

NOVEMBER 1982

- 11th. Flt Lt Andy Kirkup Flt Lt Mark Hewitt Master ALM Gordon Davies.  
Rig worker fell from the Galveston Quay Rig sometime during the night and this was an extended and hopeful search for him lasting 4 hours. Nothing found.
- 12th. Warwick stepped in the crew for Gordon and they set off to investigate PLB transmissions on 243. Found them too - right in the centre of Hull. The Police are now investigating (CB gone mad?).
- 15th Same crew again (hogs) who set off at first light to pick up a Belgian seaman from a trawler in which he had made a fairly successful attempt to cut off his right hand. Taken to Hull R.I. where they recovered it for him.
- 28th Sqn Ldr Jeff Whitehead. Flt.Lt. Adrian Rule. Sgt Terry Williamson.  
A nice 'break in' for Terry who had arrived four days prior - young man with a heart attack on an angling boat about 2 miles from Bridlington. Taken to Scarborough where it turned out to be a severe case of indigestion (but who cares).
- 30th. Flt.Lt. John Sutherland. Flt.Lt. Graham Clark. Flt.Sgt. Warwick Laken.  
A real epic this one - a man suspected of committing suicide on the Moors near Manchester. Nice lengthy first search and then a refuel at Manchester Airport, only to find the helicopter uncooperative and unserviceable when the second start was attempted. Paul Longden attempted to fly spares from here to Manchester to get it serviceable and promptly had an argument between a blade and a duck on the way. The blade won, but suffered damage which necessitated him nipping into Finningley for a blade change. Eventually two groundcrew went by car and a Sea King on an Air Test from Finningley found Manchester on it's schedule along with some spare bits.

# CHOPPER SQUAD

**A KIND-HEARTED RAF helicopter team solved a church spire problem at Doncaster.**

An airman was winched down on to the top of the 260ft. high spire at All Saints Parish Church, Woodlands, to lift to safety a badly-corroded weathercock that was threatening to topple to the ground.

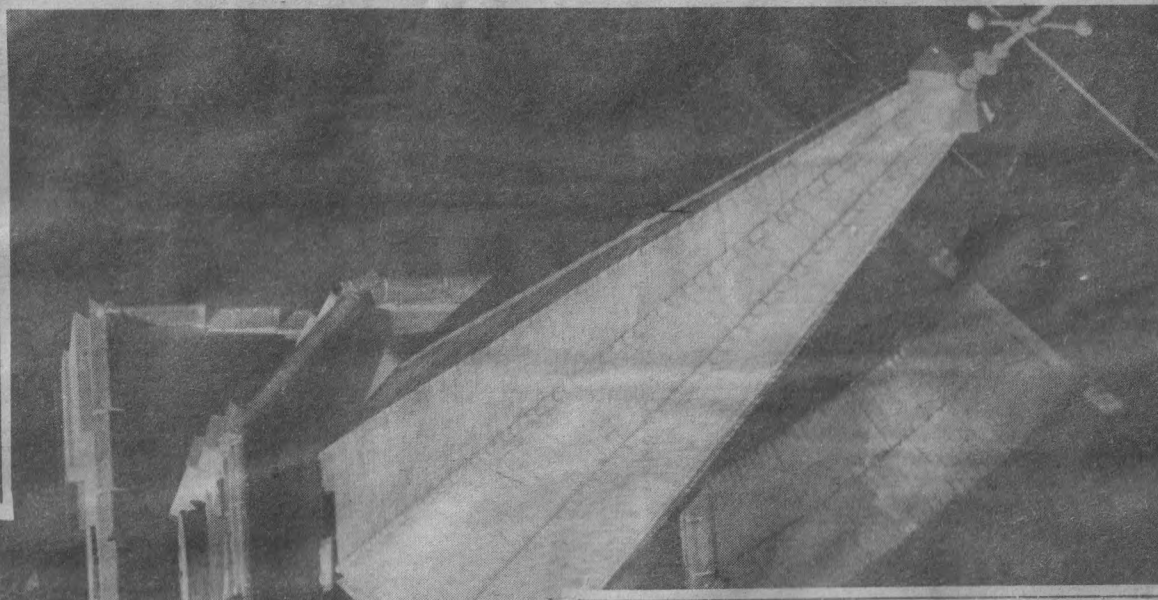
The Wessex type helicopter — which was used in the Falklands — then landed in a nearby park, and,

to the cheers of onlookers, the weathercock was handed over to the vicar, the Rev. John Hawley. The helicopter was from RAF Leconfield.

Said Mr. Hawley: "The RAF did a wonderful job."

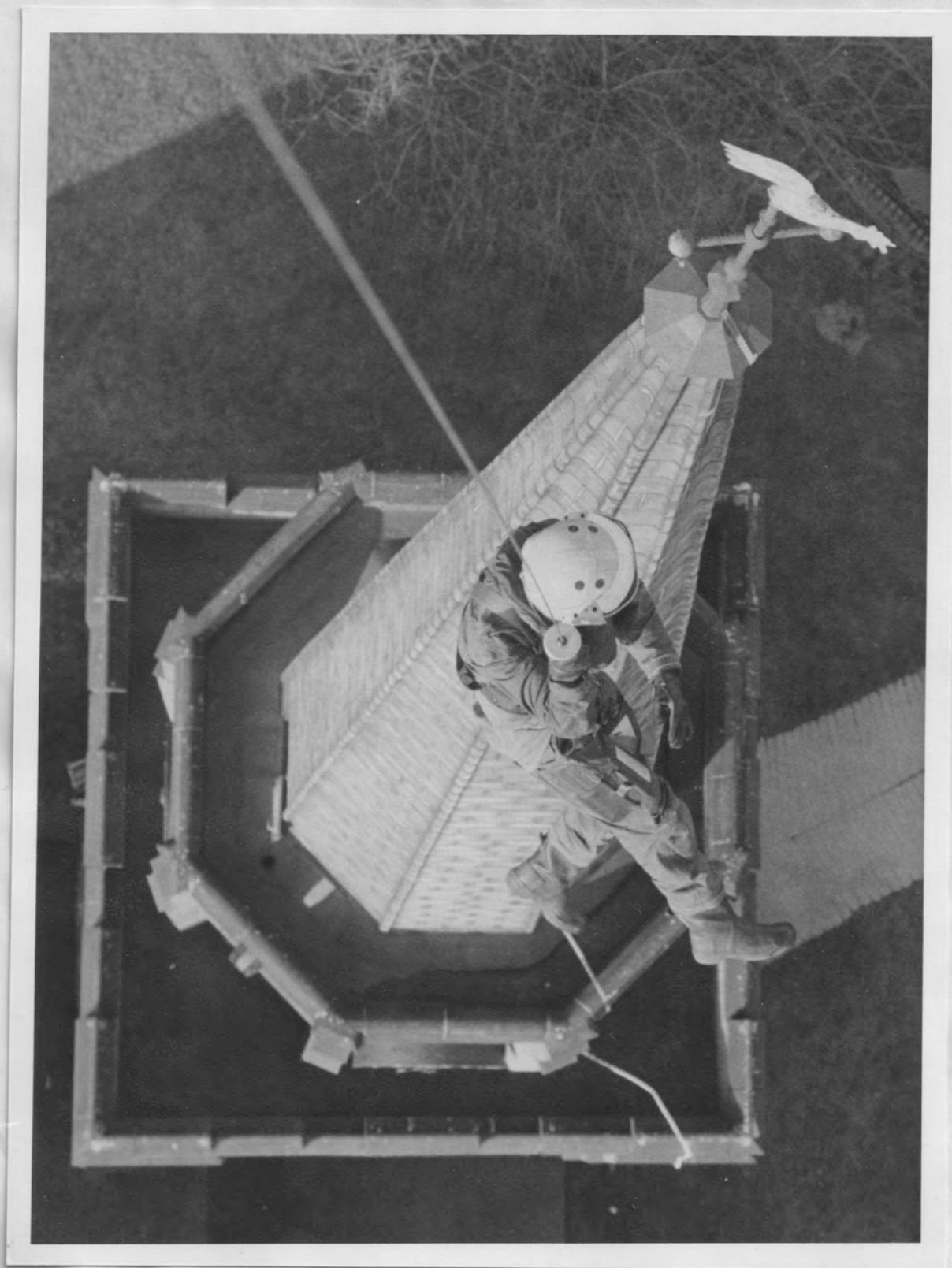
The operation was witnessed by 400 schoolchildren after Mr. Hawley made an appeal to the RAF for help.

An RAF spokesman explained: "Apparently the weathercock was in a dangerous state of corrosion and the vicar was fearful it might drop off at any time."



Left: The Rev. John Hawley with the weathercock.  
Bottom left: The handover.

Below: An RAF picture by Ralph Brooks from the helicopter.



12 Nov 82

ERIC PERFORMS IN PUBLIC



# Man missing on moor found safe

AN Agbrigg man missing in freezing weather on bleak moorland turned up safe in the early hours of Wednesday.

Mr Basil Holding, aged 46, of Fieldhouse Street, was spotted on the M62 motorway at Windy Hill and was later picked up by a police patrol. He was taken to Huddersfield Royal Infirmary suffering from exposure.

He spent the night there and was allowed home the following day.

Mr Holding, who was said to be depressed, went missing on Monday, and his disappearance was reported by his wife Valerie, aged 45.

A search was launched when his estate car was found abandoned in a car park off the Huddersfield to Oldham Road, at Standedge Moor, on Monday afternoon.

Policemen from Greater Manchester, some with tracker dogs, immediately searched the area, including buildings and a reservoir, near the Blue Peter car park.

West Yorkshire Police called in the RAF, who sent a

helicopter to help. In freezing weather, and with light failing, a mountain rescue team was brought in, but the search was called off at midnight.

It was resumed at first light on Tuesday, but no trace of Mr Holding was found until the police received a call from an emergency telephone box just after midnight.

Mr Holding works as a machine operator for a Featherstone company



Mr Basil Holding

30 Nov 82.

JOHN SUTHERLAND  
GRAHAM CLARK  
WARWICK LAKEN

HE MAY HAVE BEEN DEPRESSED -  
BUT YOU OUGHT TO HAVE SEEN  
OUR GROUND CREW !!

28 Nov 82

TERRY WILLIAMSON "BREAKS"  
HIMSELF IN !

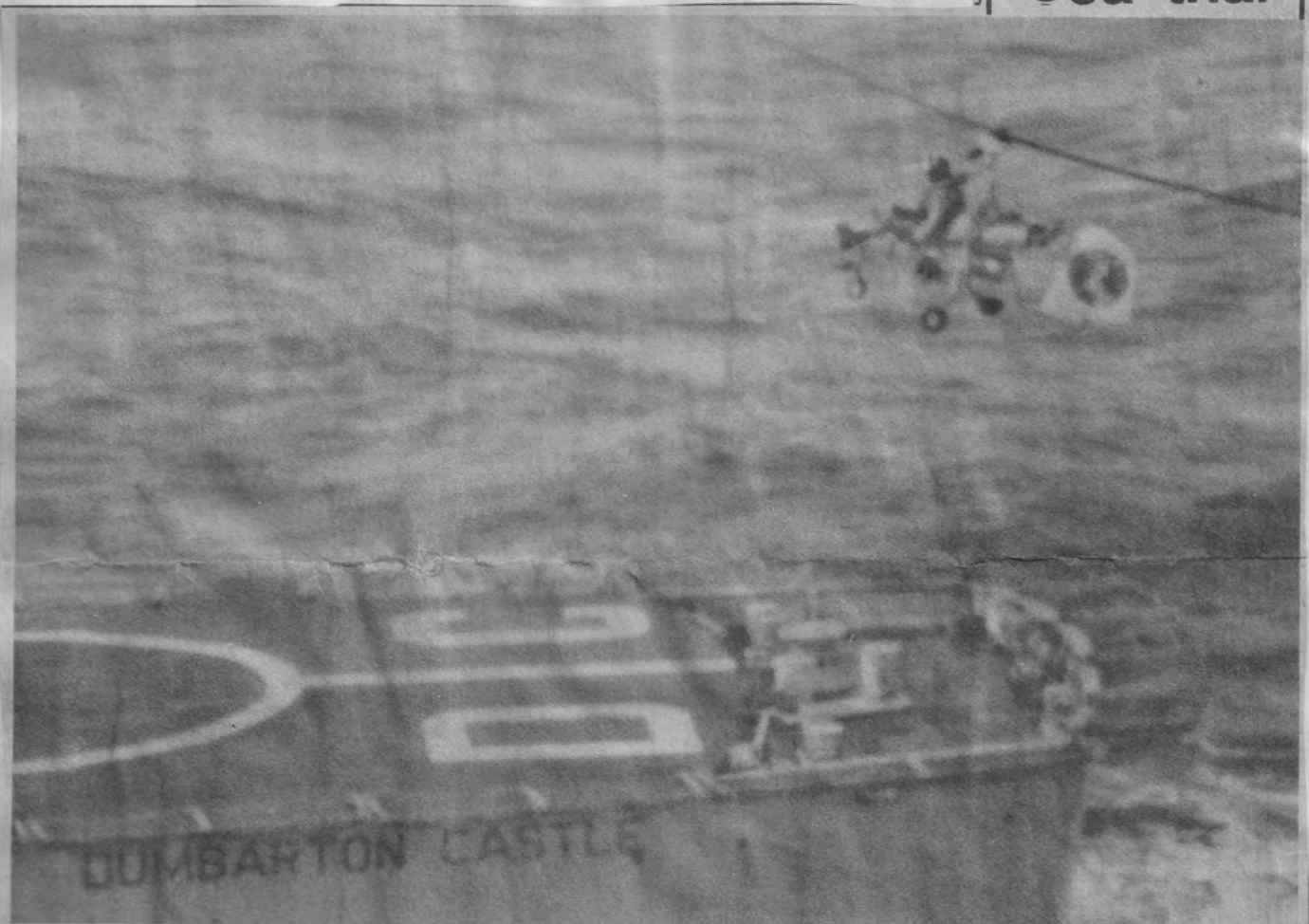
## Mercy flight

ANGLER Paul Andrews (28), of Camwood Crescent, Birchwood, Lincoln, was lifted from a fishing boat by an RAF helicopter at Flamborough Head and flown to Scarborough Hospital after collapsing at the weekend. He was treated and released.

TAKEN BY RON BEDMEN WHILST  
CONTINUING THE COLTISHALL DETACHMENT.

10 Nov 82

Norfolk  
autogyro  
sea trial



Norfolk autogyro pilot, Wing Cmdr. Ken Wallis took to the sea yesterday ... and recorded another "first" with the aid of the Navy.

He landed on the deck of HMS Dumbarton Castle, and took off again from the vessel, while she was moving (full story — back page).

HE NOT ONLY LANDED — HE HIT  
THE DECK & OVERSHOT FIRST EFFORT!!

12 Nov 82

Thursday,

# RAF RESCUES 'BIRD'

The copper weathercock impaled on the spire of All Saints Church, Woodlands has been plucked to safety by the Royal Air Force.

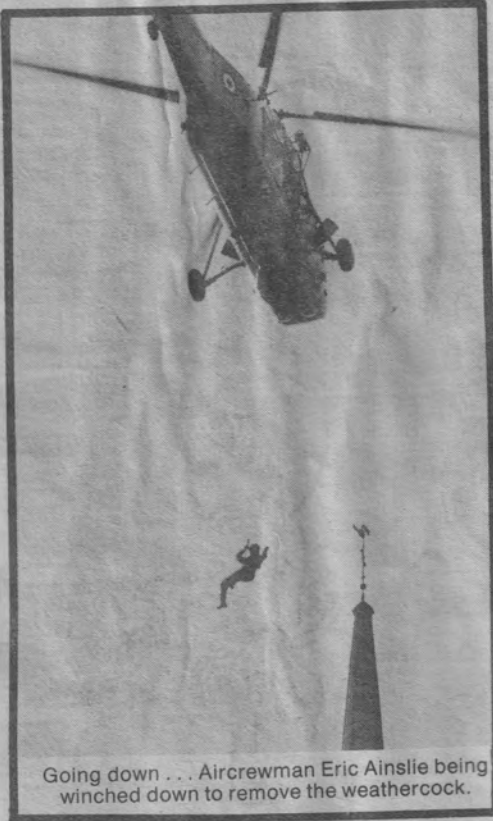
For the hollow bird weighing 11 pounds, corroded by the passage of time, was in danger of leaving its precarious perch at the top of the 70-year-old church's 260 foot spire.

So before the weathercock could come down to roost on the head of some unsuspecting member of the congregation an RAF helicopter flew in to the rescue.

The Wessex Search and Rescue helicopter from RAF Leconfield used the rescue as a training exercise and afterwards Aircrewman Eric Ainslie, who plucked the bird to safety, presented it to the Vicar, the Reverend John Hawley.

"The RAF were absolutely superb, the whole operation went very smoothly," said Rev. Hawley. "The bird was badly corroded and if it had fallen, it would have killed someone."

"We shall probably put it back up when we have got some work to do on the spire, but in the meantime, one of my churchwardens will mount it on a wooden plinth and put it somewhere in the church," he added.



Going down . . . Aircrewman Eric Ainslie being winched down to remove the weathercock.



Up, up and away . . . Aircrewman Eric Ainslie, clutching the weathercock, returns to the Wessex helicopter



Rev. John Hawley holding the weather-beaten weathercock.

**IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE**

TOM TAYLOR  
ADRIAN RULE  
ERIC AINSLIE