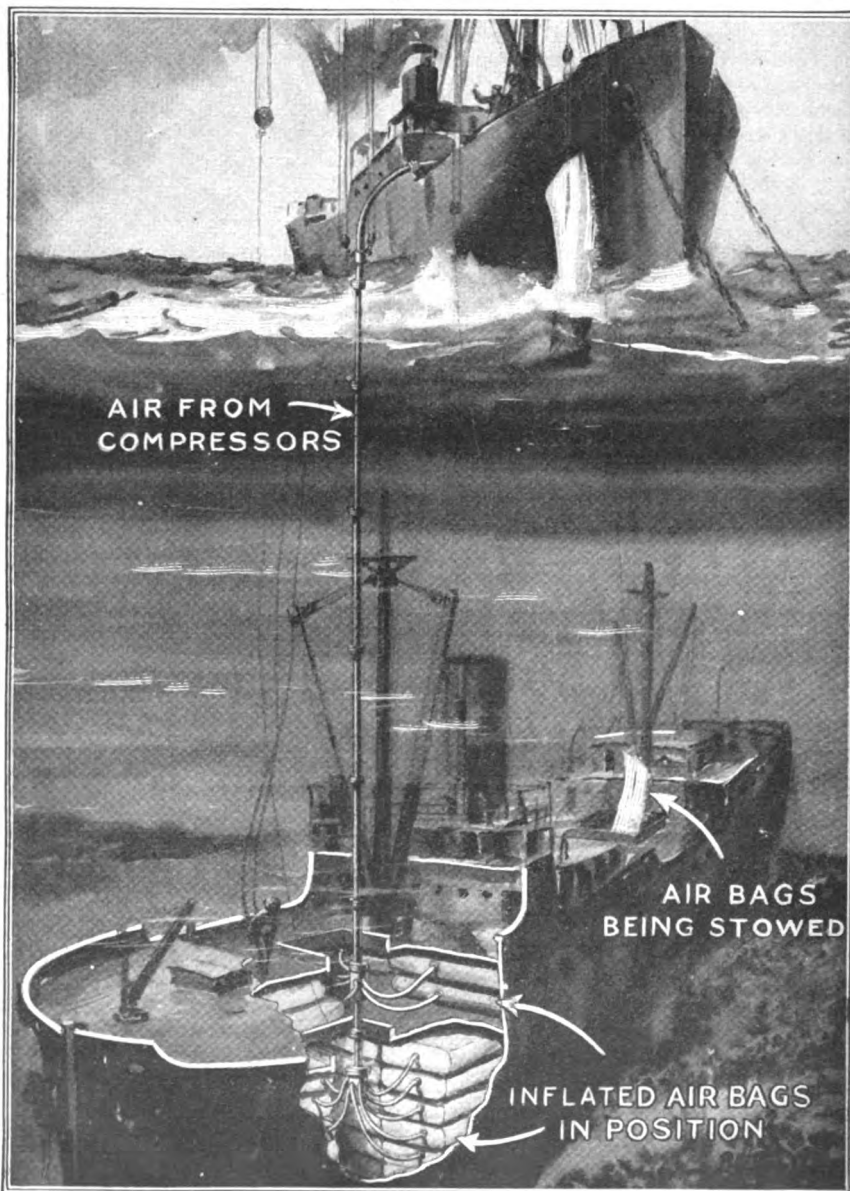
## It Is Midsummer Now in Northern Mars

**S**EEN through a telescope, the bright planet which everyone notices in the east after sunset appears as an exceedingly interesting object. It is Mars, the mystery world.

Just now the earth observers see Mars in the height of its northern midsummer. The polar snow-cap has melted to its smallest, and many of the curious dark markings seen upon its yellow deserts and called "canals" have vanished under the sun's persistent rays. In the far southern region of Mars midwinter prevails, and as the planet is observed through the rest of the year the coming of spring in the southern hemisphere will be witnessed.

It is strange to look across the gap of more than 50,000,000 miles and see the changing seasons displayed upon another world! On April 21 Mars will be in opposition and on the 27th it will be closest to the earth.

The distance of Mars from the earth at the present time, is about 15,000,000 miles greater than it is possible for the planet to approach, but it is closer than during the opposition of 1918.



Perhaps the *Lusitania* will be raised by air-inflated bags. The bags are placed in the ship flat; when they are inflated with air, the ship rises