

11th. Flt Lt Hugh Pierce. Master Nav Ron Dedmen. Sgt Terry Williamson.

'Night Rider' yet again - this time to a super tanker off the Humber Light, in not the most pleasant of dark nights with plenty of snow around, to lift off a Finnish woman (one assumes the wife of one of the crew!) who had suspected appendicitis. She was taken to Hull R.I.

12th. Sqn Ldr Jeff Whitehead. Flt Lt Mark Hewitt. MAIM Dave Allen.

The drum was just put in the water for a training sortie off Hornsea - and promptly left, when this crew were informed of an A 10 mid air collision. It just so happened that the collision was over an hour away in the middle off the North Sea midway between Coltishall and Holland - and the Colt crew got there first to pick up the one survivor. After refuelling at a rig our lot proceeded into the dark for a search but the pilot lost his mike so they returned to eventually land at Bacton Gas terminal on the Norfolk coast in not the most pleasant of weather.

20th. Flt Lt Hugh Pierce. Master Nav Ron Dedmen. MAIM Eric Ainslie.

A Coaster running for shelter in the gale hit an obstruction off Filey (could it have been the Brigg!!?) and started taking water - whereupon Night Rider hit the skies again and found (yet again - see 23 Oct) that his assistance was not required by the crew who waited for the Filey Lifeboat to come and take them off!!

21st. Flt Lt Paul Longden. Flt Lt Mark Hewitt. MAIM Dave Allen.

A shriek of Mayday on 243 and in splatted an American F 111 about 15 miles off Whitby. Says a lot for the Boulmer lot that we got there first, but were wise enough to hold off and let them do the lift with all the lights and kit they have at their disposal. There was a short delay while the crew in the capsule donned their immersion suits prior to being lifted (!) - and then we searched for the capsule after the lift to mark it for pick up.

Copter drama near M62

AN RAF WESSEX helicopter was forced down in bad weather late yesterday afternoon a few hundred yards from the M62 motorway near Howden.

The air-sea rescue helicopter, which was on a training flight to Leconfield, had a crew of three on board when the pilot decided to land in a field as fog affected visibility.

He touched down safely, and it is understood there was no damage to the helicopter itself, and none of those on board was injured.

Humberside police said today that the helicopter had spent the night in the field, with the crew remain-

ing aboard, and it was understood a relief crew was due to arrive late this morning to collect the helicopter.

The craft could be seen from the M62, and was also visible from parts of the A614 road near Howden-dyke crossroads.

"The helicopter had to come down due to inclement weather just after 4 pm yesterday," said a police spokesman.

A spokesman for the RAF northern rescue centre at Pitreavie, Scotland, would only say that aircraft was a training Wessex flying to Leconfield and he could not say from where it had taken off.

15 DEC 83

FLYLT DAVE HOLMYARD
FLYLT FRANK Haggerty
MALM TONY RODMELL

OUR CHRISTMAS
PARTY "STAND-IN".

THEY RETURNED TO
LEUCHARS - VIA FINNINGLEY.

Dramatic rescue off Filey Brigg



The rescued crewmen come aboard from the Filey Lifeboat at Scarborough.

By ALAN WILLIAMSON

A COASTER from which the four-man crew was rescued by Filey lifeboat during the night was today wallowing off Filey Brig with a 30 degree list.

Capt. George Warnes (55), part-owner of the 400-ton coaster Rito, was the last man to leave his ship which began to take in water after striking an underwater object near Filey Brig last night. It was on passage from Ipswich to the Tees in ballast.

Today, Capt. Warnes went back to his ship in the Scarborough fishing boat Cassamanda to stand by while his co-owner in Ipswich arranged for a salvage tug.

Filey lifeboat and an RAF helicopter from Leconfield were alerted when Capt. Warnes sent out his Mayday call for help shortly before 9 pm. He reported that the ship's hold and engine-room were flooded and his ship's pumps could not cope.

Three crew members were taken off by Filey lifeboat but the captain stayed on board for two hours until it was considered unsafe for him to remain and he, too, was put on board the lifeboat.

The helicopter, which hovered near the stricken vessel for about two hours in high winds, did not leave until they knew all four crew members were safe.

going but they would not hold the leak."

Capt. Warnes added: "The boat is listing but she is safe on an anchor and she has got an anchor light up. I consider I have a reasonable chance of picking her up in the morning."

The Rito was on its way to the Tees to pick up stones for shipment to Ipswich.

Also on board were crewmen Mr Ryan Pollard, of Algakirk, near Ipswich; Mr Hugh Watson, of Felixstowe; and Mr George Hooley, of Ipswich.

The Rito was buffeted by rough seas and a force eight gale during the night but today the wind force was declining, though there was still a heavy swell.



Skipper George Warnes 'phones his "I'm safe" message.

At one stage the pilot Flt. Lt. Hugh Pearce, put his winchman, Master Air Load Master Eric Ainslie, on board with a mobile radio, but the crew refused the offer of being winched up into the aircraft.

A number of wrecks are charted in the area off Filey Brig where the Rito was holed.

After stepping ashore at Scarborough harbour early today, Capt. Warnes said: "The ship suddenly shuddered. We must have hit something because we started to take in water. She was taking water pretty badly. We got the pumps

20 DEC 83

FLT LT HUGH PIERCE
M. NAV RON DEDMEN
MALM ERIC AINSLIE

AND

FINALLY

Driving ban for RAF rescue pilot

A HELICOPTER pilot from the RAF's Search and Rescue Squadron at Leconfield was banned from driving for a year when he appeared before Beverley Magistrates Court today accused of a drink-driving offence.

John Gordon Sutherland (28), of Wilbert Lane, Beverley, admitted driving a car having consumed alcohol over the prescribed limit.

He said the speed of his reaction to possible life and death calls when off duty was paramount, and would be very much reduced if he lost his licence.

But the chairman of the Bench, Mr Harry Roberts, said that while the magistrates shared his concern they had to impose a driving ban. Sutherland was also fined £100 and ordered to pay doctor's fees of £21.30.

Insp. George Lamswood said a blood sample showed 106 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood; the legal limit being 80 milligrams.

Sutherland said he had taken the car because it was raining heavily. He said the RAF took a serious view of the offence and he knew he had let down not only his colleagues and himself but possibly people whose lives were at risk in the future.

He said the squadron operated a 24-hour shift system and he had to be available when off duty in case of possible life and death calls.

Rescue pilot banned from driving

AN RAF search and rescue helicopter pilot was banned from driving for a year by Beverley magistrates yesterday.

John Gordon Sutherland, 28, of Wilbert Lane, Beverley, pleaded guilty to a drink-driving charge.

He said the speed of his reactions to possible life and death calls would be very much reduced if he lost his licence.

The presiding magistrate, Mr. Harry Roberts, said the Bench had no alternative but to disqualify him. He was also fined £100 and ordered to pay doctors fees of £21.30.