

Richard Meyers, chief salvage engineer, shows how he hopes to lift the luxury ship Andrea Doria from its grave 240 feet beneath the Atlantic, an unparalleled attempt.



CAN THEY RAISE THE ANDREA DORIA?

by Jerry Klein

A daring undersea adventure, led by a

TWO DAYS after the *Andrea Doria*, pride of the Italian passenger fleet, went down in a collision with the *Stockholm* in July, 1956, Armando Conti dispatched a telegram to his native Italy. In it he offered to raise the ship from its grave, 50 miles off Nantucket, Mass.

During the two years which have since gone by, a number of marine engineers have called this feat a virtual impossibility, or a project so complex and costly as to be impractical. Nevertheless, today finds the indomitable Conti preparing to bring the *Doria* to the surface, an accomplishment which certainly would rank among the greatest and most thrilling sea salvage efforts of all time.

To this challenging job, Conti brings: some experience in ship salvage, money, and an almost unlimited amount of determination.

The effort may fail. There are tides and sudden squalls to reckon with. Certainly the divers will be daring death every time they descend the 240 feet to the vessel's resting place. And even if the attempt succeeds, it might not prove financially worth the trouble.

On the other hand, lifting the liner from the bottom of the Atlantic may make millions, become one of the biggest news stories of the year, and shed new light on the cause of the tragedy.

Here's how Meyers and Conti plan their daring gamble—with several experts betting on King Neptune.



Initial step in historic salvage effort is to attach huge deflated rubber buoys to the sunken ship.