



# FLIGHT SRAPBOOK





No. 46 SQUADRON

ROYAL AIR FORCE

THORNEY ISLAND

EMSWORTH

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Flight Lieutenant R G Scott, RAF  
Officer Commanding  
'B' Flight, No 22 Squadron  
Royal Air Force Thorney Island

12<sup>th</sup> February 1973

*Dear Lon*

The occasions on which we ourselves have called upon your services since our arrival here at Thorney nearly 2½ years ago have, fortunately, been limited to winching for 'wet' dinghy drills.

Nevertheless, your presence here and the knowledge that your Helicopters were there - and ready - in the event of any mishap have been a tremendous reassurance to our crews.

For these reasons, and bearing in mind the many lives you have saved in this area, we - along with many others - view your departure from RAF Thorney Island with no small amount of sadness.

We wish the Flight every success at your new base at RAF Lossiemouth, and we hope to have the opportunity of keeping in touch with you up there from time to time.

*Yours aye*

*A J Featherstone*

A J FEATHERSTONE  
Squadron Leader  
A/Officer Commanding



# PORTSMOUTH NEWS SAT FEB 14 1973

## Safety warning is parting message

Helicopters from R.A.F. Thorney Island rescued almost 300 people along the South Coast during the past five years.

In a few weeks time the helicopters — from B Flight, 22 Squadron — will move to a new base at Lossiemouth, Scotland, and their search and rescue role on the South Coast will be taken over by the Royal Navy at Lee-on-Solent.

The Officer Commanding the Flight (Flight-Lieutenant R. Scott), had some parting words of advice for those who take their recreation on the sea, in small boats or even swimming — "Be prepared."

"Our primary function has always been for Air Force use but we have always been on stand-by to go to the assistance of civilians. Last year we scrambled 135 times — 125 times to help the civilian public.

"Everyone seems to think that accidents will only happen to the other chap. If anyone goes to sea ill-prepared a mishap can become an emergency.

"People should ask themselves whether they have the equipment to get themselves out of trouble . . . have they got lifejackets or flares? . . . have they told the Coastguard or members of their family about their trip? . . . have they got sufficient fuel?"

### TESTS

"We have assisted the crews of many small boats in trouble and have found that there were no lifejackets on board or that cabin cruisers did not have sufficient fuel.

"Unsupervised children are a particular problem. Last year we did a three-mile run along the coast and counted 75 children on airbeds; all out of reach of the shore. None of them had lifejackets."

Flight-Lieut. Scott added that his personal view was that boat-owners should undergo some form of test before being allowed to command a vessel in an environment where there were bathers or where there was a harbour where many, some highly expensive, vessels were being used.



Tribute to the men of B Flight was paid by the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth (Ald. Miss Phyllis Loe), at a civic luncheon at Portsmouth Guildhall yesterday.

Among the guests was the Commanding Officer of R.A.F. Thorney Island (Group Captain D. Spottiswood), the Officer Commanding 22 Squadron (Squadron-Leader J. Hoskins), Flight-Lieut. Scott, and representa-

tives of all ranks, aircrew, and groundcrew of B Flight, the Inspector of the South East Division of H.M. Coastguards (Commander H. Brunner), the Inspector of Lifeboats (Captain M. Dabbs, R.N., ret'd.), and Superintendent G. Feltham, representing Hampshire police.

### ESTEEM

The Lord Mayor said that Portsmouth had always held the R.A.F. in high esteem and

she recalled that 22 Squadron was the first operational squadron to operate from R.A.F. Thorney Island in World War II.

"In the past five years the Flight has answered 558 calls for assistance and this has resulted in the rescue of almost 300 people.

"In addition nearly 150 seriously ill patients have been transferred to specialist hospitals by the helicopters. Your contribution to the saving of life is greatly appreciated."

The Lord Mayor presented the Flight with a print of a wooden walled battleship entering Portsmouth Harbour in 1835 as a memento from the city.

B Flight will be transferring to Lossiemouth to be on stand-by for the R.A.F.'s new Jaguar combat aircraft. Crew-members of the helicopters expect to continue their assistance to the civilian public in the role of search and rescue in the Scottish mountains.

For the past two weeks R.A.F. crews have been working in conjunction with the Royal Navy in readiness for the handing over of air-sea rescue role.

The Lord Mayor of Portsmouth (Ald. Miss Loe) presents a print of a wooden-walled battleship entering Portsmouth Harbour in 1835, to Flight-Lieut. R. G. Scott, Commanding B Flight, 22 Squadron, R.A.F. Thorney Island, to mark the departure from the city.

The Ministry of Defence has confirmed that the air-sea rescue service at R.A.F. Thorney Island is to be taken over by H.M.S. Daedalus, Lee-on-Solent, next month . . . as revealed in The News last November.

Commanded by Lieut. J. Dransfield, R.N., the new search and rescue flight at Lee-on-Solent will be manned by naval personnel and will become fully operational on February 12.

The flight, comprising three turbine-engined Whirlwind Mark 9 helicopters, is working up in preparation for the take-over.

Search and rescue work is not new to the Fleet Air Arm. It is carried out from all aircraft carriers and operational naval air stations, and for the past two years the Royal Navy has won the international search and rescue contest, competing against the

## Thorney rescuers head for Scotland

R.A.F., U.S.A.F., and European NATO unit.

Thorney Island became part of R.A.F. Strike Command on the disbanding of Air Support Command more than four months ago, but the Ministry remained silent about the future of the helicopter mercy flights.

B Flight No. 22 Squadron came close to a record number of rescue missions last year. The 68 individual rescues in 135 operational sorties was bettered only in 1968,

when 79 rescues included officers and men taken from the submarine H.M.S. Argus grounded off the E. of Wight.

In addition the flight made ten casualty evacuations from hospitals to other specialist hospitals.

Other totals since No. 22 Unit started operations six years ago are: 1967 — 32 saved; 1969 — 30 saved; 1970 — 36 saved; 1971 — 31 saved.

The R.A.F. team will move as a complete unit to the North of Scotland on February 15 and will become E Flight No. 202 Squadron, covering water and mountain rescue.

"It will be most interesting and demanding work," commented the flight commander, Flight-Lieut. R. Scott, "but we shall miss all our friends in the South."

"I would like to express our gratitude to the coastguards, R.N.L.I. and the police in our district, who have worked in co-operation with us over the past years."



## The Bone heads north

IT HAS been the practice since 1963, for a competition to be held twice a year between the members of 22 Squadron detachment at Thorney Island and Chichester Police for a trophy which has become known as the "Bone of Contention," and it is said on one occasion that the contest was the only bone of contention between the two Services!

The competition consisted of a lengthy darts match.

Now that the helicopter flight is transferring to Lossiemouth the association between the squadron and the police has come to an end.

At the final contest at Chichester, the RAF won the trophy.

When the squadron has settled in at Lossiemouth the members hope to organize a similar competition there with a Scottish Police Force.

## 'Copters take over at 'Lossie'

TWO WHIRLWIND helicopters have arrived at Lossiemouth to take over the search and rescue duties from the Royal Navy, which has operated the service since 1946.

The helicopters flew up from their previous base at Thorney Island and have become a flight of 202 Squadron.

The two aircraft were captained by Sqn Ldr John Hoskins and Flt Lt Ron Scott.

During the hand-over period a number of sorties were flown with both RAF and Royal Navy crews aboard so that the newcomers could be briefed on the conditions in the local area.

There is at least one crew on duty all round the clock, who are on a call-out readiness of 15 minutes during the day and one hour at night.

## RN copters will guard holiday beaches

THE HOLIDAY BEACHES and sailing resorts of Sussex are going to be guarded by three Royal Navy helicopters based at Lee-on-Solent. They will take over the search and rescue role of No. 22 Squadron which is leaving Thorney Island RAF Station for Scotland next month.

A senior officer of HMS Daedalus, Lee-on-Solent, today confirmed the move revealed exclusively in the Evening Argus last month.

The Royal Navy flight, commanded by Lt. John Dransfield, will comprise three Whirlwind turbo-engined helicopters. The RAF helicopters will continue operating until February 12. Meanwhile the RN air crews are currently working up from HMS Daedalus ready to take over from the RAF flight which is going to a front line aircraft base at Lossiemouth.

## SCRAMBLED

For the past two years, the Royal Navy team has won the international search and rescue contest, competing with the RAF, the United States Air Force and European services.

In the past five years, the Thorney Island helicopters have been scrambled 558 times, and have rescued 276 people.

In addition, the Whirlwind helicopters have been used as flying ambulances carrying 743 seriously ill patients from general to specialist hospitals.

Flt. Lt. Ron Scott, commanding officer of the RAF flight, said:

"We would like to thank all the life savers, police, firemen, and other people who have helped."





## Fly away Peter, fly away all

AFTER 19 YEARS the Air-Sea Rescue helicopter service from RAF Thorney Island officially closed down yesterday. The role has been taken over by the Royal Navy from Lee-on-Solent.

A handing over ceremony planned for yesterday morning had to be cancelled as a result of the bad weather.

Today Flt. Lt. Ron Scott (right) flight commander of 22 Squadron at Thorney, who has been in charge of the rescue service for the past three years, will supervise the final packing up of kit and equipment in readiness for the helicopters' departure to Lossiemouth tomorrow.

Other members of his crews (left to right) leaving with him are Master Navigator Bob Law, Flt. Sgt. Pete Barwell, Flt. Lt. John Marshall, Master Signaller Jack Bickford and Dave Revill, Fg. Off. Tim Wood and Flt. Lt. Chas. Taylor.





# 202



## From Pi in the Sky to Duck on the wing !

The morning of Friday 16th February saw the arrival of the first RAF flying unit to become operational at Lossiemouth since the handover of the station by the Royal Navy. This unit was B Flight 22 Squadron from Thorney Island which became 202 Squadron Detachment, Lossiemouth at mid-night on 18th February. It then assumed a 24 hours a day responsibility for helicopter Search and Rescue facilities within 90 nms of Lossie.

The Flight, commanded by Flight Lieutenant Ron Scott, has 2 Whirlwind Mk 10 helicopters with 4 crews. Each crew consists of a pilot, navigator, and winchman. These crews and the supporting personnel bring the total strength of the Flight to around 30.

During daylight hours throughout the year, (including high days and holidays!) one aircraft and crew is at 15 minutes readiness to react to calls for assistance; the second aircraft and crew are available at one hour's notice. During the hours of darkness, one helicopter and a crew are at an hour's readiness. Thus the Flight is manned at all times.

Although the primary role of the Flight is to provide Search and Rescue cover for allied military aircrew, it will also respond to calls for assistance from HM Coastguard, civil police, fire services and members of the public. We maintain a close liaison with the civil authorities and the RNLI, regularly training and operating with them.

Before becoming a detachment of 202 Squadron, B Flight 22 Squadron enjoyed a proud record in the South of England being held in high esteem by the local population there for almost 17 years. The Flight was established at Thorney Island in June 1956 and moved 9 miles down the road to Tangmere in 1958. It returned to Thorney in 1964 and remained there until handing over SAR responsibility for the area to the Royal Navy on 11th of February this year.

Between 1st January 1967 and 31st December 1972, a total of 558 calls for assistance were answered by the Flight, resulting in the rescue of 276 people. A further 143 seriously patients were transferred from general to specialist hospitals for intensive treatment.

The Flight looks forward to a long and productive stay at its new base at Lossiemouth; it is confident that it will provide, with the assistance of Kinloss mountain rescue team when needed, the BEST HELICOPTER SEARCH AND RESCUE SERVICE IN THE COUNTRY - Fish-heads please note !!



# Helicopter flies Buckie gravely ill baby to hospital in Aberdeen



A **BY** is hurried to an RAF helicopter in a field near Buckie's Seaford Hospital yesterday bound for Aberdeen and emergency treatment.

Last night, three and a half month-old Stephen Legge was "gravely ill" in the Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital.

A helicopter had been called from RAF Lossiemouth when it was thought an ordinary ambulance would have taken too long to reach the city.

A spokesman at RAF Lossiemouth said later:

"This was a clear emergency as it was the only way to save the boy's life. An ambulance would have been too slow."

Stephen, son of Mr and Mrs Charles Legge, Thuis Haven, Milbank Terrace, Buckie, fell ill on Tuesday.

And when the 'copter landed at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Foresterhill, yesterday, the baby was in a cradle and was attached to an oxygen bottle. He had been accompanied on the flight by his mother, Theresia.

An ambulance took Stephen the short distance to the children's hospital.



# 20 MINUTES TO DEATH



Ian safe in the arms of the RAF rescue crew.

**YOUNG** Ian Geddes began to swim for shore yesterday as his dinghy drifted out to sea.

But after a few minutes in the icy water, 12-year-old Ian decided to scramble back aboard—and it **SAVED HIS LIFE.**

For an RAF rescue leader said later: "Twenty minutes in the water could have killed him."

The terror trip for Ian, of 31 High Street, Ardersier, began when he went for a sail in the Moray Firth.

His dinghy was caught by the fierce tide-race.

## SAFETY

After his vain bid to swim ashore, Ian was spotted by a woman on the Black Isle, who alerted the coastguard.

## RECORD REPORTER

Within minutes a rescue helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth was in the air.

The pilot, Flying Officer Tim Wood, spotted Ian, and winchman Jim Clark carried him to safety.

Said officer Clark: "Ian was very white and shivering."

The 'copter then flew to Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, where Ian was found to be none the worse for his ordeal.

And as a final treat Ian was flown home—the helicopter crew who landed on nearby football pitch.

Ian said later: "I'm pretty frightened. The helicopter crew were great, though."

# RAF to rescue as Ardersier boy drifts into firth



IAN GEDDES looks out from the shores at Ardersier to the spot where he was rescued.

**FROZEN** and frightened, Ian Geddes (12), of 31 High Street, Ardersier, was rescued by an RAF helicopter yesterday after drifting helplessly in a dinghy for an hour a mile off Chanonry Point in the Moray Firth.

He was taken home after being treated at Raigmore Hospital for exposure.

Ian and a friend had gone fishing but were not having much success from the shore. So Ian decided to try his luck in a boat. He paddled out to sea in his friend's dinghy but found the current too strong and could not reach shore again.

As he drifted farther out his friend shouted to him to swim to it. But Ian is not a strong swimmer. However, he stripped to his swimming trunks just in case.

His mother, Mrs. Moira Stewart, heard the shouts and asked a neighbour to phone the coastguard. Within 15 minutes the helicopter from Lossiemouth had picked up the youngster.

Public holidays don't hold much luck for Ian and his family. On Boxing Day last year—Ian's birthday—their house caught fire and the children lost all their presents.





In last week's large-scale exercise "casualties" were hauled to the cliff top by the Kirkwall coast rescue cliff team.



# Services combine for exercise

A large-scale emergency exercise took place at Kirkwall on Wednesday evening of last week. It was the largest of its kind ever held in Orkney, and involved Air Traffic Control, Airport and County Fire Services, an R.A.F. helicopter from Lossiemouth, Stromness and Longhope Lifeboats, Kirkwall I.L.B., Northern Constabulary, County medical and hospital services, Ambulance and Red Cross services, H.M. Coastguard and Auxiliaries, and the W.R.V.S.

The basis of the exercise, organised by Mr G. V. Bulpitt, Divisional Inspector of Coastguard for North Scotland, was that an aircraft had crash-landed in the sea, scattering its occupants as it hit the water and catching fire as it reached the beach off Linggro.

Full-scale measures were then taken to rescue the 30 people on board. Under Coastguard control, the lifeboats, helicopter and coast rescue companies searched for the survivors. A police and medical incident post was set up at Lingro Farm, through which all survivors were passed and treated as they were rescued from the sea and the beaches.

## HAULED UP CLIFF TOP

The 30 casualties, drawn from Deerness Coast Rescue team and the Army Cadet Force, were labelled by the Red Cross with specific injuries to make full use of on the spot medical services. Many of these were placed on stretchers and hauled to the cliff top by the Kirkwall coast rescue cliff team.

At sea, skin divers from the Kirkwall sub-aqua club were scattered over a large area by boat, under the directions of the Harbourmaster at Scapa.

The airport fire service Zodiac helped in rescuing many of these, others being rescued by the Stromness and Longhope Lifeboats, and Kirkwall I.L.B. They were transferred by RAF helicopter to the Incident Post; then taken by ambulance to the Balfour Hospital Emergency casualty unit, especially set up for the exercise.

The W.V.S. set up a field kitchen, providing very welcome hot soup to both rescued and rescuers.

At the conclusion of the exercise, the heads of the services taking part held a meeting at the Sheriff Court to discuss the merits.





INJURED girl climbed from the rescue helicopter at Broadford Hospital, Skye.

19 May 1973

Tim Wood

Dave Pells

Jim Clark

## Helicopter rescues girl in Skye

AN RAF helicopter landed in a narrow corrie 2000ft. up a mountain in the Coolins of Skye at the weekend to airlift a young girl climber to hospital after she had been injured in a rockfall.

Buffeted and tossed by high winds, the helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth hovered over a rescue team carrying the injured girl down from the south-west peak of 2900ft. Sgurr A' Mhadaidh on Saturday. It was the first time a helicopter had been used in a Skye mountain rescue.

The pilot, Flying Officer Tim Wood, and crew—Flt. Lt. Dave Pells and Master Signaller Jim Clark—landed in the corrie and took the girl, 19-year-old Patricia Allen of Glenavy,

Crumlin, Co. Antrim, N. Ireland, to Broadford Hospital, South Skye.

Miss Allen, who is studying at Edinburgh University, and lives at a student residence, Baird House, Pollock Hall, received head and body injuries when she fell 40ft. after the rockfall. A hospital spokesman said: "She is in fairly good condition and improving."

Last night Mr Peter Thomas, Skye Mountain Rescue Team leader, said: "The helicopter was invaluable and got the girl to hospital six hours quicker than would have otherwise been possible."

"The helicopter picked us up—Mr Bob Taplin, from the Glen Brittle Hostel, was with me—and tried to

land us as near as possible to the casualty. The strong winds at that height and the turbulence foiled several attempts but he managed to winch us down to a point about 350ft. below."

The helicopter then flew to Plockton, South-west Ross, to refuel while the rescue team, helped by other people on the mountain, carried the injured girl 600ft. down to a suitable point in a corrie.

The helicopter returned, landed beside them and in the late evening lifted off for Broadford Hospital, 20 short minutes away.

It was the fourth successive mountain accident involving young women climbers.



# TODDLER DROWNS

## Lossie boy in Aberlour river tragedy

A LOSSIEMOUTH toddler — on holiday for a few days at Aberlour — was drowned in the River Spey yesterday.

And last night, after a six-hour search by police, water bailiffs and fishermen, the body of four-year-old Andrew Gurrity, of 30 Elgin Road, Lossiemouth, had not been recovered.

A widespread search along the river bank by an RAF rescue helicopter from Lossiemouth drew a blank.

The search was difficult for the authorities to pinpoint where Andrew might be located. The accident, which cast a gloom over the Speyside town, occurred shortly before midday.

For most of the morning Andrew, on holiday with his mother, Mrs Rita Gurrity, at the home of her brother-in-law and sister, Mr and Mrs Jim Collier, 60 High Street, had been playing with a neighbour's son, three-year-old Sean Goodall.

The two youngsters had gone down to the river's edge — to an area known locally as "the Creepy" — and were playing there when Andrew fell into the water.

Young Sean ran home crying and told his mother. Mrs Goodall, Mrs

Gurrity and Mrs Collier dashed to the river bank, but there was no trace of the boy.

The full-scale search got under way a short time later. The helicopter from Lossiemouth was on a routine training flight when it was diverted.

An RAF spokesman said last night that the helicopter had made a low-level flight along the river surface right down to the sea.

Andrew was an only child. His father, LAC John Gurrity, is on board the carrier Ark Royal, which is understood to have left recently for America. Efforts were being made by the Royal Navy yesterday to fly him home.

Mrs Gurrity — a daughter of Mr and Mrs Alex Reid, 4 Hillocks Way, Lossiemouth, was back home at Lossiemouth last night being comforted by relatives.

A relative said: "Rita thought that Andrew was playing at the back of the house at Aberlour. The first she knew that anything was wrong was when she saw a wee boy crying about Andrew being in the water."

"The boys must have gone down the lane which leads to the Lyon Spey."

## Rescuers out to Coolins again

FOR the third time in 10 days Skye rescue services were in action when a Coolins climber was hurt early yesterday.

Skye mountain rescue team and police, from a rescue base at Glen Brittle, organised the rescue of London schoolteacher Mr Rodney Lackey (30), after he was injured on Sgurr Mhic Connaiach (3017ft).

Mr Gerry Ackroyd, Glen Brittle hostel warden, went directly to the injured man with emergency equipment and a RAF rescue helicopter flew in from Lossiemouth.

### HEAVY MIST

But low-lying mist prevented the helicopter from taking team leader Peter Thomas and John Breckenridge to assist their colleague and the machine remained grounded. At least 30 other climbers helped and by late evening brought the injured man down to a corrie. Keeping in radio contact with the main base.

With a slight break in the mist the RAF crew decided to attempt the airlift. With Mr Thomas aboard they followed a climber's track to the corrie and were able to land. From there they flew Mr Lackey, with arm and back injuries, to Broadford and Mackinnon Memorial Hospital.

30 May 1973  
Ron Scott  
Dave Pells  
Jim Clark

## Mercy Flight Man Dies

A CUMMINGSTON man died in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary on Monday, hours after being rushed there by helicopter for urgent treatment. He was Mr William Muncie, Easnam, who had been a patient in Dr Gray's Hospital, Elgin, for a fortnight.

When his condition deteriorated the hospital contacted R.A.F. Lossiemouth, who immediately placed a helicopter at their disposal and flew Mr Muncie to Aberdeen.





INJURED girl climber on her arrival by helicopter at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness.

## Airlift for hurt girl climber

A THIRTEEN-year-old girl was plucked off an Inverness-shire mountain yesterday by a RAF helicopter from Lossiemouth after she fell 60ft. on 2284ft. Mealfuarvie, 10 miles south of Drumnadrochit.

Ruth Buranski from Campden Town, London, was flown to Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, with head and wrist injuries.

The helicopter, piloted by Fl-Lt. Dave Cosby, picked up Dr Peter Sutherland and a member of the party who were with the girl before flying to the spot where the fall happened.

Dr Sutherland was lowered to the girl then the winchman Flt-Sgt. Peter Barwell, went down with a stretcher.

Also in the helicopter was Master Navigator Bob Low.

Lt. Cosby said: "The terrain made it impossible to land our helicopter."

## North spark off search

THREE Inverness teenagers sparked off an air and sea search in the Beaulie Firth yesterday after the wooden dinghy they were in was spotted drifting out to sea in a strong westerly wind.

The alarm was raised by former chief constable of Inverness Burgh Police, Mr William Paterson, Craigness, North Kessock.

A launch from the harbour and the pilot cutter were joined in the search by an RAF helicopter from Lossiemouth.

The three were found safe and well, although wet, at Alturle Point, about four miles from Inverness.

Mr Paterson said he saw them in the craft near the Longman Dump. They were paddling but making little headway against the ebb tide and the wind.

The three, aged 13, 16 and 18, were returned to Inverness in a police van. Police did not release their names as they face police proceedings.

## Woman dies in 'copter

AN ENGLISH holidaymaker who collapsed yesterday at Durness died in a helicopter that was flying her to hospital at Inverness.

Mrs Mary Muncie, of Dudley, Worcs., was accompanied on the flight by her husband.

Mrs Muncie became ill yesterday morning on the road above the Durness ferry and was given first aid by a medical student also on holiday. Dr A. D. MacLeod, of Dornoch, who is acting as locum in the area, called the helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth.

The helicopter, piloted by Fl-Lt. Bill Ivory with Fl-Lt. Charles Taylor as navigator and Fl-Sgt. Pete Murphy as winchman, was on the scene within an hour and Mrs Muncie was taken to Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, but was dead on arrival.

## Holiday death

Holidaymaker Mrs. Mary Muncie (58), of Kingswindford Road, Dudley, Worcs., died yesterday as an RAF helicopter rushed her to Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, from Cape Wrath, Sutherland, where she had collapsed.



**Now  
you  
see  
it,  
now...**

"YACHT capsized in sea!" That was the dramatic message flashed to rescue services by two lighthouse-keepers at Noss Head, near Wick.

The call sparked off a full-scale search — and a mystery. For the search by fishing vessels, a lifeboat, a helicopter and coastguards revealed no trace of a boat in trouble.

But last night the two men who raised the alarm maintained: "It did happen."

Second Keeper Willie Meil (38) had been watching a yacht sailing north. He finished his lunch and looked seawards again to see what progress the tiny vessel was making.

#### CHOPPY

Said Mr Meil: Four miles off shore in a choppy sea it suddenly keeled over with its sail flat in the water."

He immediately called in Principal Keeper Donnie Macky (40) and they turned binoculars on the "casualty." Said Mr Macky: "We got an impression of one or two people splashing in the water at the stem of the semi-upturned yacht."

Coastguards at Wick were alerted and the local lifeboat was launched. Fishing boats were asked to assist by Wick Radio and an Air Sea Rescue Helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth was quickly airborne.

But as the rescue services converged on the area the yacht vanished. Said Mr Meil: "It's a mystery but we are certain we were not seeing things."

There were no vessels reported overdue and a coast-line search also drew a blank.



The injured campers in the helicopter before the mercy flight.

## 3 hurt in tent blast

A SCHOOLTEACHER and two pupils were in hospital with severe burns last night after a gas cylinder exploded in their tent engulfing them in flames.

They were on a camping holiday in Glen Nevis, Inverness-shire, and were about to prepare supper. Three other boys and

another teacher in the party beat out the flames as a doctor and policeman scrambled up the rocky gorge to their aid.

A helicopter from R.A.F. Lossiemouth, though hampered by low-lying fog, flew them to Fort William's sports arena where an ambulance took them to Belford Hospital.

The injured teacher is Mr. Alan Andrews (32), of Lochinvar Academy Road, Crieff.

The pupils — both 15 — are

David Warnock of Sheridan, Rosehill, Montrose, and Ian Fotheringham, of James Waverley Hotel, Crieff.

Last night Mr. Andrews and David Warnock were said to be "comfortable." Ian Fotheringham was stated to be suffering from "severe" body burns.

It was raining heavily as Mr. Andrews and the boys were preparing supper for the party, from Morrison Academy for Boys, Crieff, Perthshire.



# 'Copter saves three in camping blast



**A**N ambulanceman bends over an injured schoolboy—badly burned in a gas cylinder explosion in which another boy and a teacher were also hurt.

Ian Fotheringham, 15, was on his way to hospital after a dramatic rescue dash by helicopter through thick mist.

Last night schoolteacher Mr Alan Andrews, 32, of Lochinver, Academy Road, Crieff, and pupils David Warnock, 15, of Sheridan, Rose Hill, Montrose, and Ian, of James Waverley Hotel, Crieff, were detained in Belford Hospital, Fort William.

The accident happened as a party of six boys and

## RECORD REPORTER

two teachers from Morrison's Academy, Crieff, were spending a camping holiday in Glen Nevis, Inverness-shire.

As one of the boys went to light a gas cylinder, there was an explosion—and Mr Andrews and the boys were engulfed in flames.

The others beat out the flames, then sent an S O S for help.

While a doctor and policemen made the hazardous trip through a rocky gorge to reach the camp, a helicopter from R A F Lossiemouth was called in.

All three were brought to Fort William's new sports arena where a waiting ambulance then took them to hospital.

## Praised

Mr Andrews and David were said to be "comfortable" last night while Ian was said to be suffering from "severe" body burns.

A police spokesman praised the helicopter crew

14 July 1973  
Ron Scott  
John Marshall  
Jack Bickford



# *Boy dies in canoe horror*

*Adventure course slammed*



Howard Jones



Howard's brother Patrick is helped to an ambulance



By Ian Rennie and Ernst Wight

A YOUNG canoeist died and five others were rescued when a canoe-surfing class was swept on to rocks at Cruden Bay, Aberdeenshire, yesterday.

And last night a senior coastguard official said they would have advised against the exercise being held if they had been consulted.

"The sea was too rough for salmon-fishermen in their cobbles, far less canoes," said Commander Michael Woolcombe, Inspector of Coastguards for North-East Scotland.

Hundreds of holidaymakers watched the two-hour sea, shore, and air rescue drama as the surfing fun suddenly became a life-and-death struggle for two instructors and their four pupils.

## Rescue

An ebbing tide and freshening winds carried the six single-man canoes away from the safety of the beach, 100 yards off the tiny harbour of Port Erroll, where the exercise began.

By the time rescue craft arrived the canoes had been swept across the bay to the treacherous Skares Rocks.

Some were swept on to rocks on which they clung grimly against lashing waves. Two, their canoes lashed together, were swept almost four miles out to sea.

But schoolboy Howard Jones,

of Peterculter, Aberdeenshire, who lost his grip on his canoe, drowned despite a heroic rescue bid by Coastguard Alexander Willox (39) of Peterhead.

Mr. Willox, who saw Howard slip from his canoe about 50 yards offshore, plunged into the sea and dragged him ashore.

Despite artificial respiration Howard could not be revived.

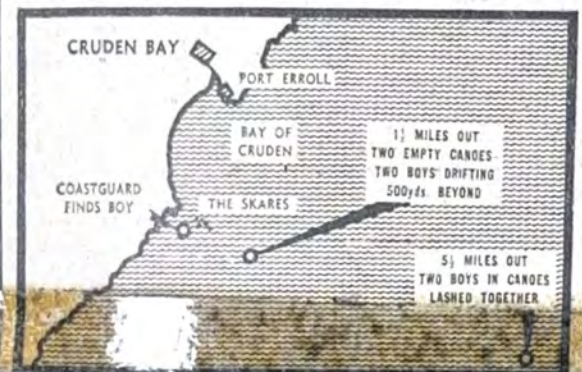
Howard's brother Patrick, Neil Stephen from Ellon and Alison Sutherland from Bod-dam were plucked to safety as they clung to the rocks by a R.A.F. helicopter from Lossie-mouth.

Also rescued were instructor John Ritchie an art teacher at Fraserburgh Academy and trainee instructor Ian Jamieson from Aberdeen.

All were taken to Peterhead Cottage Hospital but only Patrick was detained.

The pupils were on a two-week course run by Aberdeen County Council's youth services.

Mr. Ian Jardine, Aberdeenshire Deputy Director of Education, said: "I have given an instruction that all canoeing under our auspices will cease until this accident is fully investigated."



## COPTER'S LOCHINVER MERCY FLIGHT



A PERTSHIRE woman was flown by helicopter to Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, after she had fallen 30ft. from a cliff on to a sandy beach near Lochinver yesterday. Mrs Marjory MacPherson (40), Laurel Bank, Alyth, was walking along the top of the cliff when she

slipped and fell. She received head and back injuries. A doctor alerted the RAF and attended Mrs MacPherson until she was flown with her husband, son and daughter to hospital. RAF Lossiemouth received the emergency call at 2.10 p.m. and a helicopter piloted

by F.O. Tim Wood and crewed by Master Navigator Bob Law and Flt-Sgt. Pete Murphy were at Lochinver by 3 p.m. and had touched down at Raigmore three quarters of an hour later when a picture was taken.

## CANOE BOY DIES IN SEA DRAMA

AN RAF helicopter made a series of dramatic rescues yesterday as a school canoeing party were being swept out into the North Sea.

Five of the party were plucked from heavy seas in Cruden Bay, Aberdeenshire, in three separate flights.

One 14-year-old boy died on the sands of the bay

By MIRROR REPORTERS

despite being given the kiss of life by the local coastguard and oxygen treatment by the RAF crew.

The party of two instructors, three boys, and a

14-year-old girl had left Cruden Bay harbour in one-man kayaks.

They got into the open sea and the senior instructor then directed them back to the harbour because of the weather.

But a strong tide and offshore winds swept the little boats away.

Within minutes of the alarm being raised from shore, a Sea King helicopter took off from RAF Lossiemouth and Peterhead lifeboat was launched.

The last two of the canoeists had been driven five miles out to sea before they were rescued.



## RAF COPTER

### FLIES GIRL

#### TO HOSPITAL

A HELICOPTER from RAF Lossiemouth with a doctor and nurse from Fort-William aboard flew to Lunelbelt area to take a girl suffering from asthma to hospital.

She is Miss Barbara Cox (21), 16 East Avenue, High-bridge, Somerset, who was camping with her boyfriend Mr Graham Reid, 106 South-gate Road, Birmingham, when she took ill.

Graham set out on a two-hour hike across hills to phone for assistance.

The helicopter took Barbara to Belford Hospital, Fort-William, where she was comfortable last night.

12 August 1973

Bill Ivory

Bob Law

Pete Murray

FILE

## victim collapses on Coolins

SCOTLAND blistered under a broiling sun yesterday, except in coastal areas where fog caused havoc with air and sea services.

An English climber was a victim of the heatwave in the Skye Coolins.

Mr George Tuckwell, Woodford Bridge, Essex, collapsed from heat exhaustion on Blabheinn (3044ft.).

A rescue helicopter from 202 Sqn. RAF Lossiemouth carried him from the peak to the MacKinnon Memorial Hospital, Broadford. Last night his condition was said to be "fair."

The helicopter was piloted by Flt. Lt. Bill Ivory with Flt. Lt. Charles Taylor as navigator and Flt. Sgt. Pete Murphy as winchman.

The warmest spot in Scotland yesterday was Glenlivet at 82F. Temperatures in the 70's were recorded at Fraserburgh, Glenmore Lodge, Lossiemouth, Kinloss and Dyce but the peak in Aberdeen was 68F.

But while inland areas sweltered under clear skies, fog in coastal districts reduced visibility to 50yd.

Air services from Aberdeen and Inverness were delayed or cancelled because of fog in Orkney, Shetland and in Edinburgh.

The dense haar which has shrouded the Firth of Tay may upset the schedule of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh today.

They are due to arrive at Dundee to begin their Deeside holiday, but harbour authorities fear the fog will make it impossible for the Britannia to dock.

15 August 1973

Bill Ivory

Chas Taylor

Pete Murray

## Soldier injured in Lossie plunge

A SOLDIER on an Army exercise on the cliffs at Primrose Bay, near Lossiemouth, had a lucky escape yesterday afternoon when he fell about 40ft. to the beach.

Pte. Stephen Clay, on detachment from the Light Infantry Depot at Shrewsbury and stationed in the Cameron Barracks at Inverness, is in Dr Gray's Hospital, Elgin, with a fractured pelvis. His condition last night was "not serious."

A helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth landed on the beach and airlifted the soldier.

17th Oct

Bill Ivory

Chas Taylor

Pete Barwell

## OVERCOME BY HEAT

Daily Telegraph Reporter

A CLIMBER collapsed from heat exhaustion in the Cuillin Mountains in the Isle of Skye yesterday. He was rescued by a helicopter from R A F Lossiemouth.

The climber, Mr George Tuckwell, of Woodford Bridge, Essex, was taken to hospital. His condition last night was said to be fair.

Most parts of the country had another hot sunny day with MANCHESTER and HEATHROW registering 84F.

BLACKPOOL had its hottest August day for 20 years as temperatures reached 84F. The ambulance service dealt with cases of sun stroke on the sea front.



# COMNORMAR INSPECTS 202



ADC (hidden), M.Nav. Bob Law, Group Capt. Robinson, Flt. Lt. Derek Whatling, F/S Peter Murphy, AVM Winn, Sqn. Ldr. Ian Robins (OC 202 Squadron), Flt. Lt. Dave Cosby.

**ON** 11th October, Air Vice-Marshal C. V. Winn, O.B.E., D.S.O., D.F.C., Commander Northern Maritime Air Region (COMNORMAR), made his formal inspection of "D" Flight 202 Squadron. Unfortunately, Flt. Lt. Ron Scott, the "D" Flight CO, was sick, so Flt. Lt. Dave Cosby was acting CO during AVM Winn's visit.

Following the inspection at Lossie, Flt. Lt. Cosby flew COMNORMAR on a mountain rescue exercise held in conjunction with the Kinloss Mountain Rescue Team. This became an unusually realistic affair because snow storms swept over the exercise area at Ben Rinnes, and AVM Winn was able to get a good idea of the difficulties facing rescue teams in the Highlands. Because of the bad weather, the simu-

lated rescue took place at about 1800 ft. rather than at the Ben Rinnes peak (2755 ft.) as had been planned.

Since the Flight arrived here from Thorney Island on 17th February, they have carried out 44 "scrambles" involving the rescue of 18 people and the completion of 6 "medivacs."

The latest saga concerned the rescue of a young soldier who fell from the rocks whilst climbing at Hopeman. 15 minutes after receiving the alarm from Elgin police, the "chopper" crew delivered the patient to the Station Medical Centre. The crew (Pilot, Flt. Lt. Bill Ivory; Navigator, Flt. Lt. Taylor; crewman, F/S Pete Barwell) earned the praise of the consultant surgeon at Dr Gray's Hospital, Elgin, for the handling and preliminary first aid administered. The climber is now recovering from a spinal injury, a broken arm, a fractured pelvis and a ruptured spleen.

(17th Oct 1973)



# Climbers hurt in 600ft. fall

THREE young climbers were swept 600ft. down a gully by an avalanche on the north face of Ben Nevis at the weekend.

The climbers, members of a party from Heriot Watt College, Edinburgh, were descending to their camp late on Saturday evening when they were hit.

Stephen Taylor, of Exmouth, Devon; Eric Wyclislik, 18, of Glens Court, Dundee, and Tim Hagan, 20, of Westfield Court, Edinburgh, were found lying injured in the snow by their companions.

They were carried to a mountain hut 2,000ft. up the mountain, where they spent the night.

And, yesterday, as one of them was being taken down the mountain on a stretcher they were spotted by a local climber, who alerted Fort William police.

An R.A.F. helicopter from Lossiemouth was called in, and the three climbers were taken to the Belford Hospital at Fort William, where they were later reported to be "comfortable."

A member of the party said afterwards: "The avalanche came suddenly although conditions were deteriorating fast on the mountain."

THREE students were swept 600ft. down a gully on Ben Nevis by an avalanche.

Stephen Taylor, Jaret, Littlemead Lane, Exmouth, Devon; Eric Wyclislik (18), 5A Glamis Court, Dundee, and Tim Hagans (20), 59 Westfield Court, Edinburgh, all members of a party from Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, had been spending a camping and climbing weekend in the area.

They were nearing the summit of the gully almost 4000ft. up when the avalanche struck them late on Saturday evening. A fourth member of the party who had been climbing in another area said: "It came like a shot from the blue although conditions had been deteriorating fast on the mountains all afternoon."

He found the three lying injured on the snow.

The three were taken to a mountain

hut at the foot of the North Face of the mountain where they spent the night. Early yesterday as they were taking one down the mountain on a stretcher the party were spotted by Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team leader Mr Ian Sutherland, a sports shop proprietor in the town who was going up the mountains to climb.

At first he thought it was some kind of exercise but when he found out what had happened he had the injured man taken back to the hut and made off down the mountain to alert the police.

An R.A.F. helicopter from Lossiemouth was called and carried the three climbers down to Fort-William Town Park. An ambulance took them to Belford Hospital.

A SCHOOLBOY was trapped 30ft. up Berwick's old castle ramparts in freezing cold for more than half an hour yesterday. Robert Chappell's ordeal ended when firemen with ladders rescued him from the icy face.

Miracle  
escape  
for trio  
caught  
in Nevis  
avalanche



THE injured climbers are transferred to an ambulance from the helicopter which lifted them off Ben Nevis.

2nd Dec

Tim Wood  
Dave Pells  
Pete Barwell



## Avalanche sweeps climber for 300ft

An avalanche on Coire an Sneachda (3983ft) in the Cairngorms yesterday swept a climber for about 300 feet, but his companion, who was above him, heard the roar of the sliding snow and escaped unhurt as he shouted a warning.

Inverness-shire police said last night that the injured man was Mr Ian Cochrane (20), 74 Windsor Gardens, Bedlington, and his companion, Mr David Youbh (24), 18 Sandridge, Bewbiggin, both Northumberland.

The alarm was raised by a climbing party of five nearby, Cairngorms and Inverness-shire police mountain rescue teams were called out, and a helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth carried out the rescue operation.

The helicopter, piloted by Fly-Lt. Carl Mason and navigated by Fly-Lt. Dave Pells, flew about 60 miles, located the men, flew them to hospital at Inverness — and reported back to base 75 minutes after taking off.

The area where the avalanche occurred has claimed several lives in winter conditions.

Last night a hospital spokesman said Mr Cochrane was not seriously injured, and his condition was comfortable.

## Copter rescues avalanche two

AN avalanche in the Cairngorms yesterday swept a climber 300ft. down Coire-an-Sneachda (3983 ft.) His companion, who was leading, escaped unhurt.

Injured climber Ian Cochrane (20), of 74 Windsor Gardens, Bedlington, and his companion David Young (24), 18 Sandridge, New Bigging, both Northumberland, were taken off the mountain by helicopter.

The alarm was raised by a five-strong climbing party nearby and Insp. Duncan MacKenzie of Kingussie, called out the Cairngorm and Inverness-shire Police Mountain Rescue Team, who stood by as the helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth, carried out a model rescue operation.

Pilot Fly. Lt. Carl Mason,

navigator Fly. Lt. Dave Pells, with crewman Master Signaller Jim Clark, took off, successfully located and picked up the injured climber and his companion, took off again and flew them to hospital in Inverness and reported back at their base — all in 75 minutes.

For Fly. Lt. Mason, it was his first taste of Cairngorm rescue work. Yesterday was his first day on duty with the Lossiemouth helicopter squadron.

The area where the avalanche occurred is an accident blackspot and has claimed the lives of several climbers, especially in winter conditions.

Last night a hospital spokesman said Mr Cochrane was not seriously injured and was comfortable.

23 Dec 1973

Carl Mason

Dave Pells

Jim Clark

## Missions of mercy

A Bridlington man has helped more than 200 people to enjoy a Christmas dinner this year.

Chief Technician Martin Holstead is a 37-year-old member of the R.A.F. Rescue Helicopters 'D' Flight at Lossiemouth who, with flights

from the rest of the British coast, have rescued 205 people from danger and possible death.

His main task is to rescue military crews if their aircraft crash into the sea or land — but they also rescue civilians in distress.

Patients with serious injuries such as fractured spines or brain damage cannot be taken to hospital by road. This is another way in which the helicopter crews help the nation, for last year their two squadrons carried 139 patients.

Chief Technician Holstead's father lives at 154 Sewerby Road, Bridlington.

MIAS 1973

Ch/T Halstead

13 Dec 1973

Derek Whatling

Dave Pells

Jack Bickford

RAF's

## Lossie boat rescue

A COMBINED operation by aircraft from Moray's two RAF stations last night played a major part in the rescue of two men in a small lobster boat which got into difficulty off Lossiemouth.

Late last night, the unnamed fishing vessel was being towed towards Lossiemouth by the fishery cruiser Norma.

On board were believed to be lobster fisherman Mr James Stewart 87 Inchbroom Avenue, Lossiemouth, and Mr Ronald Finnie, 76 Inchbroom Avenue.

The Lossiemouth fishing boat Avondale, skippered by Mr George Stewart, put out from the harbour and was waiting to tow the stricken vessel the last lap into port.

### FLARES

The emergency started shortly before 5 p.m. when the lobster boat sent up distress flares about 10 miles off Lossiemouth. These were spotted by Lossiemouth Coastguards and the emergency alert procedure swung into action.

Within minutes, a Nimrod from RAF Kinloss was over the scene and had pinpointed the lobster boat. A helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth was then called out and, despite complete darkness and a gusting 30 m.p.h. wind, was hoisted in on the boat by the Nimrod.

### NO LIGHTS

The pilot, Fly. Lt. Derek Whatling, kept his helicopter on station immediately above the vessel, firing illuminating flares every few minutes because the vessel was showing no light.

This enabled two other vessels, the Girl Olive from Buckie and the fishery cruiser Norma, to locate the boat which had also been unable to raise any radio communication.

The Norma eventually managed to get a line to the boat and started to tow it back to Lossiemouth.





THE seven crew members of the North-east fishing boat Alexanders, which was off Skye yesterday, were last night on their way home after spending a night on a storm-battered, inhabited islet.

Skipper William Alexander, Duff Street, Macduff, and his men were landed at Ullapool, Wester Ross, by the skipper's younger brother, Joseph, Newton Drive, Macduff, in their sister vessel the Flying Tide.

Others in the Alexanders crew are Bertie Watson, Macduff, Charles Sievwright, Fraserburgh, George Stewart, Fraserburgh, George Watson, Whitehills, Joseph Alexander jun., Macduff, and Charles Mason, Fraserburgh.

The rescue operation began early yesterday when the crew were lifted by an RAF Lossiemouth helicopter from Eilean Trodday, a small island off North Skye, and taken to the coastguard station at Duntulm, Skye, none the worse for their experience.

#### SATURATED

The seven had spent Tuesday night huddled in a small hut on Eilean Trodday. The hut, used as a store for the nearby unmanned lighthouse on the half-mile wide island, was so small that some of the crew had to stand.

Saturated and without food or fire, they waited as Force 8 gales raged outside and their boat lay almost submerged on the rocky shore.

At first light yesterday Duntulm coastguards summoned an RAF Whirlwind helicopter from 202 Search and Rescue Squadron at Lossiemouth, and it airlifted the men ashore.

The drama began late on Tuesday night when wire fouled the Alexanders' screw off Ru Hunish, North-west Skye.

Macduff orders Eilean Trodday sank. (Picture taken from an RAF South helicopter).

#### ROCK

The boat drifted in the gale and a half mile round east to Eilean Trodday, it struck rocks.

Ullig fishing boats, the Flying Tide and the Misty Isle, were to the rescue, but before they got there coastguards were told that the crew had taken to a liferaft, scrambled ashore, and were planning to spend the night in the hut.

They had no blankets and only a water flask from the liferaft.

The Flying Tide made two unsuccessful attempts to rescue the 50-ton Alexanders, a Banff-registered purse seiner.

#### DESPONDENT

Both fishing boats are four years old and have spent most of the winter fishing for herring off the West Coast.

Ft-Lt. Ron Scott, who crewed the helicopter with Ft-Lt. David Pells and Master Signaller Jack Bickford, said yesterday: "The men were terribly despondent about losing their boat but were otherwise in good spirits."

30 Jan 1974

Ron Scott  
Dave Pells  
Jack Bickford



# NIC the Clyde

## Two lost

Express Staff Reporter

A GIRL climber died and two men were missing on Scottish mountains as gale-force winds and blizzards swept the summits at the weekend.

The girl and a companion were climbing 3,565ft. Stob Ghabhar, in Glenorchy, Argyll, on Saturday night when she slipped on rocks and fell 100ft.

Her companion managed to scramble down the mountainside and call Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team and police team from Oban. But the woman died before they reached her. Later her body was brought off the mountain.

And the team were searching Ben Nevis in the late last night for two men reported to have fallen off a precipice near the summit.

Said a police spokesman at Fort William. "Conditions on the summit are atrocious and their chances of survival seem slim."

"We have no exact location for their fall. Whether they survive depends on how fast we can find them."

Twice at the weekend R.A.F. helicopter pilots from Lossiemouth snatched climbers from the North Face of Ben Nevis, despite the strong winds.

On Saturday evening, 19-year-old apprentice engineer John Muirison, of Millbrae Crescent, Langside, Glasgow, slipped and slithered nearly 1,000 feet down the face when he was returning from a climb on No. 4 gully.

### Rescue

Companions who rushed to his aid found Muirison with both hands badly burned by his frantic efforts to claw the slopes in an attempt to brake his fall.

The helicopter took him off the mountainside just as darkness fell.

Within 24 hours the helicopter was back again, this time to rescue a girl climber who had set off to meet friends higher up and become lost.

Last night both rescued climbers were "comfortable" in Belford Hospital, Fort William.

Two mountain rescue teams, from Glencoe and Oban, set off for Ben Staran in Glen Elvie, Argyll, late last night to find a young climber lying with chest injuries after a fall.

The man's companion raised the alarm and accompanied the teams to his friend.

than any previous drill ship.

Behind this new move is the announcement yesterday of two related companies being set up in the field of oil exploration, both based in Edinburgh.

Ben Line, the shipping concern, announced that agreement had been reached with the giant American oil drilling company—Odeco (Ocean Drilling and Exploration Company), to form and develop a British offshore drilling company, to be called Ben' Odeco.

### Partners

It also announced the formation of a company to be called Ben Line Offshore Contractors Limited (B.L.O.C.), in which Ben Line will have a major holding.

Other partners in B.L.O.C. will be North Sea Assets Ltd., of Edinburgh, who will have a

substantial holding. B.L.O.C. will become a 50 per cent partner in Ben' Odeco.

Last night, Mr. William Thomson, a director of Ben Line, and of the two new companies, said: "This is a very significant development from the point of view of Ben Line and for Scotland generally."

"It provides a broader base for our company, whose main trade has been cargo between Europe and the Far East, and it means that a Scottish ship-building company will be involved in this area of construction for the first time, and, hopefully, the ship will be operating in Scottish waters."

Mr. A. Ross Belch, managing director of Scott-Lithgows, said yesterday that this development established the company in offshore oil and would enable them to gain considerable expertise in this field.

Ben' Odeco is to take over the

"jack-up rig" Odeco which was built on the Clyde in 1971. After it has completed its present operation in the Dutch sector of the North Sea, at present it is on the Clyde.

### Capability

About the new drill ship, Mr. Thomson said: "In terms of the capability of drilling to depths as deep as 3,000 feet, the company is looking at developments as well as present requirements."

"The search for oil is a very aggressively moving industry."

The new ship will normally be based in the Clyde—It will go to the North Sea—it will go to the North Sea—it will go to the North Sea. But Mr. Thomson said: "naturally we would be attracted to the North Sea."

## Why French

## Shirley fights

9 Mar 1974  
Derek Whatling  
Chas Taylor  
Pete Barwell

10 Mar 1974  
Dave Cosby  
Chas Taylor  
Pete Barwell



# WOMAN CLIMBER IN NEVIS DEATH PLUNGE



One of the injured climbers pictured on a stretcher at Bellfield Hospital today.

**A YOUNG French woman climber died 3000ft. up Ben Nevis early today.**

This came soon after a mountain rescue team had battled through treacherous conditions to reach her and two companions, a man and woman.

They had been trapped for more than 15 hours in a gully on the south side of the mountain after falling 100ft. over a precipice.

A fourth member of the party had scrambled down the mountain and raised the alarm last night.

The climbing party, whose names have not yet been released, were descending the mountain when they got into difficulties in deep snow and slipped 100ft. over a precipice.

The climber who went for help fell again and is thought to have lain unconscious for some time before reaching a youth hostel in Glen Nevis to raise the alarm.

## TRAPPED

Lochaber mountain rescue team and Fort-William police set out about 7.30 last night. But they were unable to reach the trapped climbers until the early hours of this morning.

Conditions were so bad, with ice and snow making it dangerous, that the party had to wait with their companions and wait with

helicopter climbers to this morning in Fort-William.

The climber who raised the alarm is also in hospital.

The helicopter later returned and lifted the dead girl off the mountain-side.

The French girl had bad head injuries when the team reached her and died soon afterwards.

## DANGEROUS

The man had a broken leg and the second woman was suffering from exposure.

It was a long and hazardous night for the rescuers who struggled up the mountain with stretchers and ropes to try and take the injured out of the gully.

A police spokesman said today: "The task was not only a difficult one but a most dangerous one because of ice and snow."

This morning's tragedy is the third within a week on Ben Nevis.

Only last Sunday two English climbers fell and were killed not far from today's tragedy.

Two other climbers last weekend were snatched to safety again by the Lossiemouth helicopter.

Over 40 rescuers took

## Woman is killed on Ben Nevis

A young French woman was fatally injured 3000 feet up the south side of Ben Nevis on Thursday - the fourth death on the mountain in 14 days.

Mrs Gabrielle Bewes was climbing with her husband, Alfred (31), an architect of Compton Court, Victoria Crescent, London, and Mr Robert Hughes (27), an architect and his wife Carol (28), of Shepherd Hill, London. Mr and Mrs Hughes were married only last Saturday.

The party were descending from the summit when Mrs Bewes slipped on ice and fell into Five Finger Gully. Her husband went to her help with Mrs Hughes and both also fell into the gully.

Mr Hughes set off for help and at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday night he reached the youth hostel in Glen Nevis bruised and exhausted. It is thought he fell and lay unconscious for a time.

He was taken to the Belford Hospital, Fort William, and detained.

The rescue team found Mrs Bewes suffering from head injuries and she died within a short time.

Ice-covered rocks, snow, and high winds prevented the rescue party from taking Mr Bewes, who had a broken leg, and Mr Hughes, who was suffering from exposure, down the mountain and it was not till 8.30 a.m. yesterday that an RAF helicopter from Lossiemouth brought them to the Belford hospital.

11 Mar 1974  
Dave Cosby  
Tug Wilson  
Jack Bickford



# CLIMBER NURSES BROKEN ANKLE



17 Mar 1974  
Ron Scott  
John Marshall  
Jim Clark

CLIMBING instructor Mr William Annett, escaped with a broken ankle in Cairngorm avalanche.

## Avalanche hits twelve

TWO IRISH climbers, among 12 swept down Goire Laogh Mor in the Cairngorms by an avalanche were in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, last night — one with serious injuries.

Student Rory McKee (19), 11 Castle, Espie, Comber, near Belfast, received internal injuries and is in the hospital's intensive care unit. His parents are flying to be with him.

Also injured was climbing instructor Mr William Annatt (33), Derryogue, Kilkeel, who sustained a broken right leg.

Both were members of a party of 12 from Tollymore Mountain Centre, Northern Ireland, on a four-day Cairngorms trip.

The others were shaken, but escaped with minor cuts and bruises.

The party arrived at Glenmore Lodge on Thursday and spent two days practising mountaineering techniques in the snow-covered Cairngorms — conditions rarely found in Mourne Mountains, where the Tollymore Centre is situated.

Before leaving on Sunday, they went out in the morning for one last climb.

The peak was Coire Laogh Mor. From his bedside, Mr Annatt told how he saw the incident:

"I was discussing with Rory which would be the best technique to use in the conditions when I heard someone shouting 'avalanche'. I looked up and saw the snow coming at me. I remembered being

knocked over and tumbling 150ft down the slope.

"On the way down I tried to break my fall but the surge of the avalanche took me with it. I must have crashed into one of the few boulders on the slope.

"Others in the party put a splint on my right leg, then Glenmore Lodge Mountain Rescue team were on the spot.

"Rory was obviously more seriously injured and a helicopter was brought for him. The rescuers came back and took me down by stretcher to the new ski lift car park and from there I travelled to hospital by ambulance.

"I was dreading the journey down the mountain, the rescuers did an excellent job and everything went smoothly."

Mr Annatt said it had been a fairly mild day and this could have caused the avalanche. A full time climbing instructor for one year, Mr Annatt has visited the Cairngorms on many occasions.

The helicopter was piloted by Flt. Lt. Ron Scott with navigator Flt. Lt. John Marshall and winchman Master Signaller "Nobby" Clarke. They battled high winds and variable visibility.

### Plucked to safety

Six schoolboys missing for two nights in the Black Mountains of Wales were lifted to safety by helicopter yesterday — none the worse for the ordeal.

## Two climbers hurt in Cairngorms avalanche

A seriously-injured climber was lifted to safety by helicopter yesterday after an avalanche in the Cairngorms.

Rory McKee (17), of Castle Espie, Comber, Co. Down, was one of a party of 12 climbers from Northern Ireland who were in Corrie Leach Mor when the avalanche happened.

Two of the party alerted the mountain rescue team at Glenmore Lodge, and a Royal Navy helicopter was called from Lossiemouth.

Mr McKee, who sustained internal injuries, was taken by helicopter to Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, where his condition last night was "serious."

### LEG BROKEN

Another member of the party, William Annett (33), of Berryogue, Kilkeel, Co. Down, had his leg broken and he was taken to hospital by ambulance. The rest were unhurt.

The climbers had arrived in Scotland for a holiday on Thursday, and were staying at the Glenmore camping site. The party, minus the two injured men, returned home last night.



### Mercy flight

A digger driver—so far unnamed—was airlifted by RAF helicopter to Raigmore Hospital, Inverness yesterday. He has chest injuries, received when his machine overturned during road-building operations on the Applecross peninsula.

28 March 1974

Carl Mason  
Dave Pells  
Pete Murphy

Daily  
Record

# BURIED

# ALIVE IN THE SNOW

By JAMES McBETH and STUART GRIFFITHS

**A MOUNTAIN avalanche almost claimed the lives of two climbers yesterday.**

And only an hour after the seriously injured couple were plucked to safety in the gorms, another hunt was underway—on Ben Nevis.

A lone woman was believed to have been hit by a flood of water off the peak.

The avalanche in the gorms happened at Britain's highest loch—in Coire An t-Sneachda—perched 3000 feet on the north face of Braeriach.

Rescuers found the two climbers badly injured, buried in snow. They were carried half a mile down to a rescue hut.

A helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth flew them to Raigmore Hospital in Inverness.

Last night Pearl Greenhall, 24, of Barnham, near Bognor Regis, and Richard Firth, 23, of Menai Bridge, Wales, were "satisfactory."

7 April 1974

Derek Whatling  
John Marshall  
Pete Barwell



## Wreckage sparks sea search

A PIECE of wreckage drifting in the Moray Firth west of Buckie yesterday started a two-hour search involving Buckie lifeboat, coastguards from Buckie and Lossiemouth and a helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth.

Mr Albert Doran, headmaster of Buckie St Peter's RC School, whose home, Kinvarra, is on the beach at Buckpool, saw what looked like an empty dinghy drifting some three miles out in the bay and gave the alarm.

While Lossiemouth coastguards and Dean of Guild Peter Jappy, watcher-in-charge of Buckie Coast Rescue Company, patrolled the beaches between the two ports, Buckie lifeboat and the helicopter searched a wide area off Spey Bay.

The helicopter later picked up some wreckage from the sea and landed it at Kingston. It was later confirmed that the wreckage was part of an old boat that had been broken up recently on the banks of the Spey near its mouth.

9 April 1974

Dave Cosby

Tug Wilson

Jack Bickford



By Alex Main

A YOUNG Scots nurse worked yesterday as she spoke of her agonising wait at the foot of a mountain . . . and of her boyfriend who never came back.

Twenty - four - year - old Peter Lucky plunged 150ft. to his death on Meall An T-Suie (2,322 feet) a foot-hill of Ben Nevis at the tragic end to a happy evening that began with a hand-in-hand stroll in the sunset.

Yesterday, broken-hearted Catherine MacPhee, the 20-year-old Fort William girl with whom he struck up a friendship while they were trainee nurses together, said: "I just can't believe it."

"Every minute I waited I

## Nurse's vigil boy on the Ben

expected him to appear over the rise and come walking down the hill."

An Inverness-shire police mountain rescue team found Peter's body soon after dawn and called in a helicopter from R.A.F. Lossiemouth.

But throughout the night Catherine, of Carn Dearg, Claggan, near Fort William, waited and prayed for his safety, never thinking for a moment that he might not be alive.

Peter, of Branksome Drive, Morecambe, Lancs, was spend-

ing Easter with Catherine at her home.

Said Catherine: "We went out of the house after tea for a stroll and set off up the hill that separates Fort William from Ben Nevis."

"After a while I became tired. Peter said he would carry on up to get a better view. The last time I saw him he was scrambling pretty high up."

"The glare of the sunset made me turn away for a moment and when I looked back he had disappeared."

"I waited and waited but he never came back."

15 April 1974

Carl Mason

Dave Pells

Jim Clark

Catherine MacPhee . . . waited at foot of mountain





#### INTER-SECTION TEN PIN BOWLING

Jim Clark receiving the winners trophy from Mrs Robinson, on behalf of the winning team - 'D' Flt 202 Sqn.

The team consisted of:-

Chas Taylor  
Jim Clark  
Colin Harness  
Don Campbell  
Chas Castle  
Steve Taylor





EMERGENCY . . . rescuers at work during yesterday's exercise in Moray.

# The day 'disaster' struck

THE normal tranquility of a Sunday afternoon on the Moray coast was shattered yesterday when a Viscount aircraft with 85 people on board was reported to have crashed near Duffus.

Within minutes, squads of ambulances, police cars, and fire units went to the scene and the disaster area was sealed off to the public — but it was all part of a huge exercise.

A helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth was called in to help ambulances ferry the injured to Dr Gray's Hospital, Elgin, where emergency

medical teams were summoned for duty.

Twenty of the aircraft's passengers were reported to have been killed — and the survivors, many of them badly injured, were scattered over a wide area surrounding Duffus.

It was all so realistic . . . but it was in fact, one of the best-kept police secrets for years.

For it gave them the opportunity to handle a mock "major incident exercise" which was aimed at testing the emergency call-out and rescue procedures of the

various public and voluntary services in the Elgin area.

Altogether more than 200 people were involved, including a number of pupils from nearby Gordonstoun School, many of whom acted as casualties. It was so realistic that even an undertaker was called in!

The incident certainly caught the public unawares — for as ambulances, with sirens blaring, and helicopters converged on Dr Gray's Hospital, police and newspaper offices started receiving calls from people who anxious to learn just what was going on.

At Duffus a team of senior police officers kept a close watch on development.

During the exercise one of them commented frankly: "Things are probably not going as smoothly as we would have liked. Certainly mistakes are being made."

"But this is the whole purpose of the exercise. We have never staged anything as big as this before and we will learn a considerable amount from it."

A complete "de-briefing" on all aspects associated with the major incident exercise is to be held by police late this week.

Ron Scott  
Tug Wilson  
Jack Bickford



# Safe-as Lossie rescue mounted

AN EMERGENCY rescue involving Lossiemouth Coastguard, the RAF, Gordonstoun School Coastguard company and police swung into action yesterday after two boys were reported trapped by the tide near the Moray beauty spot of Primrose Bay.

But the central figures in the drama — Lossiemouth brothers Kevin (13) and Alec (14) Henderson, 80 Coulardhill — were unaware of the rescue operation.

They and a friend, 13-year-old Andrew Stewart, 59 Coulardhill — off school for the election — had been ex-

ploring caves between Primrose Bay and Cove Bay when the tide began to close in.

The trio scrambled up the cliffs to a ledge to wait for the tide to turn. But Andrew, a strong swimmer, decided to make for the shore.

He dived in fully clothed. Later he reached the top of the cliffs where he met some other boys and they raised the alarm.

The first Kevin and Alec knew of the rescue operation was when a helicopter from

RAF Lossiemouth came on the scene.

A crewman was lowered on to the rocks near the boys, checked they were all right and prepared to wait until the tide ebbed.

They were then located by two of the Gordonstoun team, who waited with them until they could walk to safety.

Alec said: "We did not feel we were in any danger. We really appreciate what was done for us."

**BELOW — All's well that ends well. The two Lossiemouth youths—Kevan Henderson (centre) and his brother Alex. (second right)—with their cliff-face rescuers from Gordonstoun.**



7th May 1974

Carl Mason  
Tug Wilson  
Jim Clark



# Air rescue ends hike nightmare

By Ian Rennie

THREE elderly hikers were rescued by helicopter yesterday after being missing for 22 hours in the Grampian foothills.

And two of them—70-year-old Douglas Buchan and his 61-year-old wife Elsie, who suffers from a liver complaint, were flown to hospital in Aberdeen.

Along with Mrs. Buchan's cousin, Miss Elspet Paterson, they had been in a party of 59 making the 12-mile hike across a mountain from Glen Esk in Angus to Feughside, Kincardineshire.

But they fell behind the main party, and were lost about three miles from the final rendezvous point.

As rain and fog closed down, the three found a turf-built shooting butt and huddled in it all night.

At daybreak yesterday they started off again, but had covered less than a mile before Mrs. Buchan found she could go no further.

## Huddled

Then they huddled at the bottom of a deep gully for another six hours before searchers found them beside the Aven River in mid-afternoon.

An R.A.F. rescue helicopter, one of two taking part in the search, was directed to the spot to pick them up.

First to be brought out was 58-year-old Miss Paterson, of Beltie Cottages, Inchmarlo, Banchoy, a nursing sister at Glen O'Dee Hospital in Banchoy.

She said: "We lost our bearings, and then the fog came down. The conditions were dreadful—rain, sleet, and wind—everything."

After finding the shooting butt, they discovered the turf roof was leaking, and eventually they were crouching in water a foot deep.

"We just sat and shivered," said Miss Paterson. "We were very worried, and I was beginning to wonder what would happen to us."

"Mrs. Buchan has to take

tablets every day, but she didn't have any with her because we didn't expect to be out so long."

"She was in very bad condition, and we were worried about her."

Shortly before midday yesterday, Mrs. Buchan was left in a sheltered spot while her husband and Miss Paterson went for help.

"We had only gone a short way when I saw a helicopter," said Miss Paterson. "I waved my red gloves and my stick, then we went back to Mrs. Buchan to wait for help to come."

"But they could not have seen us, because it was more than three hours before help arrived."

The Buchans, of Albyn Grove, Aberdeen, were in a party from Aberdeen Post Office Social Club.

## New rules

Last night secretary Jack Reid, who organised the outing, said: "We advise anyone to stay with someone who knows the route and keep in sight of each other."

"But now we will certainly consider new rules to make sure this kind of thing cannot happen again."

Throughout the night about 40 members of the police Braemar and Aberdeen mountain rescue teams had searched for the missing walkers, and yesterday the search was taken up by two helicopters and 60 members of mountain rescue teams from Gairdoun, Sri Lanka, and other areas.

Elsie Paterson leaves the helicopter after her rescue

13th MAY 1974

Derek Whatling  
Dave Pells  
Pete Murphy

15 PERSONAL

THE Buchan Family would like to thank all rescue parties, police, R.A.F. helicopter staff, Press, BBC, Grampian TV, Mrs. Hay, doctors, hospital staff and all concerned in the rescue of Mr and Mrs D. Buchan and Miss E. Paterson last weekend.



## Helicopter rescues hurt Skye climber

AN RAF rescue helicopter last night plucked a badly injured climber from a mountain in the Coolins in Skye.

The climber had fallen on the near 3000ft. Sron na Ciche. He landed on a narrow ledge and received severe leg injuries, cuts and bruising.

The alarm was raised by an Edinburgh climber who saw the fall. The injured man, believed to be in his thirties, had to be lowered nearly 500 feet to a point where the helicopter could reach him.

He was flown to Broadford Hospital, Skye. Police said they had no further detailed information immediately available.

The helicopter was flown by Flt. Lt. Ron Scott with Flt. Lt. Charles Taylor as navigator and Flt. Sgt. Pete Barwell as winchman.

19 MAY 1974

Ron Scott  
Chas Taylor  
Pete Barwell

# Copter dramas as three are lifted to safety

29 MAY 1974

Ron Scott  
Tug Wilson  
Jack Bickford

HELICOPTERS have carried out three mercy missions in the Highlands within the past 24 hours.

The latest SOS came from the Cairngorms early this morning when an American student priest Mr Kilian Maldey was out walking with two friends in the Larrig Ghru when he was racked by severe stomach pains.

His companions made their way back to Aviemore and raised the alarm about 2 a.m.

A helicopter was summoned, picking up Aviemore GP, Dr Neil Macdonald, and the deputy leader of the Cairngorm Mountain Rescue Team, Mr Morton Fraser, on the way.

By 5.30 a.m. Maldey was receiving treatment for what is believed to be a stomach ulcer at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness. His condition was "satisfactory."

Earlier another Lossiemouth helicopter was called out when a London woman, Miss Malveen Maddox, stumbled and fell, breaking her right leg, while out walking with a party on Beinn Eighe Nature Reserve, Torridon.

An RAF helicopter from Leuchars flew a 15-year-old schoolboy from the head of Loch Morar, Inverness-shire last night after he had been burned in a camping accident.

He was James Johnston, of Knightswood, Glasgow, a member of an expedition from Lochiel Centre, Achdaleu, near Fort-William.



A young Australian died last night despite a dramatic helicopter rescue bid in West Sutherland.

His motor cycle was in collision with a car on the Invershin - Lochinver road about three-quarters of a mile east of Craggie. The rider — his name was being withheld by police last night until his next of kin had been located — was badly hurt and bleeding heavily.

A doctor who was quickly on the scene gave immediate attention but it was obvious the youth, aged 19, was in urgent need of major medical attention.

Police phoned the mercy flight controller at Pitreavie in Fife and a helicopter was scrambled from the Navy base at Lossiemouth.

### PLASMA

It touched down briefly at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, to pick up a doctor and supplies of plasma before flying to the West Coast.

The injured man was placed aboard the helicopter, which returned immediately to Inverness, but he died before the helicopter reached the hospital.

9 JUNE 1974

Ron Scott  
Dave Pells  
Pete Murphy

## Airlift for burned Navy man

A RESCUE helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth was called out last night to pick up a badly burned crew member from the Royal Navy frigate HMS Russell, operating about 60 miles north-east of Peterhead.

The helicopter, piloted by Flt. Lt. Dave Crosby, was escorted by a Nimrod aircraft from neighbouring RAF Kinloss.

Late last night, after picking up the injured man, the helicopter was reported to be making for Aberdeen Airport. Dyce, so that the patient could be transferred to hospital in Aberdeen for emergency treatment.

11 JUNE 1974

Dave Cosby  
Chas Taylor  
Pete Barwell

## BURNED SEAMAN CRITICAL

A SEAMAN was in a critical condition in Woodend Hospital, Aberdeen, today after being badly burned on board the Royal Navy frigate HMS Russell about 75 miles north-east of Peterhead.

A rescue helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth was called out last night to pick up Junior Mechanical Engineer Baybut who comes from Saltford, Lancaster, after he had been burned when a steam pipe burst.

The helicopter, piloted by Flt-Lieut. Dave Crosby, was escorted by a Nimrod aircraft from neighbouring RAF Kinloss and made the journey to Dyce Airport in only two hours.

The injured man was then transferred to Woodend Hospital.

## Sailor still critical

A naval rating was critically ill with burns in Woodend Hospital, Aberdeen, last night after being flown from the frigate H.M.S. Russell after a steam pipe burst in the engine room.

A spokesman at Maritime Headquarters, Pitreavie, Dunfermline, named him as Marine Engineering Mechanic Daybut.

The ship was about 100 miles off Aberdeen when he was flown off by an R.A.F. helicopter from Lossiemouth.

Daybut's parents live in Saltford, Lancashire.

FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 1974—3

## RATING (17) KILLED IN RUSSELL ACCIDENT

A 17-year-old rating flown off the frigate H.M.S. Russell after an accident on board, has died in hospital.

Engineering Mechanic Kevin Baybut, of Saltford (Lancs), was seriously scalded when a steam pipe burst in the engine room 100 miles off Aberdeen.

An R.A.F. helicopter from Lossiemouth flew him to Aberdeen on Tuesday.

Kevin's parents were at his bedside in Woodland Hospital, Aberdeen, when he died. He never regained consciousness.

A naval spokesman at Maritime Headquarters, Pitreavie, Dunfermline, said today: "A Naval board of inquiry is being convened and will investigate the circumstances of the accident."

"Its findings will be sent to the Admiralty. There will also be an inquiry by Aberdeen's procurator fiscal."



# NOW FOR THE REAL TEST

## Operation Wedding Party...

RAF mercy crews  
stand by for  
a late celebration

By ROBERT REID

HELICOPTER search and rescue crews at an RAF base have decided to take a rest from flying missions... so that they can push the boat out instead.

They had to miss the celebrations when Flight Lieut. David Cosby married station chaplain Ingrid Sutherland near Glasgow yesterday because they were on standby at Lossiemouth in North-East Scotland.

### Responsible

But there will be a party for the whole base when the couple return from honeymoon—thanks to crews at Leconfield in Yorkshire.

'The lads were all stuck at base standing by to rescue people and could not attend the wedding,' said the best man.

'But we are arranging a party and planning for an additional team to be flown up from Leconfield to let everybody at Lossiemouth join in.'

The bride, from Stromness in the Orkneys, is an ordained deaconess of the Scots Episcopal Church, and the RAF says she is the only woman chaplain's assistant in the Service.

As the Lossiemouth search and rescue station has no full-time padre at the moment, she does all the work a chaplain would normally do—with the exception of conducting marriage

ceremonies and giving Communion. She is also responsible for carrying out various welfare duties.

Her parents now live in Cumbernauld New Town, near Glasgow.

Flight Lieut. Cosby, 31, a pilot with 202 Squadron at Lossiemouth, is a veteran of many helicopter rescues in the Highlands and on the South Coast.

He has flown helicopters since 1965, and flew three rescue missions

to Ben Nevis during one weekend recently.

Flight Lieut. Cosby—the son of a Battle of Britain pilot and a WAAF officer—comes from Bournemouth.

The couple met last August when Miss

Sutherland joined the Lossiemouth base.

They were married yesterday in St. Aiden's Scottish Episcopal Church in Clarkston, near Glasgow.

After a reception at a local hotel, they set out on a touring honeymoon.



Flight-Lieutenant David Cosby and Ingrid



3rd July, 1974

# Sky pilot weds sky pilot

RAF pilot David Cosby has married a "sky pilot" — his station's padre.

The bride with her head in the clouds is Ingrid Sutherland, the acting chaplain at RAF Lossiemouth, Moray-shire.

The high-flying couple met on the station a year ago. They married yesterday in Clarkston, Glasgow.

## Rescue

David, aged 31, of Bournemouth, Hants, who flies helicopters with a search and rescue squadron, said: "I never thought for a moment that I'd marry a padre."

Ingrid, from Stromness, Orkney, said: "The station doesn't have a full-time chaplain at the moment, so I do all the work he'd normally do — except for performing marriage ceremonies."



Distinguished Flying Couple David and Ingrid. PICTURE: RON ANDERSON



# Wings of hope

CROSS-SCOTLAND MERCY FLIGHT  
TO SAVE GLEN NEVIS VICTIM



ENGLISH holidaymaker David Westall (19) had severe head injuries yesterday after a 50ft. fall near the head of Glen Nevis.

David, a butcher, of Westville, Runwell Road, Wickford, Essex, was transferred from Belford Hospital, Fort - William, to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary last night.

He had gone hill walking at the head of the glen when he slipped and rolled down a steep bank near a waterfall. A doctor nearby went to his assistance and a message for help was sent to Fort-William police.

An RAF helicopter from Lossiemouth was called in and flew the injured man to Town Park, Fort-

William, where an ambulance took him to Belford Hospital.

## HILLWALKER 'SERIOUS' WITH HEAD INJURIES

Later, the helicopter was called in again and this time flew Mr Westall to Edinburgh.

Last night his condition was said to be "serious".

The area in which Mr Westall fell is notorious, having claimed five people over the last seven years.

On Monday a helicopter brought an injured man to Fort-William from almost the same spot.

The RAF helicopter from Lossiemouth which took part in the Glen Nevis rescue was piloted by Fl/Lt Dave Cosby. Navigator was Fl/Lt Tug Wilson and winchman was Master Signaller Pete Murphy.

30th July, 1974

Dave Cosby  
Tug Wilson  
Pete Murphy

## Glen Nevis fall lad dies

A YOUNG English holidaymaker, who received severe head injuries after a 50ft. fall in Glen Nevis, died yesterday in an Edinburgh hospital.

David Westall (19), of Wickford, Essex, was hill-walking on Tuesday when he slipped and fell down a steep bank.

An RAF helicopter from Lossiemouth took him to hospital in Fort-William and then to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.



## Peak boys saved

By CHRISTOPHER BENFIELD

A HELICOPTER rescued two youths suffering from exposure during a mountain trek last night.

They were with a party of 25 from the St. Moray Outward Bound School at Burghead, near Elgin.

The boys became ill on 4,300ft. Ben MacDhu in the Cairngorms.

Instructors raised the alarm and a helicopter flew from RAF Lossiemouth. The crew later

reported that the boys had lost consciousness for a time.

Mountain rescue teams led the rest of the party to safety.

Last night, the boys were still under observation in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness.

The party consisted mainly of apprentices, aged between 16 and 19, who are attending the school for a four-week adventure course.

22 July 1974

Dave Cosby  
John Marshall  
Pete Murphy

### Flying doctors

A RAF helicopter from Lossiemouth flew two gynaecologists to Fortree, Skye, yesterday to give emergency treatment to a patient at the local hospital.

16 August 1974

Carl Mason  
Chas Taylor  
Jack Bickford

# Copters out in double rescue

WAS a day of drama in the Highlands yesterday as mountain rescue teams battled to pluck two boys to safety from the Cairngorms and bring a 21-year-old girl to safety from swirling mist on Ben Nevis, Perthshire.

And in Lochaber members of the mountain rescue team were fighting a vain battle against Arctic conditions — and their fury was soothed by the award of a major award for

Two teenage boys from the Outward Bound Moray Sea School, Burghead, were yesterday snatched to safety from the Lairig Ghru.

Alan Duckett and Steven Grinsell, both from the South east of England, were in a party of 25 boys and three instructors who set off from Fort-Augustus on Sunday for two or three days hill-walking.

When the boys collapsed from exposure instructor, Mr Allan Fraser (23), Osborne Place, Aberdeen, raced more than six miles over difficult

conditions in an hour to raise the alarm.

An ex-Army officer, Mr Fraser was for a time on the staff of John Ridgeway's School of Adventure at Ardmore.

Three mountain rescue teams were called from Aberdeen and Braemar and a helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth, piloted by Fl. Lieut. Dave Crosby, flew the boys to Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, where they were treated and discharged.

The Aberdeen rescue team were recalled but the Braemar team and the police team stood by to assist.

Police mountain rescue expert, Sgt. John Duff, officially on holiday, was called from his Bucksburn home to take charge at Braemar.

Last night the rest of the party were all reported to be well and staying at Corrour Bothy. The mountain rescue teams returned to base.

The boys, aged between 16 and 18, had sailed to Fort-Augustus in cutters. There they met another hillwalking party from the school who took the boats back to Burghead.

Members of Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team were last night furious after spending eight hours on windswept and mist covered Ben Nevis searching for two climbers reported missing on the 4406ft. mountain.

The search was sparked off early yesterday as members of the team with Fort-William police assisted by tracker dogs were out under Arctic conditions searching over a wide area because no details of the climb had been left by the climbers.

A rescue helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth was called to the scene but was diverted to pick up the two boys.

And last night just as the search was about to be called off for the night and arrangements made for a full-scale operation to be undertaken today the men were reported safe.

A member of the rescue team said last night: "The whole team are furious that these men had not the gunpoint to notify the police that they were safe."

A mountain rescue team from RAF Leuchars, last night brought a girl student off Ben Lawers in Perthshire where she had been caught in a mist for several hours and attempts to take her off by helicopter had failed because of gusting winds.

The girl, Deirdre MacKinnon (21), Silvertrees, Seasmill West Kilbride, has been working at the National Trust Centre on the 3984ft. mountain.

One of the most dangerous rescues ever undertaken by the Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team has won them a top award — the Royal Humane Society's bronze medal.

The team were called out in February after one of two teachers climbing Observatory Ridge on Ben Nevis fell at a height of 2000ft.

At first light two very experienced members of the team were lowered to the teachers on a series of ropes tied together.

The two men, Mr Barry Thomas (24), 107 Windermere Road, Stockport, and Mr John Beatty (22), 93 Woodford Road, Bramhall, Cheshire, were full of praise for the team after their rescue.

22 July 1974

Dave Cosby  
John Marshall  
Pete Murphy



Moray youth in slow drive drama to hospital

# Hands of mercy reach out to help

GENTLY, so very gently . . . the hands of mercy reach out to a seriously injured Moray youth.

Strapped in a stretcher 16-year-old Raymond Smith, of Altona, Alves, lies with back injuries and a broken neck.



RAYMOND SMITH

He was flown in to Aberdeen Airport, Dyce, in an RAF helicopter, after medical staff at Dr Gray's Hospital, Elgin, had become seriously concerned about his condition.

Today Raymond was said to be "fairly comfortable" in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary.

He was taken from Dyce to the hospital in an ambulance which crawled along the road and avoided even the slightest bump.

Police blocked every junction so as not to impede the mercy convoy's slow progress.

The drama started earlier last night when Raymond fell off baled hay. He was taken to hospital in Elgin.

Staff at the hospital were so worried about his condition that an emergency call went out to RAF Lossiemouth, asking them to lay on a helicopter.

Aberdeen Airport usually closes about 10 p.m.—but another special call ensured the airport stayed open.

The helicopter was given special permission to land at the British Airways passenger terminal, so that Raymond could have the smoothest possible route to hospital.

Roads from the normal helicopter terminal would have been too bumpy.



A BOY soldier in the Queen's Own Highlanders, Raymond Smith, was rushed to hospital after a freak accident.

Raymond's widowed mother, Mrs Isabel Smith, travelled to Aberdeen today to be with her son.

The accident happened last night when Raymond and his younger sister Debbie (9) went to a field at Wester Alves Farm to see some horses.

Along with some other youngsters they started playing among the stacked bales of hay.

Raymond's other sister, Linda (17), said today: "As far as we can gather one of the bales on which Raymond was standing toppled over and he was thrown to the ground where he landed awkwardly on his neck.

"The others realised he

Sister  
tells of  
accident

was quite badly hurt when they discovered he could not move."

Raymond, who left Elgin Academy at Christmas, joined the Army Boys' Service in January, and had recently been stationed at Folkestone. He arrived home on leave last Saturday.

## Fall youth improves

MORAY youth Raymond Smith (16), Altona, Alves, who has serious back injuries and a broken neck, was last night fairly comfortable in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Foresthill.

A boy soldier with the Queen's Own Highlanders, Raymond was badly hurt when he fell off baled hay at Wester Alves Farm last Thursday night.

He was flown by helicopter to Aberdeen later that night after medical staff at Dr Gray's Hospital, Elgin, became concerned over his condition.

22 August 1974

Carl Mason  
Dave Pells  
Jack Rickford



23 August 1974

Dave Cosby  
Chas Taylor  
Jim Clark

A HELICOPTER from RAF Lossiemouth was called last night to angler Mr Kenneth Beveridge (29), 2 Esmonde Gardens, Bishopmill, Elgin, who had fallen and broken his ankle while fishing in the Garmouth area.  
An ambulance could not get near where he lay on a gravel bank south of the old railway bridge. The helicopter (crew: Flt. Lt. Dave Cosby, Flt. Lt. Charles Taylor, Master Signaller Jim Clark) took Mr Beveridge to a field near Garmouth where the ambulance waited. Later he was quite satisfactory in hospital at Elgin.

23 August 1974

Ron Scott  
Dave Pells  
Jack Rickford

# COPTER SAVES GIRL ADRIFT

## RAF to rescue off Banff and Lossiemouth

RECOVERING in Banff's Chalmers Hospital, today after being plucked to safety from a 4ft. long plastic dinghy in which she was swept out to sea yesterday is 14-year-old Aberdeen schoolgirl Patricia Ann Gilchrist, 1 Powis Circle.

Patricia, shocked and frightened, was airlifted ashore by a Whirlwind helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth flown by Flt.-Lt. Ross Scott and crewed by navigator Flt.-Lt. Dave Pells, and winchman Jack Bigford.

She was landed in high wind at Battery Green, near Banff Coastguard Station, and taken to hospital.

A fairly strong swimmer, Patricia was praised by Banff Coastguard for "keeping her head" during the emergency, but both coastguards and

Lossiemouth's RAF Rescue Service spoke out strongly against children being allowed to play with craft as dangerous in the sea as Patricia's.

A coastguard spokesman described the flimsy craft as "completely unsuitable" for open water and safe only in sheltered shallow water or a swimming pool.

### TOO COMMON

Incidents with lightweight inflatable dinghies are all too common, an RAF officer at Lossiemouth added, and yesterday's rescue was just like many others helicopter crews were called on to deal with.

Yesterday's rescue was the third drifting dinghy incident at Banff Links this summer alone he said.

Patricia had been playing in the dinghy with her 10-year-old cousin Shirley, when her uncle, Mr Archie Gilchrist, 52 Cairnvalle Terrace, Kin-corth, with whom she was on holiday at Banff Links, began pulling the two girls along the shore with the dinghy at the end of a long line,

"I only came up to the caravan for a smoke," Mr Gilchrist said last night, "and when I looked again Pat was being blown out to sea. I shouted to her not to panic and I rushed to get assistance."

Pat had two spades in the craft and used them as paddles but could not make any headway against the strong wind and ebb tide.

### CAPSIZED

Pat, who is spending two weeks with her uncle and aunt at Banff, is in her third year at Powis Academy and according to her father, trawl fisherman Mr James Gilchrist, who learned of the drama from "The Press and Journal": "She is willing to have a go at anything. She should have been a boy."

Pat has a brother and, a sister.

In today's helicopter rescue No. 2 yesterday a Lossiemouth town councillor and his sailing colleague were plucked to safety after their boat had

capsized in rough seas about a mile-and-a-half offshore.

Councillor Tom Spence, 75 Clifton Road, had gone for an afternoon sail with an RAF friend, Corporal Dick Boyd.

When their vessel overturned their plight was noticed by a lookout at Lossiemouth Coastguard station who called for helicopter assistance.

The helicopter, piloted by Flt.-Lt. Ross Scott and crewed by Flt.-Lt. Charles Taylor and Master Signaller Jim Clark, picked up the two men and flew them back to shore.

### STRUGGLING

Last night Councillor Spence, who runs a plasterer's business, said: "After we capsized we managed to get the boat upright, but it turned over again. We kept struggling to get it righted but the sea was coming in as fast as we could bale it out."

"We must have been in the water for around half an hour and we are extremely grateful

to the helicopter crew for getting us out. They did a good job in tricky conditions."

The boat was later towed to port by the Lossiemouth fishing vessel Mayflower (skipper James Leibnitz).

### FALSE ALARM

After returning to base at Lossiemouth the same helicopter — with Flt. Lt. Dave Cosby taking over from Flt. Lt. Scott — was called out to investigate a report of a dinghy capsizing off Ardersier, but this turned up to be a false alarm, involving a dinghy which was being towed by another vessel.

It was while this helicopter was at Ardersier that the Banff emergency cropped up and Flt.-Lt. Scott, who is commanding officer of Lossiemouth's No. 202 Helicopter Squadron again went into action.

OFF Norfolk yesterday a helicopter from Cottishall rescued two children and shepherded four rubber dinghies to safety.



# Boy hurt in 300ft. fall on N.E. cliff

A NINE-YEAR-OLD Kent boy, Gavin Watts, was seriously ill last night in Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital after falling nearly 300ft. down a cliff at Gardenstown, Banffshire, yesterday.

Gavin, who is on holiday in the North-east with his parents from Sevenoaks, Kent, had been climbing the Sneuk Cliff when he slipped and plummeted down the face to land on a concrete footpath near the rocky shore which connects Gardenstown with the village of Crovie.

Gavin's father, London taxi driver Mr John Watts (39), was at the foot of cliffs picnicking with his wife and other son, 12 year-old Russell.

He had asked Russell where Gavin was and was told he had gone climbing.

Shortly before the accident the brothers had been playing in rock pools but Russell returned to his parents for a change of trousers and Gavin went off by himself.

Using binoculars Mr Watts scanned the cliffs and spotted Gavin near the top of the Sneuk. He was on his way to call him when Gavin fell.

After an examination it was decided that his injuries were too serious to risk a long journey by road. An RAF helicopter from Lossiemouth was called to airlift him to Aberdeen.

Gavin was picked up from Lachnet Farm and his father and Dr Grime flew with him on the mercy flight.



GERMAN holidaymaker Mr Dietrich Hanisch and his Aberdeen wife Marion stand at the foot of the cliff, The Sneuk, where Gavin Watts fell 300ft.

27 August 1974

Carl Mason  
John Williamson  
Pete Barwell

25 August 1974

1. Ron Scott  
Dave Pells  
Jack Bickford
2. Ron Scott  
Chas Taylor  
Jim Clark
3. Dave Cosby  
Chas Taylor  
Jim Clark

4. 27 August 1974

Carl Mason  
John Williamson  
Pete Barwell

## Copters To The Rescue

HELICOPTERS of the search and rescue unit at R.A.F. Lossiemouth have had a busy week, being called out to cope with a number of sea incidents and an accident involving a cliff fall.

On Sunday they plucked a 14-year-old Aberdeen schoolgirl to safety after she had been swept out to sea in a small plastic dinghy off Banff Links.

Later that day another helicopter of 202 Squadron picked up Lossiemouth town councillor, Mr Tom Spence, 75 Clifton Road, and his friend, Corporal Dick Boyd, R.A.F., after their vessel capsized about a mile-and-a-half offshore.

They were called out a third time, but this proved to be a false alarm concerning a report that a dinghy had overturned off Ardersier.

The unit was back in action on Tuesday when they flew a young English boy to hospital in Aberdeen after he had been seriously hurt falling 300 feet down a cliff at Gardenstown. He died later in the week.

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4.



# A9 Victim Dies In Mercy 'Copter

FOUR people died in road accidents in Inverness-shire, Banffshire and Perthshire yesterday.

Despite a combined operation involving the police, a doctor, an ambulance and a rescue helicopter, a severely injured driver died as the helicopter touched down on its mercy mission at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, yesterday.

He was the driver of a three-wheeled car which was cut in two in a collision with an articulated lorry on the A9 Perth-Inverness road near Dalwhinnie.

After attending to the injured man, Dr Iain Richardson, of Laggan, accompanied him in the ambulance which rushed him to Kingussie where the rescue helicopter from R.A.F. Lossiemouth flew them both to hospital in Inverness.

Later Inverness police said the driver was Mr Alistair R. McGuire (35), a local government officer of Sale, Cheshire.

The lorry driver, Mr William Brown, 20 Strathview Terrace, Balfon, Stirlingshire, was unhurt.

A father was killed and his son was taken seriously injured to hospital in Aberdeen by helicopter yesterday following a two-car crash at Mulben Crossroads, three miles from Keith.

Police were last night withholding their names until relatives had been informed.

The father and son were passengers in a car driven by the son's girl friend.

The accident happened at the spot where two women were killed in a car crash in June last year.

Both cars ended up in the garden of a house, Southview.

The son was flown by helicopter from Dr Gray's Hospital, Elgin, to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary.

## MOTOR CYCLIST KILLED.

A Glenrothes man, Ian Walker (24), labourer, c/o 39 Napier Road, died instantly when the Honda motor cycle he was riding was in collision with a car on the A90 Perth-Edinburgh road.

The accident happened at the south end of the Baigle Straight, near the junction with the Perth-Cupar road.

In the second Perthshire accident, a man from the Perth area died in a head-on collision between two vehicles on a three-lane stretch of the A9 Perth-Stirling road, near Blackford.

7 Sept 74

Carl Mason  
Tug Wilson  
Jack Bickford

7 Sept 74

Derek Whatling  
John Williamson  
Pete Barwell

## Fire-alert cruiser towed to Hopeman

A CABIN cruiser thought to be on fire in the Moray Firth was towed safely into Hopeman last night none the worse except for a broken-down engine.

The alarm was raised after an RAF helicopter pilot spotted the cruiser apparently on fire about five miles from Hopeman.

The engine had broken down and the man on the boat had sent up red emergency flares said the pilot, Flt.-Lt. Derek Watling.

The type of flare he had used gave off a lot of sparks, he said, and gave the impression that there was fire on the boat.

The pilot made sure the cabin cruiser was in no danger and another vessel took her in tow to Hopeman.

## Three feared lost in Loch Ericht

AFTER a small boat was found overturned and empty on lonely Loch Ericht, near Dalwhinnie, yesterday Inverness-shire police mounted a search for the occupants, believed to be three men on a fishing trip.

Late last night Chief Inspector John MacLean, Kingussie, said the search party of police and estate workers from Ben Alder, aided by an RAF helicopter, drew a blank. But foot searchers found fishing rods, food and other equipment.

He added: "It is known that three men from the Stirling area arrived in a Ford car with a boat on top on Saturday to go fishing on the loch and as they have not returned to their car, which is locked, I can only assume there may have been an accident."

"It may be that the three have reached the safety of the shore of the loch in some isolated area and are sheltering, but the search will be resumed at first light on Tuesday."

The three missing men are Andrew Rae (33), 11F MacDonald Drive, St Ninians; David Rae, Dunyat Drive, Cambus, Tullibody; and Mr Stark, 6 James Street, Whins of Milton, Stirling.

The trio's fishing trip was organised to coincide with the Stirling holiday weekend.

11 Sept 74

Derek Whatling  
John Williamson  
Jack Bickford

23 Sept 74

Dave Cowby  
Dave Pells  
Jim Clark



# Injured climber airlifted from mountain

A YOUNG injured climber was airlifted by RAF helicopter from Skye's Coolin Mountains today after a night on the hills.

And Mr David John Foster (28), of Hull, was said to be in a fair condition at Broadford Hospital.

Mr Foster was badly injured late yesterday when he fell 100 feet.

He was on a holiday climb with his brother Stephen, and two women.

They were descending in worsening weather when the accident happened. And by the time rescue services were alerted, it was too late for air assistance.

The mountain rescue team left Glen Brittle with portable lights in driving rain and reached the injured man at about midnight.

Because of his injuries and the discovery he was a diabetic, the team decided to delay the rescue until first light today.

In lashing rain they spent a cold night grouped together until dawn came over the towering peaks, bringing the RAF helicopter from Lossiemouth.

## INJURIES

On board were F/Lt. Carl Mason, the pilot, navigator, F/Lt. Tug Wilson, and winchman F/Sgt. Tranton.

Mr Foster was taken into the aircraft and 10 minutes later it landed in a croft field beside Broadford Hospital.

He was admitted with head injuries.

The two women were identified by police as being Miss Janet Catto and a Miss Jones.

The incident happened on a ridge on Charlie's Peak, one of the highest in Skye, which has dangerous scree slopes which are normally avoided.

# Climber's Skye ordeal over

AFTER A 15-hour ordeal in the rain-swept Coolins, Skye, injured Yorkshire climber Mr David J. Foster (28)—he is a diabetic—was said to be "fair" in the MacKinnon Memorial Hospital, Broadford, yesterday.

At first light yesterday, a Skye mountain guide carrying insulin climbed to reach Mr Foster, who had lain for 11 hours with head injuries.

When coming down the mountains after a holiday since the previous evening, he fell 100ft. down a scree slope at the 2800ft. level of Sgurr Thearlaich (3201ft.).

With him through the night were his brother, Stephen, Mr Gerry Ackroyd, a mountain rescue team member from the youth hostel at Glen Brittle, and two other men. Mr Ackroyd had an emergency radio link.

## TOO RISKY

The dangerous gully to which the injured man had fallen, the darkness and lashing rain had made conditions too risky for a night rescue. But when Mr Foster became unconscious the radio was used to call for immediate assistance.

At the Glen Brittle camp site, insulin and medical instructions were obtained from a friend of Mr Foster.

By 6 a.m., when Portnalong crofter and guide Mr Peter Thomas reached the injured man, it was known that RAF help was on the way. Mr Thomas said: "Because by that time he had missed two injections, we decided not to give him the insulin as complications could have developed according to the instructions. But if hours of stretcher handling had been involved to carry him down, he would certainly have been requiring it."

## INCREDIBLE

Mr Thomas, a veteran of many Skye rescues, said the RAF helicopter handling was "an incredible piece of flying—the rotor blades came within inches of the rock face. It is a dangerous place and the last man who fell there in the same circumstances was killed outright."

The Lossiemouth-based helicopter took Mr Foster, from Hull, within minutes from the high peak to hospital at Broadford.

The helicopter crew, who are no strangers to the Skye mountains, were pilot F/Lt. Carl Mason, navigator F/Lt. Tug Wilson and winchman F/Lt. Sgt. D. Tranton.

Mr Foster, a metallurgist working in Glasgow, lives at 48a Balshagray Drive, Glasgow. His home address in Hull is 48 Silverdale Road.

25 Sept 74

Carl Mason  
Tug Wilson  
John Troughton



# MAN DIES AS COBLE CAPSIZES IN N-EAST

A SHORT trip between two harbours at a North-east town ended in tragedy yesterday when a small coble capsized and pitched three friends into the icy waters at Rosehearty.

Despite a heroic rescue bid one man drowned—33-year-old fisherman and father of two Mr Norman Sim, 13 Summers Road, Rosehearty.

Oil-rig worker Mr William Green (22), 6 Loch Street, and fisherman Mr James Downie (28), 17 Queen Street, both Rosehearty, were plucked to safety by helicopter.

The accident happened after the trio decided to go for a sail between the West and Port Rae harbours—about 300yd.—on board the 15ft. boat.

When the boat was turned round to run before the wind back to the West harbour, it shipped a lump of water and Mr Green—the only swimmer in the party—was thrown into the sea.

## MISSING

He swam back, but by this time the boat was partially filled with water and as he climbed aboard, it shipped another sea.

All three men were pitched into the water.

Mr Green was able to grab an oar. He told the two others to hold on and started swimming to nearby rocks—dragging the other men with him.

When he reached the rocks, it was discovered that Mr Sim was missing.

The alarm was raised and coastguards, police, an ambulance and an RAF rescue helicopter made for the scene.

Mr Green and Mr Downie—both unmarried—were winched to safety from the rocks and taken by ambulance to Fraserburgh Hospital.

## TRAGEDY

The helicopter continued the search for Mr Sim and he was found soon after. He was also taken to Fraserburgh Hospital, but despite artificial respiration on the way, was dead on arrival.

Mr Sim belonged to Rosehearty, where his wife, Charlotte, and their two children, Wendy (12) and Raymond (10), were being comforted by relatives last night.

His father-in-law, Mr James Hill, said: "This is a terrible tragedy. Norman was well known and liked in the town."

A fisherman most of his working life, Mr Sim had been away from the sea recently but was hoping to get a berth soon on a fishing vessel.

## WATCHERS

Two youths—Alexander Duncan (14), 15 Pitsligo Street, and Gary Dewar (13), 33 Union Street, Rosehearty—were among those who watched the rescue.

Said Alexander: "The rescue was carried out pretty quickly, but there did not seem much anybody could do for the chap who was taken from the water."

Mr Downie was detained in hospital for observation, but Mr Green later went home.

26 Sept 74

Ron Scott  
Tug Wilson  
John Troughton



## RESCUE ATTEMPT

Skye Mountain Rescue team and police were involved in a hazardous rescue last night in the Cullins. Two attempts by an RAF helicopter from Lossiemouth to reach an injured man were foiled by violent winds over Sgurr Scumain (3104ft) and a second team set off in darkness.

The helicopter remained at Broadford to give possible aid at dawn.

3 Oct 74

Derek Whatling  
Chas Taylor  
Jack Bickford

AN injured climber brought down early yesterday from the highest peak in the Cullins, Skye, has been named as Philip Lloyd Gilbert (30), Sheffield.

More than 30 mountaineers took part in the rescue after violent winds ruled out a helicopter landing. Mr Gilbert is "comfortable" in hospital with an ankle injury.

## Colonel dies in Torridon

A 44-YEAR-OLD colonel in the Coldstream Guards collapsed and died while deerstalking in Torridon yesterday despite an RAF helicopter bid to bring him help.

Col Derek Lewy, a married man, Fielden Farm, Gravenhurst, near Bedford, collapsed just after noon about three miles north of Achnachellach.

A helicopter, called from RAF Pitcairne, flew to Torridon where it picked up Dr Pearson then went to where Col Lewy was lying but he was found to be dead.

4 Oct 74

Dave Carey  
Dave Pells  
Jim Clark

## Six on Army climb hit by fumes

By a Staff Reporter

Six junior soldiers on an adventure training exercise in the Cairngorms were yesterday overcome by poisonous fumes from their cookers. Two were taken to Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, in a semi-conscious state.

After treatment for carbon monoxide poisoning one was discharged. The other, who injured his back when he collapsed, was detained for observation.

They were in a party of 31 junior soldiers from the divisional training depot at Gordon Barracks, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen, on an exercise led by Second Lieutenant Alistair Hope, King's Own Scottish Borderers.

The six, who had been sharing two-man tents, collapsed just after breakfast when they were breaking camp at Jean's Hut, a climbers' bothy.

### Fuel pellets

It is believed fumes from the Army-issue cookers, which burn solid-fuel pellets, were blown into their tents while they were packing their kits. All six were overcome.

A helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth flew them to Glenmore Lodge and an ambulance took the two worst affected from there to hospital.

The young soldier who was detained is Raymond Borsberry, aged 16, Royal Scots, from Bedworth, Nuneaton, Warwickshire. The other is Brian Dawkins, aged 17, Royal Highland Fusiliers, from Glendoch Road, Penilee, Glasgow.

An officer at Gordon Barracks said it was known the fumes could be dangerous and warnings had been given about the siting of the cookers.

6 Oct 74

Al Campbell  
Chas Taylor  
Jack Bickford



# Seven North-east men feared lost

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

The mystery surrounding the fate of the Peterhead fishing boat Trident and her crew of seven deepened last night when Coastguards at Wick said fish boxes recovered from the sea off Caithness did not come from the 86-foot boat.

As darkness fell the boat was almost 24 hours overdue on a return trip from the Isle of Man herring fishing grounds to Peterhead. She had vanished the previous afternoon just as the Hull trawler Gaul had done off Norway earlier this year without giving out any call for help. It is feared that between 3 and 3.45 on Thursday afternoon the Trident was hit by a freak wave off the Caithness coast and foundered in a Force-8 gale.

Six of the crew belong to Peterhead and the seventh to Portknockie.

A dawn-to-dusk search yesterday of the relatively small area in which the Trident could have been was unsuccessful. She was one of the most modern boats in Peterhead, built only 18 months ago.

An RAF spokesman at Pitreavie said: "It looks as if the boat has foundered and so the search is on for survivors who may be in a dinghy."

He pointed out that the water temperature in the area was such that an unprotected swimmer could be expected to survive for only 15 minutes. But Wick Coastguard said: "There has not been the slightest bit of evidence of the boat foundering."

The RAF spokesman said: "It is odd that this boat should have gone down — if she has come down without any trace at all. No flares were seen and there were no more radio calls after the last call yesterday to Wick Radio."

## Box hopes dashed

A later report last night suggested there was sufficient information to link the fish boxes directly with the Trident. But hopes were dashed when Wick Coastguards reported: "We have examined one of the boxes here. Although it bears the name Trident, that is a maker's mark, and not the name of the boat. They don't point towards the vessel at all."

As he spoke, some of the rescue fleet, which included two lifeboats and several Royal Air Force aircraft, were returning to base to prepare to resume the search today. One lifeboat and fishery protection vessel were to search throughout the night.

Mr David Tait, skipper and part-owner of the Trident, who had spent much of the day visiting families of the crew and waiting anxiously for news at Coastguard headquarters said: "We can still only hope that she will be spotted. It's the waiting which is the worst part."

He had been aboard the vessel earlier but disembarked on Tuesday at Ayr to travel back to Peterhead to make arrangements for her to be overhauled at the end of her trip.

## Help for partner

Relatives were clinging to the hope that the crew might be drifting in a liferaft, and recalled the ordeal of the crew of another Peterhead boat, the Daisy, who, 12 years ago were found in their raft off Orkney 20 hours after their boat sank.

The crew of the Trident are Acting Skipper Robert Corbinder, of 18 George Gordon Avenue; Alex Ritchie, 17 Foreman Drive; George Nicol (Ritchies father-in-law), 16 Arbuthnott Terrace; Thomas Thain, 94 Balmoor Terrace; James Tait and Alex Summers, all of Peterhead, and Alex Mair, a cousin of the skipper, Portknockie.

The Trident left Ayr for Peterhead via the Pentland Firth and was accompanied by the faithful, the vessel with which it had been pair-trawling.

At 3 o'clock on Thursday

afternoon the Faithful reported engine trouble and the Trident, which had been ahead, went back to transfer to the Faithful rolls of tape to be used during the repair operation.

At this stage the vessels were nine miles south of Duncansby Head. The Trident then continued south while skipper Ernest Wood of the Faithful completed repairs.



A recent picture of the missing Peterhead fishing boat Trident.

## Radio silent

At 3.45 p.m. Wick Radio tried unsuccessfully to contact the skipper of the Trident who had booked a ship-to-shore radio call for that time earlier in the day. Wick Radio failed to get any response and Skipper Wood also met with radio silence when he attempted to make contact about 6 p.m.

Just before midnight the Faithful reached Peterhead without having seen anything of the Trident.

At 2.50 a.m. the alarm was raised and at dawn a search began, aircraft from Kinloss and Lossiemouth being joined by the Wick and Macduff lifeboats and later by the Fishery Protection Ship Swipha.

Later, at the direction of the Northern Rescue Co-ordination Centre at RAF Pitreavie, two Shackletons of No. 8 Squadron headed north from RAF Lossiemouth. One of the aircraft carried out an intensive coastal search between Duncansby Head and Peterhead while the other flew a zig-zag pattern



## Fish boxes sighted

It was the crew of this aircraft who raised the alert when they saw fish boxes in a rough sea whipped by high winds.

Throughout the day another air crew stood by at Lossiemouth with a Whirlwind helicopter in case survivors were sighted.

The North and North-east coasts of Scotland have suffered several sea tragedies in recent years, including the loss of three lifeboats.

The Longhope boat was overwhelmed in a Force 9 gale in the Pentland Firth in 1969 with the loss of eight men and a Fraserburgh lifeboat disaster occurred the following year when five men were drowned in a gale about 30 miles off Fraserburgh. In 1953 eight men were lost when another Fraserburgh lifeboat was overwhelmed.

5 Oct 74

Dave Carey

Dave Pells

Jim Clark



# Helicopter fights gale to pick up Russian

AS WINTER time stormed in with rain, hail, sleet and snow yesterday, a mercy helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth fought its way through a howling gale to pick up a sick Russian seaman from a factory ship 25 miles off the Banffshire coast.

## Eighteen trawlers rescued

EIGHTEEN British fishermen were rescued by farmers and Icelandic lifeboats when the Grimsby trawler Port Vale ran aground on Iceland in Force 10 winds and snow yesterday.

Five got ashore in rough seas, making two trips in a rubber dinghy, before it was decided to cast a lifeline to haul the remaining 13 ashore in the canvas chair.

No deaths or injuries were reported, but one rescue leader said the crew were lucky.

Farmers from near Hradstol, at the head of the Lagarflot River where the Port Vale beached on the East Coast, helped shelter the crewmen and give them warm clothes before they were driven to the Egilsstadir Community Centre, where beds and hot food were waiting.

As Icelandic Coastguard vessel and seven British trawlers took part in the rescue operation. The crew are expected to be flown to England today. The 427-ton Port Vale, owned by Wendover Fishing Co. (Grimsby) Ltd., was apparently little damaged. The first distress signals were received at 4 a.m. yesterday.

27 Oct 74

Carl Mason  
Dave Pells  
Jack Bickford

The helicopter crew intended to fly the seaman to Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, but in the face of squalls gusting up to 70 knots, the helicopter's speed was reduced to around 30 m.p.h.

Instead, the helicopter returned to Lossiemouth where the seaman was taken by ambulance to Dr Gray's Hospital, Elgin.

The Russian seaman, who has a stomach complaint, is Vladimir Reshetov (39). He was said last night to be "fairly comfortable."

The Russian vessel, Pioneer, sent out an emergency call for medical assistance shortly before lunch-time, and immediately one of the Lossiemouth helicopters, piloted by Lt-Lt. Carl Mason and with navigator Flt-Lt. David Pells and winchman Master Signaller Jack Bickford on board, took off.

### 'VERY ROUGH'

"Weather conditions were very rough," said Flt-Lt. Mason later. "The wind was averaging 40 knots and there were squalls of up to 70 knots. There was a helicopter landing pad at the back of the ship, but the turbulence was too much to attempt a landing, so our winchman went down and helped bring the man aboard."

"With Force 10 gales being forecast it was obvious we were not going to make very much headway on the way back. It would have taken more than an hour to reach Inverness and even then it might not have been possible to get down on the small landing site at Raigmore because of the weather conditions."

"We decided that the best course would be to return to Lossiemouth."

Flt-Lt. Mason said the sick seaman was conscious throughout the journey, and kept pointing to his stomach. "He was obviously in great pain from time to time," he added.

# Two die in sea riddle

**Express Staff Reporter**  
**TWO MEN** were found drowned yesterday after setting out in a calm sea on a trip which should have taken them less than 100 yards from shore.

Murdo Ross, 44, a fisherman, and Kenneth MacLennan, 26, a county council roadman, both of Achiltibuie, Wester Ross, were found by searchers on the beach.

Earlier a sea and air

search had been made in The Minch after their empty dinghy was found.

The men, who had fished together for years, left on Saturday evening to row the short distance to Mr. Ross's fishing boat. They intended to pump it out and test the engine.

## Terrible blow

Both oars and a jacket belonging to one of them were found on the dinghy.

The men had worked during the afternoon dipping sheep and they were not expected to remain long aboard the fishing boat.

Mr. Ross was a father of six and Mr. MacLennan was unmarried.

Said a friend: "It has been a terrible blow to this small community because both men were extremely well-known."

"Whatever happened out in the water and so close to the shore we will never know."

Ross-shire police were last night still investigating the tragedy which happened almost within earshot of the houses at Dornie Harbour.

One theory was the 12ft. dinghy may have tilted as it came alongside the fishing boat throwing both men into the water.

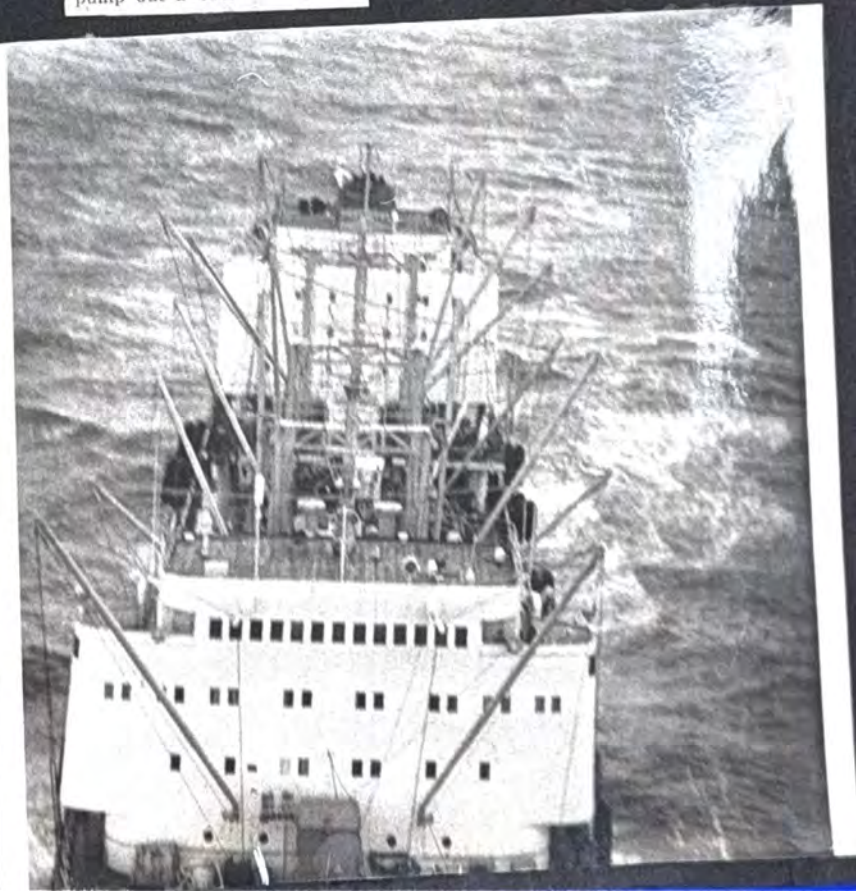
## Two men found drowned

The bodies of Mr Murdo Hugh Ross, a fisherman, and Mr Kenneth Murdo MacLennan, a road worker, both of Laid of Reiff, Altanhu, near Achiltibuie, were found in Bay of Old Dornie, near Achiltibuie, yesterday.

They had left in a small rowing dinghy on Saturday night to pump out a boat.

3 Nov 74

Dave Cosby  
John Williamson  
Pete Barwell





# Copter in mercy dash with Forres chef

A FORRES chef was flown by helicopter to Aberdeen for emergency hospital treatment early today after being badly injured in a road accident late last night.

He is Mr John Byers (49), of 18 Bogton Road, who is chef at the Old Mill Inn Restaurant at Brodie, near Forres.

The accident happened shortly after Mr Byers came off duty last night. He was crossing the main Forres-Nairn road to catch a bus back to Forres when he was knocked down by a car.

An ambulance took Mr Byers to Leachhill Hospital, Forres, where he was found to be suffering from extensive injuries.

He was transferred to Dr Gray's Hospital, Elgin, and later it was decided an emergency operation was necessary.

A mercy helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth, piloted by F/Lt Dave Cosby, was called in and flew Mr Byers to Aberdeen today.

Forres police today issued an appeal to the driver of an 1100 car—which was earlier overtaken by the car involved in the accident—to get in touch with them.

Both cars were travelling in a westerly direction.

## Forres chef who was hurt in road accident dies

A FORRES man who was badly injured in a road accident earlier this month died in hospital in Aberdeen yesterday.

He was Mr John Byers (49), 18 Bogton Road, who was chef at the Old Mill Inn restaurant at Brodie, near Forres.

Mr Byers was knocked down by a car while crossing the Forres-Nairn road opposite the restaurant on November 13.

He received extensive injuries, and shortly after being taken to Dr Gray's Hospital, Elgin, a helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth was called in to transfer him to hospital in Aberdeen for emergency treatment.

14 Nov 74

Dave Cosby  
John Williamson  
Jim Clark



ALL THREE ORKNEY LIFEBOATS OUT ON  
THE SAME NIGHT

# Helicopter rescues nine men in Pentland Firth drama Belgian trawler 'Lans' wrecked on Hoy

WITH HER ROTOR blade barely 20 yards away from the cliff-face and the sea a boiling cauldron below, an R.A.F. helicopter from Lossiemouth carried out in a full gale the rescue of the nine-man crew of the 418-ton Belgian stern trawler LANS soon after daybreak on Saturday morning.

The seven-year-old vessel was returning to her home port of Ostend from Iceland, with 55 tons of white fish on board, when she ran aground, just before midnight, under the 600-ft. beetling cliffs of The Berry, Hoy, in the Pentland Firth.

In answer to her mayday, picked up by Wick Radio, Longhope lifeboat (Coxswain Jackie Leslie), then Stromness lifeboat (Acting Coxswain William Sinclair Junr.), both alerted by Orkney Coastguards, made for the scene, as well as the fishing-boat Gem and the cargo-vessel Kylebank, who were both in the area. After days of incessant gales there was a heavy swell and much broken water under the Hoy cliff ramparts.

With Dr. Tony Trickett, the Hoy doctor, on board, Longhope lifeboat was reported on the scene at about 120 a.m. She was anchored and preparing to veer down on the wreck to fire a line for a breeches buoy rescue, but such an approach proved out of the question, in view of the prevailing conditions.

At first, the Lans was reported to have come ashore on Tor Ness, then later at Little Rackwick Bay, but it transpired that she had grounded on the rocks, broadside to The Berry, in a position about one mile south-east of the spot where the Grimsby trawler Ross Puma was lost a few years ago, when the ill-fated Longhope lifeboat TGB made one of her most outstanding rescues.

A message picked up during the night seemed to indicate that some or all of the crew of the Lans had abandoned ship, with their inflatable life-raft. But with the two lifeboats unable to get alongside, it was impossible to ascertain what the true situation was.

The hours dragged on in an agonising uncertainty with the Longhope and Hoy coast rescue teams out on the cliffs, and arrangements being made for a helicopter to fly at daybreak to Orkney from Lossiemouth to join in the rescue operations, all attempts from the sea having been foiled.

Thoughts turned to another drama just a year ago, also in a December gale, when a helicopter rescued the entire crew of the trawler NAVENA aground on Copinsay.

The Westland Whirlwind Mark 10 helicopter arrived just before 8 a.m. at the airport, where she picked up the Coastguard District Officer (R. Haggood) and Cameron Mackay, an auxiliary who is an expert climber, and gear, before proceeding to Hoy, the gale. It seemed at one time that any rescue attempt might now require a descent down the precipitous Hoy cliffs.

## THREE AT A TIME

It was 8.20 a.m. when the helicopter arrived in Hoy. The pilot decided to inspect the wreck, and he reported that he thought he could attempt a rescue.

Captain of the R.A.F. helicopter was Flight-Lieut. Dave Cosby, navigator/winch operator was Flight-Lt. J. Taylor, and master air loader, Peter Barwell.

It was at this stage that the helicopter men put their own lives at risk in a brilliant and hazardous operation lasting 50 minutes.

Over the tumultuous scene the machine hovered and winched up the nine members of the crew, three at a time, and deposited them safely on board the nearby Longhope lifeboat. It was only then that it was established that all the crew of the LANS were in fact still on board, having spent the night on the bridge. All of them escaped without a scratch.

Their mission accomplished, the helicopter crew returned to Kirkwall, leaving just before 11 a.m. to return to their base via Wick. They praised the way the Belgians had organised themselves for the lift. They had shown calmness and resourcefulness, said the captain of the helicopter.

It is to be hoped that the helicopter's own magnificent feat will receive its due recognition.

## LIFEBOATMAN BREAKS ARM

But a member of the Stromness lifeboat was not so fortunate. He was Michael Flett (skipper of the GIRL SHONA) who broke his arm in a mishap with the winch handle as the lifeboat was carrying out an anchoring manoeuvre, when she was lying only 90 yards from the wreck.

Stromness lifeboat had to leave the scene subsequently to bring her own casualty ashore for medical attention. He was admitted to the Balfour Hospital, Kirkwall.

As for the nine Belgians, they looked remarkably calm and cheerful, despite their night-long ordeal, as they disembarked at Stromness from the Longhope lifeboat. Some of them were in their bare feet and shirtless.

Within minutes, they were sitting down to a hot meal of beef stew, followed by apple crumble in Scott's Hotel, and being well looked after by Mr and Mrs William Gilmour. Mr Joe Malloch, as the representative of the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society, was already seeing about re-kitting them with new clothing and making travel arrangements for their return home, and Mr Tom Rendall, of the Fishermen's Mission, was present too to offer them the full facilities of his establishment.

The two coast-rescue teams from Hoy and from Longhope, numbering a couple of dozen men, had had a tough night of it also. Led by Leslie

Sinclair and Tommy Groat, respectively, they were out for a total of twelve hours, having had to tackle the stiff climb to the cliff-top with all their gear, involving a three-mile trudge in mud and rough ground.

During the night the rescue teams carried out from the top of the crags a search for the exact location of the ship. They retired to Melsetter at 6 a.m., only for a party to climb up again for a second time to prepare for the daybreak rescue-operations and to mark a patch for the helicopter flying the cliff-climbers and gear from the airport.

The last of them didn't get home until 1 p.m. on Saturday.

Others who gave good help were the Police, and also personnel at Kirkwall Airport, including fire services, who had an early start to receive the helicopter.

And for the Coastguard station in Kirkwall, who were co-ordinating all the rescue services, it was "a long day's night," some of the men being on constant duty for 13 to 14 hours at a stretch.

## INTERVIEW WITH SKIPPER

In an interview with 'The Orcadian,' the youthful-looking LANS skipper, Julien Germonpre (42) praised the helicopter crew for their outstanding rescue, and also the two lifeboats involved.

He paid a tribute also to the yard that had built his vessel: "Had she not been so strong," he said, "we would certainly have all perished."

The crew, of Flemish stock, spoke only a bit of broken English, or a little French.

The skipper explained that there had been trouble with the ship's rudder "and then our radar packed in."

"We were trying to sort out our troubles when suddenly, before we knew where we were, the ship was on the rocks. We sent out a mayday and this was picked up by Wick radio."

"After a few minutes the engine stopped and then the auxiliary, so that we had no electric power. The ship was in complete darkness. We had radio contact for only a quarter of an hour. After that, silence."

"We had all gone up to the bridge, we put up all our flares—all twelve of them."

The ship was getting heavily battered and shifted her position. The men had taken up an inflatable life-raft on to the bridge. This raft eventually got back on the deck. "It was self-inflated and very heavy to handle, and with the ship now listing at 35 degrees it was quite impossible to abandon her. The seas were crashing high above our heads," said the skipper.

The youngest man on board the trawler was 16-year-old Provost Ronny, who joined the vessel eight months ago.

The skipper said: "We never lost hope, as we knew that Wick Radio had picked up our distress signal."

One 18-year-old member of the crew said: "There was no panic on board, but I must admit that at one stage I did think I would not see my father, mother and sister again."

The LANS had hoped to reach her home-port on Sunday afternoon in good time for Christmas—but it was Monday before they were able to leave Orkney by air, travelling to London via Aberdeen.

## UNLUCKY LIFEBOAT

Acting Stromness Coxswain William Sinclair Junr. said: "We were bitterly disappointed that our winch failed us and that one of our men should have got hurt."

"It wasn't a great night. Neither of the two lifeboats could get nearer than about 70 yards from the wreck. We had our searchlights trained on her all night and Coastguards were flying flares over her from the top of the cliffs."

"Every so often we could see the Belgian boys flashing a light from inside the bridge."

"The ship was lying on her side on the rocks, her head pointing north and with a good 40 degree list. The seas were going right over her."

"It would have been folly for them to use their life-raft—they would only have been dashed to pieces on the rocks."

"We left the scene at about 8 o'clock when we knew the helicopter was on her way, to get medical attention for Michael. The accident happened when we were only about 90 yards from the LANS."

That very same night the Belgian crew, in the comfort of their hotel, watched on Television news the film of their ship being pounded on the rocks—these shots had been taken from a chartered aircraft a few hours earlier.

The owner and the insurance agent of the trawler came over from Belgium and were in Caithness on Sunday.

They viewed the wreck first from Dunnet Head in Caithness, then sailed in the fishing boat Star Divine from Scrabster to view it close on from the sea. On their return they reported that the LANS was split all down one side.

The owner was himself the skipper of the LANS until about four months ago.

The survivors were seen off by Mr Malloch at the airport on Monday morning. All expressed their gratitude for the kindness shown to them.

The rescue of the LANS crew was the culmination of a week of intermittent gales and trouble at sea.

In fact, on the night of Friday-Saturday all three Orkney lifeboats were out.

## ANOTHER TWO AGROUND

The Aberdeen trawler GLEN ISLA, which had called at Kirkwall last week to land a sick crewman—the cook—found herself in trouble early on Friday.

When leaving Kirkwall just before 3 a.m. she grounded on Crow Ness, Hatston.

The Kirkwall lifeboat was called out, and she picked up seven members of her crew, four remaining on board.

Later that day, the Glen Isla was refloated by the Shapinsay fishing boat, 'Boy Graham' (John Davidson), who brought her back to the pier at 120 p.m. The Glen Isla was still in Orkney on Monday.

Earlier in the week the Fleetwood-registered trawler VELIA had run aground on the Broad Shoal on the west side of Shapinsay on Thursday, as she was coming into Kirkwall to land a member of her crew.

She was brought in by the Kirkwall lifeboat, which pulled her clear of the rocks on which she had been held fast for two hours. A diver examined her on Friday.

She sailed the following day, in the morning.

The VELIA returned to Aberdeen at the week-end. An inspection revealed she had only minor damage.

The m.v. St Ola, on her daily run across the Pentland Firth on Friday, was diverted to Wick, because of high seas whipped up by days of intermittent gales.

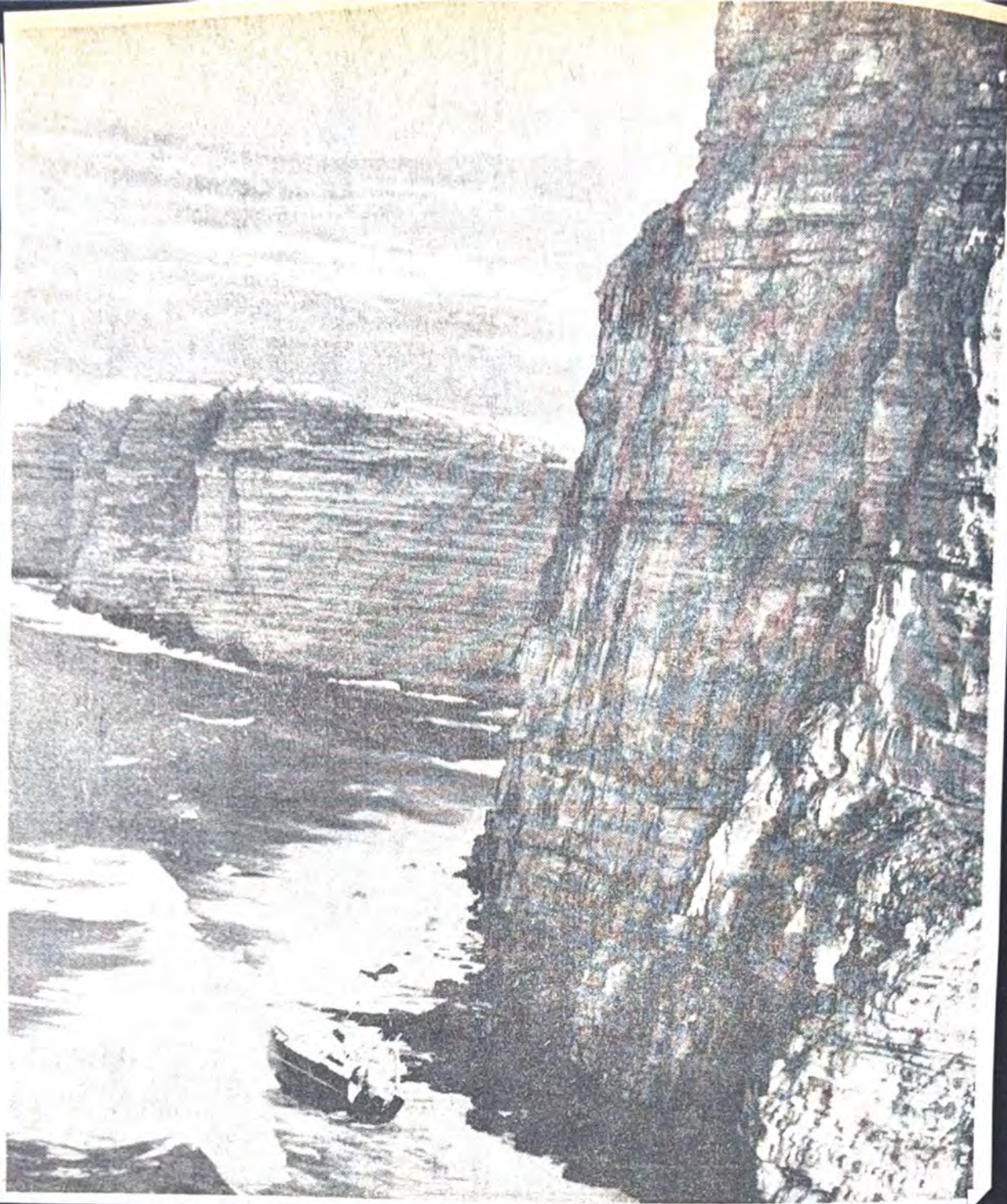
21 December 1974

Dave Cosby

Chas Taylor

Pete Barwell





NINE survivors of the 418-ton Belgian trawler *Lans*, rescued by helicopter after they had been wrecked on the Island of Hoy, Orkney, on Friday, will fly to London via Aberdeen today on the first stage of their journey home to Ostend.

Their ship was still being battered by heavy seas yesterday and is regarded as a total loss.

The seven-year-old vessel was returning to Ostend from Iceland with 500 tons of white fish when she grounded. The crew spend eight hours on board before being airlifted on Saturday.

All praised very highly the feat of the helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth, in getting them off unscathed, and also the Longhope and Stromness lifeboats which had stood by all night during their ordeal under the 600ft. cliffs of The B.

They were wrecked about a mile from the spot where

another trawler, the *Ross Puma*, was lost some years ago.

There was one casualty of the rescue operation — on board one of the lifeboats, Michael Flett, Stromness, skipper of the *Girl Shona*, was yesterday nursing a broken arm, received in a mishap with the winch handle.

The 42-year-old skipper of the *Lans* said that they had had trouble with the rudder "then our radar packed in. We were all busy trying to sort things out and before we knew we found ourselves on the rocks. Soon the ship was plunged in complete darkness."

The survivors were accommodated in a Stromness hotel and were re-kitted by Shipwrecked Mariners' Association representative Mr Joseph Malloch, who was also making travel arrangements on their behalf.

THE WEARY crew of the

Orkney fishing boat *Monica Croan* were recovering at Peterhead yesterday after a two-day battle with the North Sea.

The six-man crew of the sputnik trawler had to fight to keep down the level of water in the engineroom as the boat was towed to Peterhead by the oil-rig safety ship *Dinas*.

After they arrived at Peterhead late on Saturday night, skipper and part owner Mr Malcolm Brown (24), Gill Tier, Westray, said: "If the water had risen any higher and stopped the pumps we would have been in trouble."

The trouble began early on Friday when the vessel was fishing about 70 miles south of Lerwick.

Said the skipper: "We went over this big lump of water and came down with an awful bang. I don't know if she burst a plate or not, but she was leaking a lot of water."

As the vessel wallowed in the heavy seas coastguards were alerted and the *Dinas* made for the scene. A British Airways helicopter from Dyce tried to lower a mobile pump on board, but failed because of the weather.

The *Dinas* escorted the stricken vessel for a time and later took her in tow.

Other crew members are Mr Thomas Bain, Kirkwall; who is also part-owner; his brother Balfour; Mr Alex Scott, Portknockie; Mr Sam Drever, Westray, and Mr Stephen Dennison, Kirkwall.

*Dinas* Skipper Ross Ashton (33), of Preesall, near Blackpool, said yesterday after his vessel docked at Aberdeen that the tow-line to the *Monica Croan* parted twice during the homeward trip.

The Aberdeen trawler *Glen Isla* which ran aground on the Crow's Nest a few minutes after leaving Kirkwall on Friday and was later re-floated, was still at the port last night.



# ROYAL AIR FORCE NEWS

4p

No. 361 Week ending JANUARY 18, 1975 Fortnightly

## Nine saved in daring air-sea rocks rescue

# HAIL THE 'HEROES OF HOY'

RESCUES AT SEA and on land kept the Wessex and Whirlwind SAR helicopters of 72 and 202 Squadrons in the news during the closing days of 1974. In the north, it was a Whirlwind of 202 Squadron from Lossiemouth which plucked nine men to safety from their capsized ship off the island of Hoy.

In the south it was a "D" Flight Wessex of 72 Squadron from Manston which answered a coastguard call to dash out to the Argentinian warship *Candido de Lasala*, seven miles off Hastings.

All hope of reaching the nine crewmen of the stricken Belgian trawler *Lans*, stuck fast on rocks beneath 600-ft. high cliffs on the storm-lashed island of Hoy in the Orkneys had virtually been abandoned.

The Longhope lifeboat stood out to sea, tossing perilously close to the jagged rocks which held the vessel fast, but too far to get a line aboard.

An impossible overhang cut off any chance of rescue by coastguards on the cliff-top.

To the nine men huddled in the wheelhouse of the *Lans*, death seemed very close. They had been trapped there in freezing conditions for eight hours.

### Heroism

It was against this background that a new chapter in the heroism of RAF helicopter crews came to be written.

The Northern Rescue Co-ordination Centre at Pitreavie Castle had scrambled Flt Lt Dave Cosby and his crew, navigator Flt Lt Charles Taylor and winchman WO Pete Barwell from 202 Squadron's Lossiemouth flight.

En route to Hoy, they picked up two coastguard officers and rescue equipment and flew them to the cliff-top.

by  
Bill Harrold  
and Cliff Dixon

Then Dave Cosby flew his Whirlwind low over the trawler and sized up the problem. It was a fearsome one. But he made the decision quickly.

With the nose of the Whirlwind set against a gale which threatened to smash it against the cliff face, and with his rotor blades whirling only 40 feet from the towering wall of rock, he lowered the winchman to the trawler.

Two men were lifted on the first sortie and taken to the waiting lifeboat. Three more trips—each as dangerous as the first—and the remaining seven were plucked to safety.

As they worked, huge waves rolled over the ship, sometimes cutting it off from sight.

Press and television hailed the rescue as "one of Scotland's

bravest ever," and saluted "the new heroes of Hoy."

But loudest in their praise for a job well done were the nine men they had clutched from almost certain death, the crew of the ill-fated *Lans*.

Dundee 'Courier' Leader

## SNATCHED FROM THE SEA

The skill and courage of the R.A.F. helicopter crews has frequently been demonstrated in rescue operations off Scottish coasts and in the mountains.

These qualities were seen again in the dramatic operations on the Isle of Hoy, in the Orkneys, when nine Belgian trawlermen were snatched to safety from their stranded vessel.

The trawler lay helpless, pounded by heavy seas, at the bottom of a 600-foot sheer cliff-face.

To winch the men from the deck to the Longhope lifeboat standing by the helicopter had to fly within yards of the cliff-face in a gale which threatened to dash it into the cliff.

Congratulations to the helicopter crew and to the lifeboatmen for a daring and successful combined operation.



A lifeboat and an RAF helicopter were used to transport two North people to hospital.

A young woman from the island of Papa Stour, Mrs Lorna Travis, The Schoolhouse, was in a satisfactory condition in hospital at Lerwick after a night crossing from the island in the Aith lifeboat.

An RAF helicopter from Lossiemouth took a patient from Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, to the neurological unit at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary.

The patient, Mrs Marion Mackay, Upper End, Leveburgh, Harris, was later said to be comfortable.

11 December 74

Al Campbell

John Williamson

Jim Clark

## North men escape after canoe capsizes

TWO CANOEISTS got a rather cold ducking yesterday when their craft capsized in the Moray Firth half-a-mile off Findhorn.

Alastair Grant (24), 4 Moray Street, Forres, and Gerry Breau (28), Caledonian Road, Inverness, clung to the side of the capsized canoe and their cries for help were heard by Mr Colin Whyte, Lorne Cottage, who was walking on the beach.

He ran to a nearby shop and called the coastguard who alerted the RAF at Lossiemouth. But the men managed to reach the shore just before the helicopter arrived.

After being treated at the shop they were taken to hospital at Forres but later discharged.

30 Dec 74

Ron Scott

John Williamson

Andy Ball

## Stranded women stay by pets

TWO WOMEN who were stranded in their car in a raging blizzard refused to be airlifted to safety — when they were told their two dogs had to be left behind.

Mrs Helen Marshall (50), Ellmar, Station Road, Carrbridge, and her pensioner sister, Mrs Annie Campbell, Glasgow, were driving to Nairn from Carrbridge to see Mrs Marshall's daughter, Lynne.

They took Mrs Marshall's two dogs, an alsatian and a West Highland terrier.

They had just passed the Inverness-shire boundary when they hit the blizzard.

They became stuck in the brow of a hill and Mrs Marshall tried twice to battle her way through the snow and wind. But she failed.

### LIFT

But an hour and a half later, a helicopter on a routine flight—the same one which was later called to assist in the Cairngorms — assist in a mountain rescue in the Cairngorms — spotted the vehicle and landed.

Flt-Sgt. Tony Goodyear offered the women a lift to Nairn or Carrbridge. Mrs Marshall asked if she could take her dogs, but Flt-Sgt. Goodyear said they had to be specially trained before being taken in a helicopter.

Mrs Marshall was reluctant to leave her pets and the crew took off after radioing to the police at Carrbridge.

Constable Ian McInnes answered the distress call and drove through the blinding snow to pick them up.

He found them walking in 3ft-deep snow-drifts.

Constable McInnes took them home, where Mrs Marshall said: "We owe our lives to the helicopter crew. If they had not seen our car, we would probably be still there."

26 Jan 75

Ron Scott

John Williamson

Tony Goodyear



# DEATH PLUNGE FROM 600ft.

By DAVID LOVE

A TEENAGE climber plunged 600ft. to his death in the Cairngorms yesterday.

His companion, who survived the fall, told "The Press and Journal" how the tragedy happened.

Tom Carnie (19), a St Andrews University student from East Kilbride, was climbing at Coire an Lochan with

his 20-year-old friend, astronomy student Ray Sharples, 27 Clermont Drive, Widnes, Lancashire.

They had finished their climb and were moving to the back of the corrie for the easier route down when Tom fell and pulled his friend with him.

A bruised and shocked Ray told how he escaped death.

"We were making for the back of the corrie for the easy way down when at some point Tom slipped or walked over the edge. Conditions were wild and visibility was poor, so I don't know exactly what happened.

"Next thing I remember was falling. I was upside down and clawing desperately at the snow and rocks to try and stop the fall. When I hit the snow at the bottom I was still clawing at the ground. But I was the right way up. I had lost my gloves and ice axe. "When I realised I was safe I dashed over to Tom. He was slightly above me and had blood about his mouth. I loosened his clothing and made sure his throat was clear.

## SHOUTED

"There were some climbers nearby and I shouted and shouted. I had tried to make Tom as comfortable as I could and they came over and took me to Jean's Hut, a sort of mountaineer's refuge.

"I met the rescue party and the doctor there. They took a stretcher to Tom."

Aviemore GP Dr Neil J. MacDonald, was flown to the hut by helicopter, crewed by Flt-Lt. Ron Scott, Flt-Lt. John Williamson and Flt-Sgt. Tony Goodyear, from RAF Kinloss.

They had successfully battled through 70 m.p.h. winds to fly Dr MacDonald and a senior instructor from Glenmore Lodge to the scene. When the doctor and the instructor landed they were joined by other rescue parties.

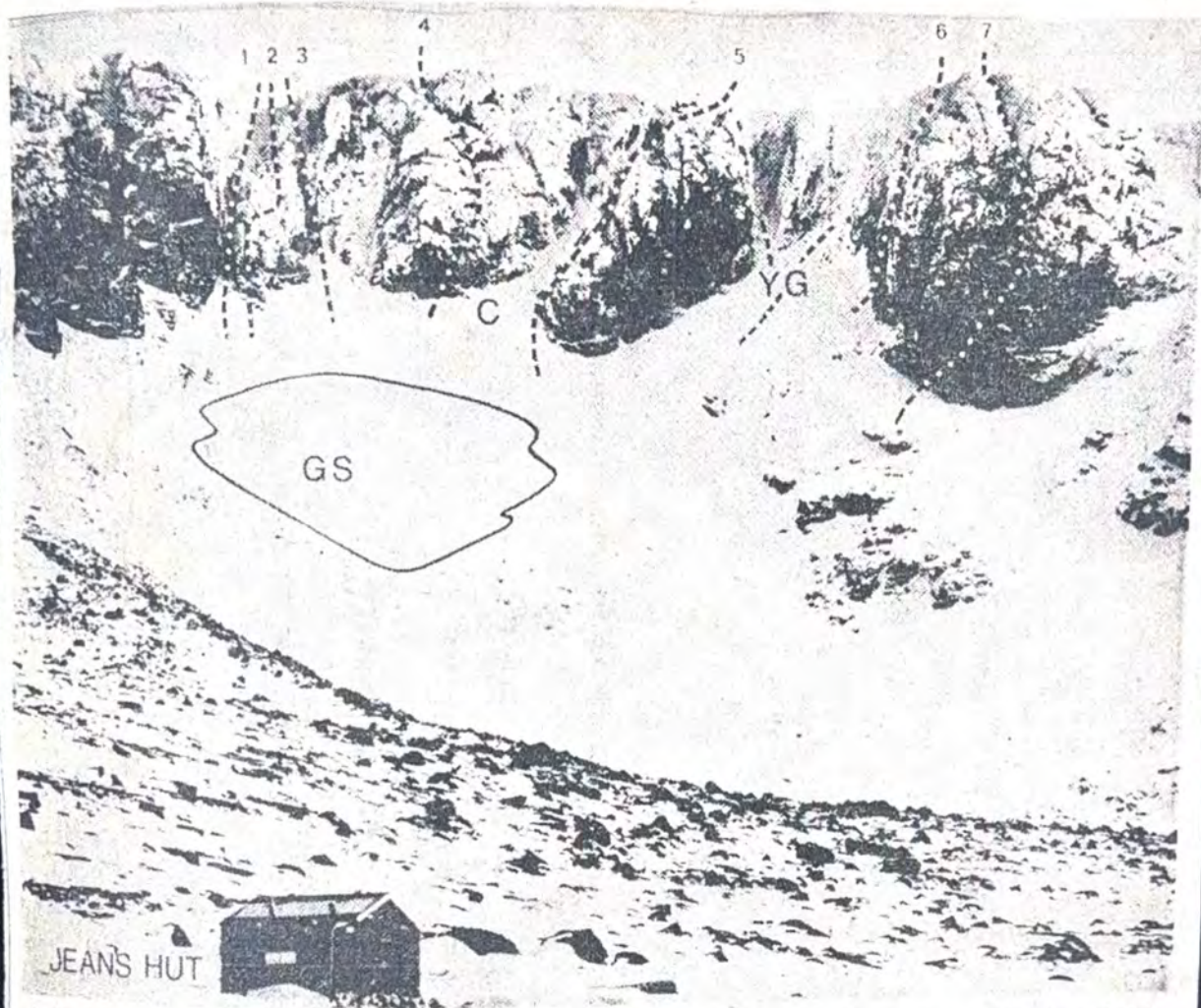
## NO USE

When they reached the scene Dr MacDonald applied cardiac massage to the injured climber for 15 minutes, but it was no use.

Ray and Tom had known each other for about a year and a half and had been climbing for four years.

They had experience of the Cairngorms, Wales, Turkey and the Alps.

They met at university. Ray was taken to Glenmore Lodge, where he was examined by the doctor, given a meal by the staff and then interviewed by the police.

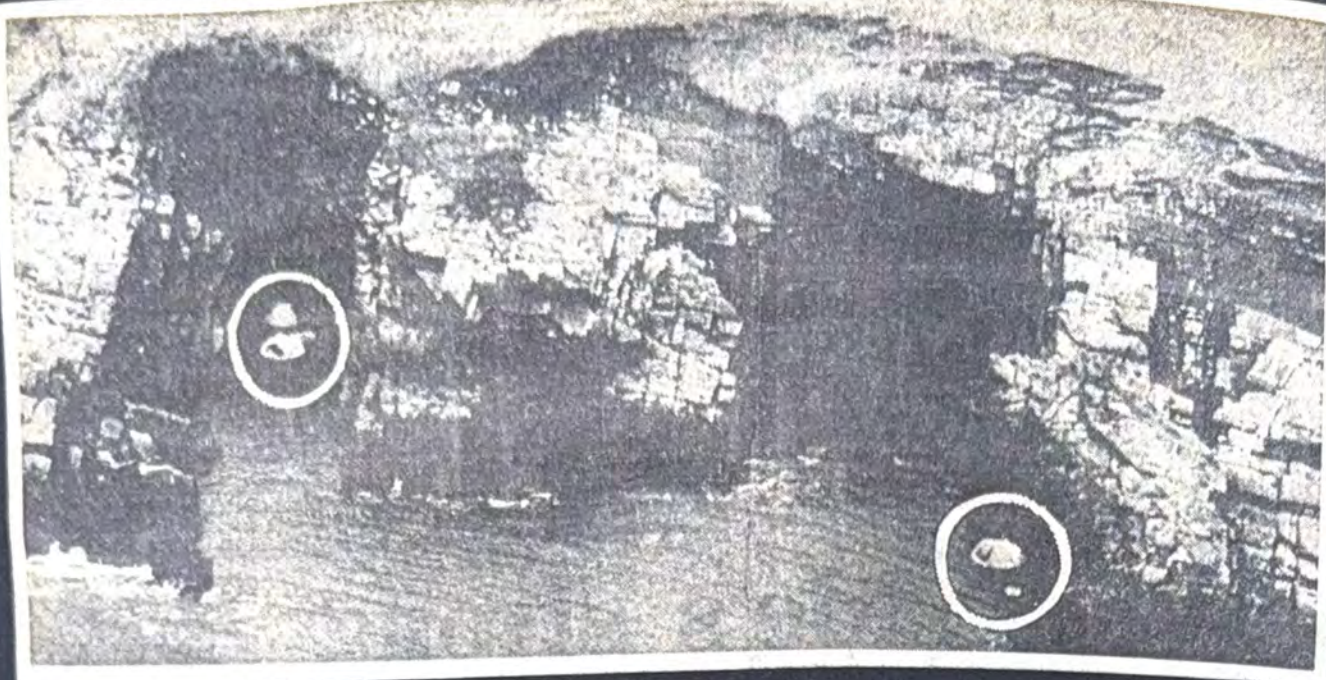


In this photograph of Coire an Lochain from Hamish MacInnes's book "Scottish Climbs" Vol. 2, the Vent, which was climbed by the two men before their fall, is Route No. 1. The area marked GS (Great Slab) is prone to avalanche under certain conditions. Jean's Hut is in the foreground.

26 Jan. 75

Ron Scott  
John Williamson  
Tony Goodyear





WHITE circles spotlight life rafts and dinghies washed up on the Isle of Swona from the German stern trawler Thunfisch. This picture was taken from a Nimrod aircraft flying out of RAF Kinloss.

31 January 1975

1. Ron Scott  
John Williamson  
Tony Goodyear
2. Dave Cosby  
Tug Wilson  
Andy Ball

## Trawlmen plucked to safety in air-sea rescue

THE CREW of the German trawler Thunfisch—plucked to safety yesterday by lifeboat and helicopter when their vessel sank in a heavy swell at the entrance to the Pentland Firth—are being flown home by chartered plane today from Kirkwall.

A land, sea and air search involving the Longhope, Wick and Thurso lifeboats, three helicopters and Nimrod aircraft was launched at dawn after distress flares were sighted at Broughness on South Ronaldsay and Duncansby Head in Caithness.

Flt-Lt Ron Scott, one of the RAF Lossiemouth helicopter pilots, takes up the rescue story:

"As we approached the uninhabited island of Swona, there was a large orange lifeboat upside down in the water. We went down beside it but in no way could anyone have been alive there. We flew on and spotted a number of life rafts up against the rocks with people in the raft and also on shore."

In all, 10 men were air-lifted 12 miles to Kirkwall while the Longhope lifeboat picked up three survivors adrift on a life raft and a further seven from Swona itself.

A Kirkwall coastguard said: "We got the Mayday from the vessel at 5.47 in the morning. The skipper very courageously stayed behind to make it, although it actually gave an incorrect position. It was the distress flares that gave the true position."

## Germans saved after ship sink

By JAMES ROBERTSON

Seventeen West German trawlermen paddled rough heavy seas in life rafts yesterday to the safety of an uninhabited island in the Pentland Firth after their vessel had foundered on rocks and sank.

They were found on the island of Swona, between South Ronaldsay and an RAF helicopter as for their safety mounted among coastguards and other searching for them.

The three other members of the crew of the Thunfisch (824 tons), which sank about two miles north of Duncansby Head in poor visibility and winds near gale force, had already been picked up from a life raft in the firth by the Longhope lifeboat.

The Thunfisch was heading for the northern fishing grounds from Bremerhaven when she foundered at about 6.30 a.m. Most of the crew were asleep at the time, but some managed to fire distress flares before abandoning the trawler and clambering into their life rafts.

The helicopter was one of two from RAF Lossiemouth which took part in the search for the Thunfisch's crew along with Nimrod from RAF Kinloss and the Longhope, Wick and Thurso lifeboats.

### ON BEACH

The helicopter which found 17 trawlermen, including Captain Gunter Jauchuk, had sighted their three life rafts on a beach on the island.

They flew the skipper and others to Kirkwall in two runs. The ten others were picked up by the Longhope lifeboat.

The rescued men were taken to Balfour Hospital.

### HAVEN

"The crew were very fortunate that the tide and wind took them to Swona and also that their life rafts happened to strike the only haven on the island."

A crew member said at Kirkwall last night: "The ship went down very quickly after we hit a rock. Most of us were asleep at the time. Our ship's lifeboat was swamped and we had to swim for the four inflatable life rafts. We had no idea where we were. We seemed to be in the water for hours."

Most of the crew were taken to the town's Balfour Hospital but all were discharged by afternoon—including the skipper, Capt. Gunter Jauchuk—after treatment for exposure and minor injuries.

Mr William Jolly, Kirkwall agent of the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society, said: "I have never seen a crew come ashore in a worse state." The men Mr Jolly and his son William rekkited wore only trousers and jerseys and were barefoot.

Another vital part in the rescue—which was completed by mid-morning—was performed by Kirkwall Grammar School German teacher Mr John Marshall. He interpreted for the crew, none of whom speak English, at the hospital and elsewhere.

It is thought the trawler, which was heading for the fishing grounds off Iceland, sank on the Louthier Skerry. The Pentland Skerries midway between Orkney and Caithness are a notorious hazard for shipping.



14 Feb 75

Geoff Leeming

Dave Pells

Jim Clark

## Sick Russian seaman flown in

A NURSE is on hand at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, to meet the Russian seaman landed there yesterday by helicopter from Cape Wrath with suspected appendicitis.

The call for assistance went out from the Russian stern trawler, Daynava,

fishing off the North coast. The helicopter, piloted by Flt-Lt. Geoff Lee, located the vessel three miles off Cape Wrath.

A hospital spokesman said last night the seaman was being kept "under observation."



## Four rescued as boat sinks off Buchan

FOUR Danish fishermen abandoned their sinking vessel in stormy waters off the Buchan coast yesterday and took to a tiny liferaft.

The crew of the 81-ton Jenny Jensen were all hauled aboard the Fraserburgh fishing boat Constellation, which had stood by them for several hours as they foundered in a Force 8 gale.

Last night Skipper Leo Pedersen (28); Jens Ron Pedersen (25); Karl Klausen (24), and Pieter Ringgaard (30) were recovering at Fraserburgh as the oil supply vessel Ranger tried to tow their vessel into the Buchan port.

But the Ranger had gone only a short distance when their towrope snapped. Although they managed to get a wire on board, the seven-year-old Jenny Jensen sank about 13 miles north-east of Kinnaird Head.

The rescue operation began just after lunchtime and involved coastguards, two helicopters from RAF Lossiemouth and several ships. Macduff lifeboat was also alerted.

Eating a meal at the Fraserburgh Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, crew member Pieter Ringgaard told "The Press and Journal" what happened.

He said they had been making for Fraserburgh to have their nets mended when their fish room—containing about 15 tons of industrial trawl—began to fill with water.

### SPILL

The room quickly filled up and the water spilled into the machine room, stopping the engines.

While the crew were desperately trying to pump out the water, their pump broke down and their vessel began to sink quickly—1ft in 20 minutes at one stage.

A distress call brought a number of boats to their aid, including the oil tender Truo Grit; the tanker Belgulf Progress the Oxenturm and later the Ranger.

Skipper Joe Buchan took out the Constellation with Fraserburgh harbourmaster Capt. John Anderson on board.

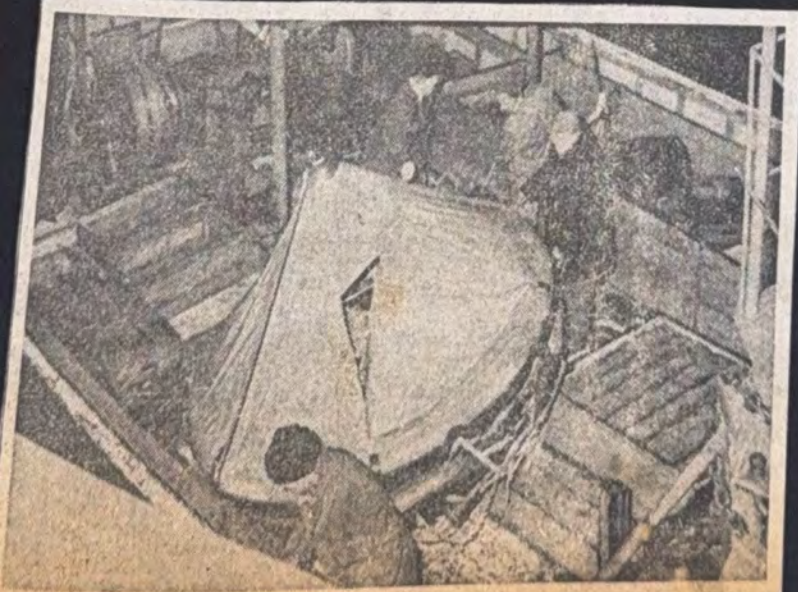
Peterhead coastguards, who were co-ordinating the rescue operation, alerted RAF Lossiemouth, who sent a helicopter.

Light was fading as the helicopter refuelled at RAF Buchan and another helicopter took off from Lossiemouth to airlift the crew to safety if they agreed to leave the boat.

But before it arrived the men had abandoned ship.

16 Feb. 75

1. Ron Scott  
John Williamson  
Tony Goodyear
2. Geoff Leeming  
Dave Pells  
Jim Clark



THE LIFERAFT on board the Constellation last night.



# Climbers tell of 12-hour cliff ordeal

Two climbers who spent more than 12 hours lashed to a cliff face on a bleak Cairngorm peak walked to safety yesterday ... to be told that three mountain rescue teams and an RAF helicopter had been out looking for them.

20 Feb. 75

Geoff Leeming  
Dave Pells  
Jim Clark

As darkness fell on Lochnagar, a few miles from Ballater, Aberdeenshire, climbers Robin Brooks and Paul Bennett hiked back to their base camp near the Spittal of Glenmuick.

Brooks (30), a printer, of 78 Rochester Street, Chatham, Kent, and Bennett (28), a designer, of 92 Chadwin Road, East Ham, London, were with a party of seven other climbers spending a week in the area.

On Wednesday the two tried to scale the West Gully but at nightfall they were still on the cliff face 3500 feet up and near the summit.

## MUCH TOUGHER

Robin said: "It's classed as grade three climb but some others are a cakewalk compared to this. It was a lot tougher than we thought. We just ran out of daylight."

Paul said: "Rather than scramble around in the dark we found a ledge, drove in a peg, and clipped ourselves on for the night. The weather was atrocious—gales and snow. We didn't sleep a wink."

At daylight yesterday the pair began their descent and made for their camp round the other side of the mountain. They were unaware that one of their companions had reported them missing at midday.

# Climber tumbles 600ft and lives

A MAN fell 600ft from a mountainside yesterday — and lived.

Gordon Wainwright (34), of Hinderton Avenue, Birkenhead, escaped with a broken leg and rib injuries when he fell about 300ft into the snow and slid another 300ft to the cliff bottom while climbing on the icy face of 3591ft Coire Ardair, near Loch Laggan, Inverness-shire.

He had almost completed his climb and was roped to his colleague, Robert Hastings (25), of Mount Road, Aigburth, Liverpool, when two pitons gave way.

Mr Hastings, who took the initial shock and strain in trying to halt Mr Wainwright, was also pulled down but escaped with a shaking.

Both are members of the Ana Basis Climbing Club, Liverpool. Eight other members of the club, assisted by men of Inverness Mountaineering Club, used a stretcher from a mountain refuge, to carry the injured man to a helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth, Moray.

The helicopter, with the two climbers aboard, had to be diverted because of darkness to Dalcross Airport, several miles from Inverness, and the two climbers were then taken on to Raigmore Hospital, Inverness.

Dr Ian Richardson of Laggan, had been taken by the helicopter to the scene of the accident, where he treated Mr Wainwright.

Chief Inspector John MacLean of Kingussie, in charge of the rescue operation, praised the skill of the helicopter pilot and crew in carrying out their mission in the fading daylight.

"They did an excellent job," he said.

The helicopter was crewed by Flight Lt. Carl Mason, pilot; Flight Lt. "Tug" Wilson, navigator, and Master Signaller Jack Bickford, winchman.

The Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team and a party of RAF men were alerted by the police in case they were needed to carry the injured man several miles across difficult terrain to safety.

23 Feb. 75

Carl Mason  
Tug Wilson  
Jack Bickford



## First police mountain rescue man retires at Fort-William



BECAUSE of the advancement in technical climbing, mountain rescue teams are being involved in more hazardous rescues when things go wrong.

Sgt. Roy MacKenzie (centre), Fort William, Britain's first police mountain search and rescue co-ordinator, said this on his retirement after 28 years' service with the Inverness-shire constabulary. The last three of those years were spent on mountain rescue work.

A television set from his colleagues was presented to him by Inspector D. Fraser.

Sgt. MacKenzie, on joining the police, served throughout the county, and was associated with mountain rescue work in the Isle of Skye, Kingussie and Fort-William.

He considers that the RAF helicopter service will play a greater part in mountain rescue work, because, since his appointment, it has been given "ungrudgingly", he feels.

He recalled that in 1974 22 helicopter flights were carried out in connection with mountain rescue and 27 casualties were evacuated.

He praised the RAF personnel for their speedy evacuation of injured persons. They would not have survived, but for the RAF, he said.

Over the three years since he took over, he believes police and civilian teams have greatly improved. Things now run

much more smoothly, he said, and the result is a much more efficient rescue service.

But he agreed that in the past there had been a certain amount of friction between police and civilian teams; that the attitude had been "them" and "us."

He was convinced that since Mr Andrew McClure was made chief constable of Inverness-shire, supported by the joint police committee, the mountain rescue services had im-

proved "beyond all recognition," and were now looked upon as an example by the rest of the United Kingdom and by Scotland in particular.

Sgt. MacKenzie related how the post was created in 1972 when it was decided that there was a pressing need for a mountain rescue co-ordinator. Before that time, matters concerning rescue work in Inverness-shire were the concern of a number of different departments within the police service.





THE

# Lighthouse

This is not an official publication. Opinions expressed are those of individual authors and do not necessarily reflect official policy.

VOLUME 2 No. 1

THE RAF LOSSIEMOUTH STATION BULLETIN

MARCH 1974

## Forres boy flown to hospital

A FORRES toddler, was flown by helicopter to hospital in Aberdeen after being knocked down by a car near his home.

Two-year-old Scott Glen son of Mr and Mrs Raymond Glen, 19 Fleurs Crescent, who was badly injured, was first taken to Leachnoll Hospital, Forres, then transferred to Dr Gray's Hospital, Elgin.

A request was made to the RAF authorities at Lossiemouth for a helicopter. Within minutes a helicopter, piloted by FR-1E Carl Mason, landed at Elgin City's football ground at Borough Briggs, picked up young Scott and flew him to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary.

Scott was fairly comfortable last night. He is in the Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital.

5 March  
Carl Mason  
Tug Wilson  
Andy Ball

## SAR HELICOPTER FUEL SERVICE

'THE SEARCH AND RESCUE HELICOPTER HAS BEEN SCRAMBLED...'

To those who live and work at RAF Lossiemouth this is an all too familiar tannoy message. For some of us it may excite a moment's thought for the people in trouble and their rescuers. The latter, 202 Squadron 'D' Flight, we all have good reason to be proud of, but they are not the subject of this article. No... I am going to be a cad and ignore these guys, to tell everyone about one small facet of their support, the work of the Search and Rescue Helicopter Fuel Service.

The story all starts with the SAR Helicopter itself—the bright yellow Whirlwind Mk. 10. Any helicopter pilot will tell you what's wrong with it (and sometimes what's right). One of its problems is that it doesn't go far enough. It has only a 90-nautical mile range, very far, especially if you consider the area that 'D' Flight cover. So obviously they must pick up fuel. The North of Scotland isn't known for its profusion of airfields, so this is where the Search and Rescue Fuel Service comes in.

Dotted around North and North-East Scotland, mostly on the coast, are 12 pre-stocked fuel sites containing on average some 540 gallons of Avtur fuel. These sites are maintained by a group of stalwarts from the POL Flight of RAF Lossiemouth's Supply and Movements Squadron. Until recently, the Flight was not established to carry out this job so it was done alongside their normal work mostly over weekends.

Keeping the sites up to scratch is by no means an easy task. A round trip of the sites covers 1,129 miles which is like a trip to London and back (or even a trip to Vienna as the crow flies!). Also much of this is on single-track roads.

Starting at Lossiemouth the 'round the sites trip' goes to Buchan, Aviemore, Fort William, North Connell, Plockton, Glenbrittle (on Skye), Aultbea, Lochinver, Durness, Dounreay, Wick, Tain, and then back to Lossie. Of course it's only



The Fuel Site and Landing Ground at Plockton

A Map of the SAR Fuel Sites



on inspections that a round trip is done, but nevertheless in the 12 months up to the end of January this year 29,109 miles were covered (a good circuit of the earth). The busiest month was October, '74, when 10 runs were mounted involving 15 days out and 3388 miles covered. An oft-quoted phrase is 'lies, damned lies and statistics.' Here are some more which are true and speak eloquently of the effort put in by the POL men. Last year 163 men spent 190 days out on fuel run; some 20,270 man-days, all in support of SAR Fuel. Although this is mostly done during the summer, some very bad weather has been experienced and in often poor conditions it is amazing just how quickly a trip can be completed. In good weather the same trip can take much longer.

Sgt. Bob Taylor, until recently in charge of POL at RAF Lossiemouth, last year logged some 20 runs. Cpl. Norman Saunders is just one down with 19, but SAC Bill Main holds the record with 22 completed. SAC's Lou Connolly and Jim Durkin logged up 17 and 9 respectively. Many other people have done trips, often volunteers from

elsewhere in the Squadron. I think anyone would agree that the whole operation is quite an achievement but just one small part of S & R Squadron and Station support for 'D' Flight and one small part of the support that goes into ensuring that every Scramble results in a successful rescue.

GWYNNE JENKINS

## Copter makes mercy flight to Eigg

A RESCUE helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth last night made a mercy flight to the Isle of Eigg to take injured people to hospital at Fort William.

Elderly Mrs Sarah Campbell, Howlin Cottage, and Mr Lachlan Maclean (20), Griannan, son of the island's doctor, were hurt when a car driven by Mr Maclean and another vehicle in which Mrs Campbell was a passenger were in collision. The helicopter landed at Fort William's Town Park

and a waiting ambulance took them to Beiford Hospital.

Mr Maclean walked unaided from the helicopter but Mrs Campbell had to be carried by stretcher. She has a broken thigh bone.

Both were 'satisfactory' last night.

The island, which has only two and a half miles of roads, was taken over recently by landowner Mr Keith Schellenberg, Uday Castle, Aberdeenshire.

26 March  
Dave Cosby  
John Williamson  
Tony Goodyear



Glenbrittle in the Isle of Skye



## Search for skier to resume today

A search for a skier who went missing in the Cairngorms after a blizzard yesterday will start at first light today.

Last night a search for a second missing person, a girl student who had gone walking in the mountain foothills, was called off after she was reported safe and well.

Members of the Cairngorm Mountain Rescue Team had gone out to look for Miss Hadas Freedman (21), of 31 Manor Road North, Esher, Surrey, when she turned up.

Conditions on the mountains were described as "wild, with poor visibility" by the police, when the search for the skier was called off in fading daylight.

A severe blizzard swept the area yesterday and reinforcement rescue parties are expected to resume the search this morning. Members of the Search and Rescue Dog Association of Scotland assisted in last night's operations.

## Little hope for missing skier

There was little hope last night for a skier missing for 30 hours in the Cairngorms. Mr Stanley Davies (51), of Ware Road, Hertford, had still not been found when darkness drove searchers off the mountains.

He has not been seen since just before noon on Monday, after setting off on a cross-country run.

About 60 experienced rescue workers — including RAF men — had combed the mountains all day with the aid of dogs and an RAF helicopter.

They concentrated on the Coire Cas area — 3000 feet above sea level and nine miles from Aviemore — where Mr Davies was last seen. They were threatened by avalanches and hampered by heavy snow and the worst spring blizzard on record in the district.

## Skier's body found

A BODY, thought to be that of a missing skier, was found in the Cairngorms yesterday — just 300 yards from a main ski run.

Mr Stanley Davies (51), of Hertford, disappeared on Monday during a blizzard.

The body was found about 2500ft. up by Mrs Pat Scarbrough, Aviemore. A member of the Search and Rescue Dog Association of Scotland, she was out with her Labrador.

A police spokesman at Kingussie last night paid tribute to the searchers — the RAF team from Leuchars and Kinloss, the Cairngorm Mountain Rescue team, the Glenmore Lodge team, the Dog Search and Rescue Association and the 12 Irish policemen who were in the area on a mountaineering course.

"They deserve all credit for their magnificent efforts in absolutely atrocious weather. The conditions were simply appalling," said the spokesman.

Police warned yesterday of extreme avalanche dangers in the Cairngorms following the blizzards.

# Missing skier's body found by search party

By CHRIS MULLINGER

The search which started on Monday in the Cairngorms for a cross-country skier, Mr Stanley Davies (51), of Hartford, was called off yesterday after a body was found by a rescue party.

The body was found as the North of Scotland counted the cost of the worst blizzards to hit the area for years. Electricity supplies and telephone services to several areas were still out of action last night.

As the winds abated and the snow continued falling, Inverness-shire police said that the biggest danger now is from avalanches. Roads, however, were almost back to normal with the Automobile Association reporting that only the A93 Cockbridge-Tomintoul and A941 Rhynie-Dufftown roads remained closed. Care was needed, however, on most roads.

The body of the skier was found near a main ski run by Mrs Pat Scarbrough, of Aviemore, who was out with her Labrador dog as a member of the Search and Rescue Dog Association of Scotland.

She found the body about 300 yards from the White Lady Sheiling.

Chief Inspector John MacLean praised the 90 men and women and eight dogs who had taken part in the search for Mr Davies in the "most atrocious" conditions.

Yesterday, skiers at Aviemore were enjoying excellent conditions as the weather improved and roads and ski slopes were opened, but Chief Inspector MacLean said that with heavy snow falls alternating with hard frosts there was "extreme danger" of avalanches.

North of Scotland Hydro Electric Board line-men were out again yesterday to repair damage caused by the blizzards and several isolated communities were still without electricity last night, mostly in Aberdeenshire.

Telephones too were still out of action with more than 1000 faults being handled yesterday by repair gangs. The Army helped out by making 12 mobile generators available to the Post Office

so that telephone service could be restored to some areas. The generators were offered by the 51st Highland Signals (TA) Squadron based in Aberdeen.

A Post Office spokesman said about 12 exchanges were operating on batteries or generators and two, Moneymusk and Wartle, were operating a restricted service.

Farmers in the North of Scotland have suffered as a result of the heavy snowfalls and blizzards. Though it was not possible yet to estimate losses, thousands of lambs are thought to have been buried.

The blizzards and cold weather "could not have happened at a worse time," said a spokesman for the National Farmers' Union. Not only had it hit at lambs but the cold spell would delay sending livestock out to graze.

Snow again delayed work on the last section of the Ballachulish Bridge yesterday. Engineers have been trying for several days to start work on the final, centre section, and they hope to have the link-up completed by the end of the month.

8/9&10 March  
Geoff Leeming  
Willy Gault  
Jim Clark

Ron Scott  
John Williamson  
Jack Bickford



# HELICOPTER HEROES' BRAVERY RECOGNISED

THE three-man crew of the helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth which saved the crew of nine of a Belgian trawler in December had their bravery recognised this week.

Pilot **Flt-Lt. Dave Cosby** (31) and Winchman **Pete Barwell** (35) are to receive the Air Force Cross, and the Navigator **Flt-Lt. Charles Taylor** the Queen's Commendation. It is the first time all three members of a helicopter crew have been given such high recognition.

The rescue of the nine fishermen took place at the base of the 600 feet cliffs of Hoy in Orkney, where the trawler had gone ashore. In winds gusting to 45 knots the helicopter went to within 12 feet of the cliffs and picked the seamen from the sloping deck, transferring them to the Longhope lifeboat which was standing by unable to come closer than 200 yards because of the conditions.

"All three crew members acted with courage, skill and determination in the face of great dangers," says the citation.

# THE RAF LOSSIEMOUTH AWARDS FOR D FLIGHT, 202 SQUADRON

APRIL, 1975

ON 7th April, 1975, Flt. Lts. Cosby and Taylor, and Master Air Loadmaster Barwell, of D Flight, 202 Sqn., were presented with awards made in recognition of their rescue of 9 trawlermen from a Belgian vessel which had run aground off the Island of Hoy, Orkney, on 21st December, 1974. The awards were presented by the Station Commander, Group Captain R. J. Offord, AFC, in the presence of the local and national news media.

For their parts in the rescue, Flt. Lt. Cosby and Master Air Loadmaster Barwell were awarded the Air Force Cross, and Flt. Lt. Taylor, The Queen's Commendation For Valuable Service in the Air. The particulars of gallantry for which the recommendations were made are reproduced below.

## Flt. Lt. Dave Cosby

On 21st December, 1974, Flt. Lt. Cosby was Duty Captain at D Flight, 202 Squadron, Royal Air Force, Lossiemouth, when he was notified that a Belgian trawler with a 9-man crew had run aground on rocks on the Island of Hoy, Orkney. He took off in a Whirlwind MK 10 in the early morning and at first light reached the trawler which was lying on its side, parallel to and approximately 25 yards from, the base of a 600-foot cliff. The vessel was being pounded by heavy seas which were constantly breaking over her and at times almost engulfing her. The Longhope lifeboat had arrived but was prevented by the heavy seas and submerged rocks from getting nearer than 200 yards. The weather was clear but the south-westerly wind was 20-25 knots, gusting to 40 knots, and helped by the rising tide was gradually pushing the trawler closer to the cliff.

Flt. Lt. Cosby knew at once the risks involved in hovering only 25 yards from the cliff in such turbulent conditions but he also recognised the immediate and increasing danger to the ship's crew, and therefore decided to transfer them to the nearby lifeboat. The winchman was lowered but the height of the trawler's

superstructure and radio aerial prevented the aircraft hovering lower than 50 feet above the deck, which was angled at 45 degrees, and the considerable pendulum effect caused by the length of the cable, aggravated by the severe air turbulence, made it extremely difficult for the winchman to reach the vessel safely. The task was further complicated by having to face into wind, thereby putting the tail rotor dangerously close to the cliff face. Throughout the operation, which was carried out 9 times, the winchman was in constant danger of being battered against either the trawler or the rocks and only the superb flying skill displayed by Flt. Lt. Cosby and the excellent co-ordination between him and the winch operator enabled the whole operation to be completed safely in 45 mins.

Flt. Lt. Cosby's courage and coolness in the face of great danger to himself and his crew undoubtedly saved the trawlermen from a perilous situation, and his exceptional display of flying under extremely difficult conditions is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Royal Air Force.

## Flt. Lt. Chas. Taylor

On 21st December, 1974, Flight Lieutenant Taylor was the navigator on board a Whirlwind of D Flight, 202 Squadron, Royal Air Force, Lossiemouth, which was called to assist a Belgian trawler in distress. The trawler, which had a 9-man crew on board, had run aground on rocks on the Island of Hoy, Orkney. The aircraft arrived on the scene at first light and found the trawler lying on its side, parallel to and approximately 25 yards from, the base of a 600-foot vertical cliff. The vessel was being pounded by heavy seas which were constantly breaking over her and at times almost engulfing her. The Longhope lifeboat had arrived but was prevented by the heavy seas and submerged rocks from getting nearer than 200 yards. The weather was clear but the south-westerly wind was 20-25 knots, gusting to 40 knots, and helped by the rising tide was gradually pushing the trawler closer to the cliff. The pilot immediately realised the risks involved in hovering only 25 yards from the cliff in such turbulent conditions but he also recognised the immediate and increasing danger to the ship's crew, and therefore decided to transfer them to the nearby lifeboat. The winchman was lowered but the height of the trawler's superstructure and radio aerial prevented the aircraft hovering lower than 50 feet above the



The Station Commander congratulates Flt. Lt. Cosby and his crew members, with Flt. Lt. Scott, AFC, OC D Flight, 202 Squadron, looking on.

deck, which was angled at 45 degrees, and the considerable pendulum effect caused by the length of the cable, aggravated by the severe air turbulence, made it extremely difficult for the winchman to reach the vessel safely. Throughout the operation, which was carried out 9 times, there was always a risk that the aircraft would be driven into the cliff by a gust of wind, and the winchman was in constant danger of being battered against either the trawler or the rocks, but Flight Lieutenant Taylor operated the winch with such commend-

(Continued on Page 2)

## TWO RED SHOES BALLROOM ELGIN

### DANCING

Wednesdays 9.30-12.00 (over 25's night)  
Fridays 9.30-1.00  
Saturdays 9.30-12.00

Bus to Forres via Lossiemouth after  
Dance on Friday and Saturday.

## \* FROZEN FOODS

SAVE! SAVE! SAVE!  
Branded Quality at a Discount

- \* A Complete range of Freezer Foods
- \* Chocolate and Confectionery
- \* Biscuits, Cakes, Crisps
- \* Dry Goods and Groceries
- \* Pre-Packaged Meats, etc.

## ELGIN HOME FREEZER SERVICE



# Awards for heroes of sea rescue

Three members of the Royal Air Force have received awards for exceptional skill and courage in dangerous flying conditions. The awards are announced in the London Gazette today.

The men, crewing an RAF helicopter, rescued nine Belgian trawlermen as their vessel broke up on rocks around the Island of Hoy, Orkney, on December 21 last year.

Crew members Flt-Lt. David Cosby and Master Air Load-

master Peter Barwell, each receive the Air Force Cross and Flt-Lt. Charles Taylor receives the Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air.

The rescue helicopter from No. 22 Squadron, RAF Lossiemouth, was called out at dawn. Flt-Lt. Cosby was duty captain. He reached the trawler at first light, to find it lying on its side, parallel to the shore, and about 25 yards from the base of a 600ft cliff.

It was being pounded by heavy seas, and slowly breaking up as strong winds and the incoming tide combined to push it further towards the rocks at the base of the cliff. The Longhope lifeboat had arrived, but could get no closer than 200 yards.

Flt-Lt. Cosby decided the only way to save the trawlermen was by transferring them one by one to the lifeboat. He took the helicopter perilously close to the cliff face nine times, and hovered while the winchman, MALM Barwell, was lowered to the trawler deck, constantly in danger of being dashed against the trawler or the rocks at the end of his 50ft cable.

The rescue took 45 minutes and the citation states that only the superb flying skill of Flt-Lt. Cosby and the excellent co-ordination between him and the winch operator, Flt-Lt. Taylor, enabled the operation to be completed safely. All three crew members acted with courage, skill and determination in the face of great dangers, the citation states.

Flt-Lt. Cosby (31), was born in Bournemouth, Hampshire, and joined the RAF in 1961. He is married and lives at Lossiemouth.

Master Air Loadmaster Barwell (34), is a Londoner who joined the RAF in 1957. He is married and lives at Elgin.

Flt-Lt. Taylor (42), the winch operator and navigator on the rescue flight, was born at Sittingbourne, Kent and joined the RAF in 1951. He is married and lives with his wife at Lossiemouth.

## Orkney Rescue Services big 'Thank You' from German Trawler owners

THE TIME was eight o'clock on the evening of Friday, April 11, 1975—a cold northerly breeze gently rocked the tiny fishing vessels secured alongside in Kirkwall Harbour.

This was the setting as fifty guests, mainly from the maritime rescue services, assembled in the Kirkwall Hotel at the invitation of Hanseatische Hochseefischeri, Bremerhaven, Germany, the owners of the ill-fated "Thunfisch" which sank within minutes of striking the Pentland Skerries during a northerly gale on the morning of January 31, 1975. Fortunately, the entire crew of 20 were rescued by two helicopters from R.A.F. Lossiemouth and the Longhope lifeboat, after being swept through the Pentland Firth on their liferafts and tossed up on the shores of the uninhabited island of Swona.

Earlier in the afternoon the Hanseatische Hochseefischeri executive turbo-jet aircraft with seven on board had flown in to Kirkwall Airport from Bremerhaven to entertain their guests to a marvellous buffet, both solid and liquid refreshment being in abundant supply throughout the evening.

When asked why they had gone to all this trouble Captain Harald Bornemann, marine superintendent for the company, said: "It was an excellent rescue. We were so surprised. Where else would you get two helicopters, an aircraft, three lifeboats along with Coastguards and so many other people going to the help of one small ship. We just had to come back and say 'Thank you'."

### QUICK RESCUE

Dieter Koch, director of the company, addressed the assembly saying: "We have come here tonight to thank you on behalf of the crew and their families and the company. When we heard the 'Thunfisch' had sunk we hoped for a quick rescue. But we need not have worried as it was a quick and magnificent rescue. I thank you all most sincerely." Continuing, Herr Koch said: "We have brought a few presents from Germany with us, which I would like you to have. They are not big, just a thank you gift."

Accepting the presents on behalf of the Orkney Coastguards was Mr George Bulpitt, Inspector H.M. Coastguard,

North Scotland Division; for the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society, Mr Billy Jolly, Snr., for the R.A.F. Helicopters and Nimrod aircraft, Flight Lieutenant Ron Scott, R.A.F. Lossiemouth, and for the Longhope lifeboat, Coxswain Jack Leslie.

Replying to Herr Koch on behalf of the assembly, Mr Bulpitt said: "It is not often we have the pleasure of meeting our customers as we call them. It is a pleasure for me to be here this evening and I would like to add my thanks to you all for without your help we in the Coastguard Service would be very much the poorer. Though they are not present here tonight, let me express my thanks to the crews of the Thurso and Wick lifeboats and the staff of Wick Radio who also played their part in the 'Thunfisch' rescue."

Other guests present with their partners were members of Kirkwall Airport Control, Fire and Ambulance service and the Meteorological Office.

Two lady guests were present from the Balfour Hospital, Kirkwall: Nursing Officer Mrs E. Street and State Enrolled Nurse Mrs Lisa Walls, who felt very much at home throughout the entire evening, having been born and brought up in Germany.

The evening was one of great satisfaction, and the first ever of its kind in Orkney. It ended around 11 o'clock to the strains of "Auld Lang Syne" played on the accordion by Betty Stewart and the merry singing of the entire company.

Thanks are extended to the German hosts and Mr Billy Jolly and his family for arranging an unforgettable evening.

### SCAPA MOORINGS

The two turntables have now been fitted to the single-point mooring towers in Scapa Flow off Flotta. Those for Alpha mooring were fitted on Tuesday and Bravo on Monday.

The turntables arrived on the barge Milus IV operated by Rispon Beazley Marine.



## Hermit ill

A MAN who lived like a hermit in North-west Sutherland was yesterday flown by helicopter to Culduthel Hospital, Inverness, after becoming ill in his shepherd's cottage, seven miles from the nearest road.

Middle-aged James MacGrory Smith lives at Strathcallach, about 12 miles from Kinlochbervie. The alarm was raised when he did not collect provisions at Kinlochbervie.

Last night he was "satisfactory."

16 April  
Ron Scott  
John Williamson  
Tony Goodyear

## Helicopter called to search for boy

A helicopter and a police dog have been called in to search for a missing boy, Donald Malcolm Carmichael (14), of Old Manse, Loth, near Brora, Sutherland, left his home with his sister on Monday morning to go to Golspie High School.

His sister caught the first bus and Donald was to have caught another bus ten minutes later but did not get on it.

A helicopter from mRAF Lossiemouth and a police dog from Inverness have been called in to help the reserve mountain rescue team. If the boy is not found tonight the full rescue team will be called in today to intensify the search.

22 April  
Geoff Leeming  
Willy Gault  
Jim Clark

## Pilot escapes crash

A FRONT-LINE flying instructor at RAF Lossiemouth ejected to safety yesterday seconds before his Jaguar jet aircraft crashed "in a ball of fire" into a field on the southern outskirts of the airfield.

Flt-Lt. Whitney Griffiths (31) was flying over the station during a routine training flight when engine difficulties developed.

He made a low-level ejection just before the plane plummeted into the field at Westerfolds Farm near Duffus—only a few hundred yards from the farm buildings and a group of cottages.

Flt-Lt. Griffiths landed inside the airfield perimeter shaken but unhurt.

The plane disintegrated and wreckage was strewn over a wide area.

This is the first crash involving a Jaguar since the £2,000,000 Anglo-French supersonic low-level strike aircraft arrived at Lossiemouth about 18 months ago.

Flt-Lt. Griffiths is an instructor with the station's Jaguar operational conversion unit and is one of a number of top pilots who teach all RAF beginner pilots how to fly the new highly sophisticated and computerised aircraft.

A bachelor, he belongs to Stowmarket, Suffolk.

The drama was watched by three women—Mrs Helen Milne, Mrs Jessie Duguid and Mrs Helen Innes, all of Westerfolds Cottages, who were working in a vegetable field opposite the crash spot.

A shaken Mrs Milne said: "The plane was flying low over our heads and we looked up. The next thing the pilot ejected and the plane kept going. Then there was a ball of fire and two bangs."

"The plane went down and when the smoke cleared there was nothing left."

"Our legs were like jelly. We were very lucky."

An RAF spokesman said an inquiry would be held into the crash as soon as possible.

THE SCENE at Westerfolds Farm, Duffus, near Elgin, after a Jaguar jet crashed in a field skirting the RAF base.





## Air rescue bid fails

A RESCUE helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth was late last night thwarted in an attempt to reach a Portuguese Navy frigate off Peterhead to lift off a sick crewman.

the rendezvous point. It was later located by the Nimrod well beyond the helicopter's fuel range.

The frigate was later heading for Aberdeen where it was expected to arrive about 2 a.m. today with the sick man—he is believed to have appendicitis.

Neither the helicopter nor a Nimrod aircraft from RAF Kinloss could find the ship

7 May  
Dave Cosby  
Tug Wilson  
Andy Ball

A MACDUFF schoolboy was lifted to safety by helicopter after being trapped for almost three hours at the top of an 80ft. rock stack near Tarlair swimming pool.

William McGarrity (14), of 24 Moray Street, was hunting for gulls' eggs.

A friend raised the alarm and William, wearing only jeans and a sweater, was lifted to safety and taken to Banff's Chalmers Hospital suffering from shock and cold.

14 May  
Geoff Leeming  
Dave Pells  
Jim Clark

## Copter in Coolins rescue

A CLIMBER who collapsed with exhaustion yesterday was lifted from a mountain in the Coolins by a rescue helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth.

With others from the Ayrshire village of Galston, Mr Alexander Young (19) was climbing near the summit of Sgurr a Mhadaidh when he became ill.

Island police contacted Pitreavie rescue co-ordination centre, who sent the helicopter.

He was landed in a field beside Broadford Hospital,

18 May  
Carl Mason  
Tug Wilson  
Andy Ball

## CLIMBER RESCUED

Mr Alexander Young (19), of 26 Catherine Drive, Galston, Ayrshire, was rescued by an RAF helicopter after collapsing with exhaustion yesterday while climbing a t 3000 feet on Sgurr a Mhadaidh, Skye. He was admitted to Broadfoot Hospital.

## Moray man in mercy flight

A HELICOPTER from RAF landed at Borough Briggs football ground yesterday and picked up Mr Ian Marshall, 12 Burns Road, Lhandryde, who had received body burns while working in Gedloch quarry, Longmorn, near Elgin.

Mr Marshall was taken to Dr Gray's Hospital, Elgin, but it was decided to send him by helicopter to Woodend Hospital, Aberdeen. The helicopter, piloted by Fl-Lt. Jeff Lemming, landed at Aberdeen Airport, Durno, last night.

22 May  
Geoff Leeming  
Tug Wilson  
Tony Goodyear

## Boys Trapped At Nairn

AN R.A.F. helicopter was called out yesterday when two Moray boys were trapped on a sandbar at Nairn, with the tide rising.

They were John Akhurst and Peter Hall, both of Findhorn and both 14 years old.

Their plight was spotted from the shore. Within minutes, the helicopter was on the scene and the boys were airlifted to the beach.

Neither was any the worse for his experience.

24 May  
Dave Cosby  
John Williamson  
Jack Bickford



# FOG DELAYS 'COPTER RESCUE

**T**HICK fog off the North-East coast yesterday hampered the rescue of an injured crewman from an oil vessel.

A helicopter from R.A.F. Lossiemouth was called out.

Though the pilot, Flight-Lieut.

Geoff Leeming, knew to within a mile where the vessel was, off Peterhead, it was impossible to see because of fog.

Eventually he spotted the wake of the pipe-carrier Inagüe Light and followed it until he reached the vessel.

The crewman, suffering from broken ribs and suspected internal injuries after an accident, was winched on board and flown to Aberdeen.

An ambulance transferred him to the Royal Infirmary.

21 June  
Dave Pells &  
Tony Goodyear  
came for the  
excitement

## Mix-up leads to Loch Ness search

**A**N Aberdeen man sparked off a massive police search on the shore of Loch Ness yesterday.

Mr Stanley Falconer (50), 28 Sheddocks'ey Road, was following from the road as his sons, Douglas (21) and Peter (17), canoed down the loch towards Fort-William.

But a pre-arranged rendezvous at Foyers on Monday night did not take place.

Mr Falconer went further down the loch looking for the boys. They started searching for him. Mr Falconer's inquiries took him to the other side of the loch.

Then at 1.30 a.m. yesterday the boys reported their father missing.

Police moved in early yesterday with an "incidents" caravan and a helicopter was called from RAF Kinloss.

Police went down to the shore line and up to the hills above the loch. A boat was made ready for a sweep of the loch.

Then just after 12 noon, Mr Falconer was flagged down by a police patrol at Whitebridge and the search was over.

### GRATEFUL

Mr Falconer and his sons were reluctant to speak of the search, which, at its peak, involved 22 policemen.

Before getting into his van with his sons, Mr Falconer said: "When I saw the police I thought something had happened to the boys. This happened because of a simple misunderstanding over where we were going to meet."

"They were looking for me and I was looking for them."

"I thought they had gone on farther down the loch and was down as far as Fort-Augustus looking for them. I was across on the other side. I didn't get any sleep last night and they haven't had any sleep either."

He declined to give further details. "But there is one thing — just say I'm very grateful to the police for the quick way they reacted. It was very good of them to take the trouble they did."

## Island boy

**A** BOY, missing from home for 15 hours, was taken to hospital in South Uist yesterday after a search by the Army and a helicopter from RAS Lossiemouth.

Stewart Nicholson (11), Ardmohr, Eochar, was later transferred to Benbecula Medical Centre where he is being kept under observation. He was spotted in mid-afternoon while the helicopter was on its way to refuel at Benbecula Airport.

29 June  
Malcolm Carlyle  
John Williamson  
Jim Clark

24 June  
S/L Robins  
Willy Gault  
Andy Ball



## North car crash student airlifted

AN ENGLISH student, paralysed in a car crash while on holiday near Gairloch, Wester Ross, was taken by helicopter to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary last night.

Mr Julian Crowder (21), Farnham, Surrey, was with his parents at Badachro near Gairloch when a car he was driving crashed on Tuesday night.

It is thought his neck was broken. He was taken to Raigmore Hospital, Inverness.

Last night he went by helicopter, strapped in a special stretcher, to the infirmary. The RAF whirlwind helicopter from Lossiemouth landed in the Meadows.

His parents went separately to Edinburgh because there was no room on the helicopter. The student was accompanied by a doctor and nurse.

Flt. Lt. Carl Mason, the pilot, said the special stretcher — for paralysed patients — was almost too bulky to get through the door of the Whirlwind.

2 July  
Carl Mason  
Bazza Fisher  
Jack Bickford

## Crash man airlifted

AN RAF helicopter took Mr Fred Corbett, Ealing, London, from Fort-William to the City Hospital, Edinburgh, yesterday morning.

Mr Corbett had been involved in a car accident in Glencoe on Saturday afternoon and was taken to the Belford Hospital, Fort-William, by ambulance.

The helicopter landed at the town park, where Mr Corbett, who has multiple injuries, was taken aboard. Within an hour it touched down at the City Hospital.

## 'Flare-up' before Nairn sea-rescue exercises

GUY FAWKES night comes early to Nairn on Friday when old flares belonging to the town's sailing club go up in smoke.

But there's a serious note to the proceedings — for two officers from RAF Lossiemouth will instruct the members in the proper use of the flares.

The "flare-up" will precede demonstrations of air and sea rescue and survival in dinghies on Saturday.

Sailing club committee member Mr Brian Holmes said yesterday the demonstrations will begin about 11am when an air sea rescue launch will race along off Nairn beach and capsize two liferafts, a single-seater and a nine-seater.

A helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth will then fly in to winch the "victims" to safety.

In the afternoon there is a 16-mile yacht race, with about 15 cruisers from clubs including Nairn, Findhorn, Invergordon and Cromarty competing for two trophies.

## Helicopter's Cairngorms mercy trip in vain

AN RAF Lossiemouth helicopter's mercy mission into the Cairngorms on Saturday was in vain.

Mr Karl M. Reihle (72), was in a party of West Germans crossing the Cairngorms via the Larig Ghru pass when he collapsed near the Sinclair Hut.

Police at Kingussie asked the RAF for help and alerted Dr Neil Macdonald, Aviemore, an experienced mountain rescue man.

The helicopter, piloted by Flt-Lt. Carl Mason, with Flt-Lt. "Tug" Wilson navigator and Flt-Set. Andy Ball winchman, picked up Dr Macdonald, but reached the scene of the emergency only to find Mr Reihle dead.

12 July  
Carl Mason  
Tug Wilson  
Andy Ball







## Air-sea rescue simulated

COMING down to land on Macduff lifeboat from an RAF, Lossiemouth rescue helicopter... this demonstration of a rescue was a highlight of Portsoy RNLI's Lifeboat Day at Portsoy Harbour at the weekend. Later, the lifeboat crew, under coxswain George McKay, took parties for trips round the bay.



## In Command Of Rescue Flight

THE Rescue Helicopter Flight at RAF Lossiemouth has a new Commanding Officer, Flt. Lt. Geoff Leeming.

He has 10 years' "chopper" experience behind him, and takes over from Flt. Lt. Ron Scott, who is taking up an appointment at Army Headquarters, Northern Ireland, later this month.

Flt. Lt. Scott took the Flight — from No. 202 Squadron — north from Thorney Island to Lossiemouth two years ago, and since then the helicopters and their crews have carried out around 250 mercy missions all over the North-east, having been directly involved in rescuing some 100 persons.



## Lossie 'copter lifts climber to safety

A RESCUE helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth flew on a mercy mission into the Cairngorms last night to lift an injured young climber to safety.

Police said the youngster, in a party from Moray Sea School, Burghead, had head injuries after being hit by a falling rock while in the Larig Ghru pass.

The helicopter landed him at Aviemore Centre, where he was seen by a doctor before being flown on to Raigmore Hospital, Inverness.

Police at Kingussie said the youngster is Ian Holms (17), junior soldier from Lichfield, Staffs., attached to the Moray school.

He received his injuries at Lochan Buidhe and was picked up by the helicopter at the Curran refuge.

23 July  
Carl Mason  
John Williamson  
Andy Ball

## Alness man rescued in Cromarty Firth

AN ALNESS man being swept out to sea on an inflatable dinghy was plucked to safety from the Cromarty Firth last night in a combined rescue operation involving the public, the Coastguard and the RAF.

A 999 call was relayed to Coastguard headquarters at Peterhead saying that a man was being swept out of the Cromarty Firth between the North and South Sutors, east of the village of Cromarty.

The message was flashed to Cromarty to alert duty Coastguard Mr Donovan Fearnley and officer-in-charge Mr Charles McAskill.

A helicopter took off from RAF Lossiemouth.

The Coastguard raced to their look-out high on the South Sutor. They saw the lone occupant of the dinghy—Mr Brian Horne—two miles out from the Sutors and heading in the general direction of Norway.

Coastguard Fearnley said: "I don't know how he got there, but when we saw him he was paddling like the clappers to get back."

The coastguard with binoculars and radio "homed" the helicopter on the dinghy. Mr Horne was winched up and deposited back with his family on Nigg beach. He was unharmed.

And at Inverness, two Frenchmen took an unscheduled dip in the sea yesterday.

Patrick Morvan and Dominic Perney were sailing their 10ft dinghy a mile west of Clachnaharry when the craft capsized and they were thrown into the water.

The accident was seen by the lock keeper at Clachnaharry. The motor yacht Little Gull, waiting to go through the locks and into the Caledonian Canal, put out to pick them up.

Both men were unhurt and their dinghy was later recovered.

30 July  
Carl Mason  
Bazza Fisher  
Andy Ball

# R.A.F. 'COPTER IN CLIFF RESCUE DRAMA

A 14-YEAR-OLD Glasgow boy is critically ill in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary following a cliff accident on the Moray coast.

His rescue was watched by a crowd of more than 200, many of them holiday-makers.

The boy, Mark Tennant, of Netherview Road, Netherlee, is a member of the 237th Glasgow Boys' Brigade company, camping near Cullen.

On Friday evening, he went to climb rocks with some of his friends just east of Portknockie.

As they were scaling a difficult face, Mark slipped and fell about 120 feet.

Efforts to lift the boy to the cliff top by means of ropes and a stretcher had to be abandoned because of his serious injuries, and an R.A.F. helicopter was called in.

Piloted by Flight-Lieut. Carl Mason, with Flight-Lieut. Barry Fisher as navigator, it edged towards the cliffs in darkness with the blades only a few feet from the face.

The winchman, Sergeant Andy Ball, was landed on the shelf, where he and a local doctor got ready a stretcher to hoist up the boy.

At times the 'copter was so near the rocks it couldn't be seen by spectators peering over the cliff top.

With the critically-ill lad on board, the aircraft then made for Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, where an emergency operation was carried out in the early hours of the morning.

## Fatal accident at Portknockie camp

SIR,—Firstly, may I say that your report on the fatal accident at our summer camp at Portknockie on August 1 caused the injured boy's parents some distress. He was not climbing rocks with other boys, but slipped at the edge of the cliff path when returning to camp.

Secondly, I would be obliged if you could publish

our appreciation for all the willing assistance given by the following: Flt-Lieut. Carl Mason, Flt-Lieut. Barry Fisher, Sgt. Andy Ball, of RAF Lossiemouth; Dr A. W. Thomson, Cullen; the doctors and nurses of Aberdeen Royal Infirmary; the Rev. A. Swinton, hospital chaplain, Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, and to the coastguards,

police, farming people and holiday-makers.

It was our 50th anniversary of Portknockie. We express our deep regret despite the sad

Capt. D. S. MacGillivray, Glasgow Boys' Brigade, Park Avenue,

## Cliff boy critical

STILL "critically ill" in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary is 14-year-old Glasgow boy Mark Tennant, who was seriously injured in a 100ft cliff fall at Portknockie on Friday.

Mark, of Netherview Road, Netherlee, Glasgow, was rescued by helicopter and taken straight to Aberdeen where he underwent emergency surgery in Foresterhill.

1 August  
Carl Mason  
Bazza Fisher  
Andy Ball



# Skye searched from air for lost Dane

POLICE carried out a full-scale aerial search of the Island of Skye yesterday for a Danish student reported missing five days ago. Mr Peter Grensted (24), an engineering student at Copenhagen University, was last seen on Thursday by his companion, Mr Jon Marcher, Drumnadrochit. Police at Inverness received word the weekend that Grensted had taken a lift and was making his way to Skye. On Sunday police

checked camping sites and youth hostels on the island without success. Yesterday a helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth made a full-scale search concentrating on a stretch from Kyleakin to Armdale, where Grensted is believed to be walking. Police checked ferry departures from Armdale for Mallaig, but drew a blank there also. He is due to return to Denmark on Sunday, sailing from Newcastle to Esberg.

Police last night gave a full description of the missing student. He is 5ft. 8in. and has ginger hair and beard. When last seen he was wearing blue jeans, a blue shirt and blue pull-over and carrying a red-orange rucksack. He may be wearing a green combat jacket, and he was carrying a green one-mantent. Police are anxious to hear from the missing student or from anyone who might have seen him.

1 August  
Geoff Leeming  
Tug Wilson  
Jack Bickford  
Geoff Leeming  
Bazza Fisher  
Tony Goodyear

## Search in North hills for Danish student

A DANISH student who walked into the hills above Drumnadrochit to get away from midgets alerted police yesterday when he could not find his friend.

Jan Ole Marcher and Peter Grensted went fishing on Tuesday at Loch Nam Meur above Loch Ness.

On Wednesday morning, Grensted went fishing. His friend went into the hills. But when he returned, he thought Marcher had disappeared, set off to look for him and got lost.

But when Marcher arrived back at camp, he discovered his friend missing.

Eventually he informed police a helicopter from RAF Kinloss yesterday morning scoured the countryside. Police on foot searched forestry.

After two-and-a-half hours, Inverness Police heard Grensted was seen the previous day walking towards Fort-William.

The copter was called off and police concentrated on camping sites.

But later yesterday afternoon the copter was called back in a bid to ensure Grensted was safe and well. Last night there was still no word.

Police said: "We have no real fears for the student. We would be grateful if he would contact the nearest police station."

Grensted is 5ft. 7in., has red hair, a beard, wears blue jeans, a shirt and pullover and carries a red rucksack.

## Miss Ishbel's holiday stroll ends in airlift

Express Staff Reporter

A 64-YEAR-OLD assistant matron at an old people's home was rescued by helicopter yesterday after spending a night lost in the mountains while hill walking on holiday.

Miss Ishbel Mackenzie, of Strathearn, Auchterarder, Perthshire, left her hotel at Kintail, Ross-shire and when she did not return other guests raised the alarm.

Police called in an R.A.F. helicopter from Lossiemouth, a mountain rescue team moved from Skye and the local Glenelg rescue team began a search.

While taking searchers to the mountain tops the helicopter crew spotted the missing woman, well off the path over a high pass.

Pilot Carl Mason hovered as winch operator Dave Pells lowered crewman Tony Goodyear to the steep slope where Miss Mackenzie had spent the night.

### Relieved

She was returned to the hotel and after being examined by a doctor she went to bed.

At Strathearn, matron Mrs. Irene Brierley said that Miss Mackenzie was on her annual three-week holiday.

"She told us she wanted to go hill-walking and we never believed her," she said. "Now we have to admire her for trying. We were so relieved to hear she was safe and well."

"She is the type of person who would not want to bother anyone."

Mrs. W. Buchanan, Dumfries, said her hill-climbing sister was the "baby" of the family.

"Good gracious, we were surprised at the news. It is the first time since her youth she has gone hill-climbing."

24 August  
Carl Mason  
Dave Pells  
Tony Goodyear

## Boy climber hurt in Wester Ross

A 13-year-old Leicester boy was taken to Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, yesterday with injuries from a fall while climbing a mountain above Torridon, Wester Ross, with his father and elder brother.

The alarm was raised by his father on Thursday evening. The Lochleven Mountain Rescue team mounted a rescue operation, but after dark they had to stop on the mountain and resume their climb to the injured boy yesterday morning.

They were joined by an RAF Lossiemouth helicopter, whose crew uplifted the boy and took him to hospital. The boy was named as Andrew Scotson, of South Boulevard, West Niton, Leicester.

8 August  
Malcolm Carlyle  
John Williamson  
Jack Bickford

## RAF rescue team may get new 'copters

THE three Whirlwind search and rescue helicopters based at RAF Lossiemouth — the RAF's most northerly search and rescue unit—are likely to be replaced by the superior Westland Sea King HAR Mark III. helicopters by 1978.

The RAF have ordered 15 Sea Kings to supersede about half the force of all-yellow Whirlwinds currently in service. They will be delivered between autumn, 1977, and summer, 1978.

Their range and payload capacity will give the RAF a greater search and rescue capability.

A spokesman at RAF Lossiemouth said today: "There is a fairly high probability that the Westland will come to Lossiemouth as we are the most northerly search and rescue flight and have the largest land and sea area of any of the SAR flights."

The Lossiemouth flight have carried out about 110 mercy missions since the RAF took over the station from the Navy three years ago.

The primary role of the Sea Kings will be to rescue air crew from the sea. But they will still be available to coastguards to snatch holiday-makers from sinking yachts, motor boats and dinghies and for other rescue work.

They can hover over the sea by night or in fog or very low cloud.

The pilot can rely on the automatic system to keep the aircraft in a fixed position.

Also included in the Sea King's range of sophisticated electronic equipment is a radar which improves the search capability, aids navigation and enables the pilot to fly a course which avoids the worst weather conditions.

And the Sea King can carry up to three stretchers and 12 survivors.

Thanks to its ability to drop a winch cable more than four times as long as that of the Whirlwind, the considerable risk to winchmen and survivors during cliff and ship rescues will be reduced.



## Copter plucks seaman from Ben Nevis

A SEAMAN was picked up from Ben Nevis on Saturday evening by an RAF helicopter from Kinloss after he was overcome by fatigue and exposure.

AR Michael Swain (22), Longlee, Eastbourne, had been walking on the Rette on the north face of Ben Nevis with a party from HMS Resolution, Rosyth.

A member of the team went down to the mountain hut and radioed Fort-William police.

Lochaber mountain-rescue team and police set off on the mountain and the helicopter was alerted.

The seaman was taken to the Relford Hospital and discharged after treatment.

11 October  
Geoff Leeming  
Willy Gault  
Andy Ball



AN RAF Lossiemouth helicopter winchman who carried out a death-defying rescue in the Coolins during the summer has had his bravery recognised.

Master Signaller Jim Clark (left), whose parents live at Fochabers, has been awarded the Air Force Cross, the highest peacetime decoration in the RAF. He is being congratulated by Flt-Lt Geoff Leeming, Commanding Officer of RAF Lossiemouth's rescue helicopter unit. Flt-Lt Leeming was pilot of the rescue mission in Skye for which Master Signaller Clark has been decorated.

On July 17 a Lossiemouth helicopter of No. 202 Squadron was scrambled to go to the aid of an injured English climber, Mr George Yeoman (21), from Taunton — who was lying stranded on a ledge more than 1000ft. up the Sron na Ciche peak after a fall.

A rocky overhang prevented the helicopter from getting close in to the climber — so Master Signaller Clark, using the helicopter winch as a pendulum, swung himself bodily on to the rockface 20ft. below the climber.

Then, detaching himself from the safety of the winch and ignoring the near-vertical drop below him, he managed to push a stretcher up the cliff-face to where the injured man was lying.

### 'MAGNIFICENT'

The helicopter, navigated by Flt-Lt Bill Gault, had already had to jettison fuel to continue hovering and this cut the rescue time down to a maximum of 20 minutes.

To get the injured man off the cliff, Master Signaller Clark had to attach an extra 120ft. of rope to the helicopter's normal 55ft. winch — thus allowing both men to be lowered to flatter terrain before the both were winched into the helicopter.

The AFC award citation praises Master Signaller Clark for his "skill, courage and selfless determination to succeed" and his "coolness and ingenuity under extremely difficult conditions."

It adds: "His magnificent example in the face of great personal danger was keeping with the highest traditions of the Service."

Winchman Clark — who already holds the Air Force Medal, awarded for his instruction and training ability—is one of the RAF's most experienced winchmen, having taken part in around 200 rescues.

His parents, Mr and Mrs James Clark, live in a cottage at Gordon Castle, Fochabers, where his father is a gardener.

Jim, a married man with two young children, lives at Hopeman.



## Caitness new-born in incubator flown to Inverness

A HELICOPTER crew and a medical team were involved in a race against time to save the life of a two-day-old Caitness baby yesterday.

The girl — whose identity was not disclosed — was born at the Henderson Memorial Maternity Unit, Wick, on Thursday and developed respiratory trouble.

It was decided to transfer her to Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, and an emergency call was made to the helicopter squadron at RAF Lossiemouth.

The aircraft flew to Inverness, where it collected Dr Ian Cathcart and incubation equipment before flying north. The baby, still in her incubator, was driven to Wick Airport, where she was taken on board the helicopter.

A hospital spokesman at Raigmore said last night: "The baby took the journey very well and her condition is reasonably satisfactory, although she is still having some assistance from oxygen."

Once the alarm was raised the hospital had 30 minutes to prepare for the mercy dash. During the flight, Dr Cathcart gave the child oxygen.

The helicopter was piloted by FL-Lt. Geoff Leeming, head of RAF Lossiemouth's search and rescue squadron. Navigator was FL-Lt. Dave Wilson and the winchman was Master Signalman Jim Clark.



THE BABY in yesterday's mercy flight from Wick is tucked in an incubator from the helicopter at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness.

23 September  
Malcolm Carlyle  
Dave Rallo  
Jim Clark

## Couple Rescued After Moor Walk Ordeal

A FULL-SCALE search-and-rescue operation involving police from Perthshire and Inverness-shire, assisted by volunteers and a helicopter from R.A.F. Leuchars, was mounted yesterday when a 60-year-old man and an 18-year-old girl went missing on Rannoch Moor.

Constable Fraser Beaton, Newtonmore, and Mr George Oswald, the head stalker on Ben Alder estate near Dalwhinnie, found the pair sheltering in McCook's Bothy, near Ben Alder.

They were cold, wet and hungry.

They were Mr Stanley Elsbury (60), an insurance broker from Chirbury, Shropshire, and the family au pair girl, Spanish student Marie Echezarreta.

The pair set off from Kinloch Rannoch for Dalwhinnie on Friday morning.

Two men were rescued yesterday as their boat drifted towards rocks in Loch Eriboll, Sutherland.

The men ran into trouble when their lobster boat's engine failed.

Coastguards saw their distress signals and alerted R.A.F. Lossiemouth Air-Sea Rescue.

As the boat drifted in heavy seas, coastguards set up a rescue rocket at the point on the rocks to which the boat was heading.

A winchman from the R.A.F. helicopter was lowered on to the boat.

He helped start the boat's engine before being winched back to the helicopter.

As the West Coast of Scotland was battered by gales, car ferry Iona was twice forced to turn back to Oban after setting off for South Uist.

She will try again today. The woeful weather also caused king-sized headaches for motorists.

The A.A. centre at Erskine, on the Clyde, reported that their 15 telephone lines were inundated by calls from stricken motorists.

4 October  
Malcolm Carlyle  
John Williamson  
Tony Goodyear

## Copter picks up man after quarry accident

AN RAF helicopter takes to the air over Gairloch after picking up a man hurt in a quarry accident yesterday.



24 September  
Carl Mason  
John Williamson  
Andy Ball



## Motor-cycle youth still 'serious'

STILL in a "serious" condition in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Foresterhill, last night — following an emergency flight from Inverness the previous night — was injured youth Alexander Henderson.

The youth, injured in a motor-cycle accident a week before, was being treated in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness.

It was decided to airlift him to Aberdeen by RAF helicopter when his condition began to deteriorate.

He is now in the neuro-surgical section of the Aberdeen hospital.

8 October  
Geoff Leeming  
John Williamson  
Andy Ball

## Soldier dies in peak rescue fight

By Alex Main

A YOUNG soldier was found to be dead last night after rescue teams had battled for eight hours to rescue him from the storm-bound Cairngorms.

For several hours high winds foiled repeated attempts by an R.A.F. helicopter to reach the spot 3,000ft. up, where two companions had built an improvised shelter to protect him. They tried to keep him warm while the helicopter, from R.A.F. Lossiemouth, tried to find a gap in the blizzard.

### Landed

Cairngorm mountain rescue team, aided by instructors from the Glenmore Lodge physical recreational centre, continued to fight their way up the mountain anticipating that the helicopter would be forced to abandon its rescue bid.

With visibility fading fast, Fred Harper, warden of Glenmore Lodge, was landed by the helicopter about 500ft. below Fiecall Ridge and eventually reached the soldier. He was later joined by the rescue teams who began to bring the man down.

It was only when they reached the bottom that they found the soldier had died. He was a member of an Army group taking part in a mountain training exercise when he collapsed from exposure and exhaustion.

## DIED ON MOUNTAIN EXERCISE

A 26-YEAR-OLD soldier, the father of two children, collapsed and died last Thursday while on a mountain-training exercise 3,000 feet up in the Cairngorms.

L/Cpl Joseph Vernon from Scarborough, serving with 11 Signal Regiment, Catterick, collapsed from exhaustion and exposure on the Fiecall Ridge during an "Arctic" gale.

Kingussie police launched a rescue operation after the alert was raised.

Chief Petty Officer's Philip Shave and Christopher Sunderland, both from HMS Caledonia, Rosyth, remained with L/Cpl Vernon until help arrived. But by the time rescue teams found them L/Cpl Vernon was dead.

### HAMPERED

A rescue helicopter from Lossiemouth was hampered in the search by cloud and driving snow. On board was Dr Neil MacDonald, Aviemore, and the principal of Glenmore Lodge, Mr Fred Harper.

Mr Harper was dropped off about 2,500 feet up with resuscitation equipment, while the Glenmore Lodge and Cairngorm mountain rescue teams struggled up the mountain.

An Army spokesman said later: "We are awaiting a medical report as to the cause of death."

## Second Caithness baby flown to Inverness hospital



13 October  
S/L Robins  
Willy Gault  
Jim Clark

ANOTHER Caithness baby has been flown to hospital at Inverness. The baby, in an incubator (left), is rushed by trolley to the ward on being landed at Raigmore Hospital, after a flight from Thurso in an RAF Lossiemouth helicopter.

Yesterday morning the child — a day-old boy — was transferred from the Dunbar Hospital, Thurso. He was accompanied on the flight by Dr Colin Galloway, consultant paediatrician at Raigmore.

Dr Galloway said later that the baby was suffering from respiratory trouble and was receiving attention.

Last week an RAF Lossiemouth helicopter flew a two-day old girl to Inverness from a Wick maternity hospital. She was also suffering from a respiratory complaint and yesterday Dr Galloway said her condition continued to show improvement.

29 January, 1976

Malcolm Carlyle  
John Williamson  
Jim Clark



## CREW SAFE AFTER LOSSIE JET PLUNGE

THE two-man crew of a Jaguar aircraft from RAF Lossiemouth parachuted to safety when their jet got into difficulties and plunged into the sea half a mile off Lossiemouth on Thursday.

Flt. Lt. Sandy Aitken (38), an instructor with 226 Jaguar Operational Conversion Unit, and student pilot Flt. Lt. Keith Jackson (31), both escaped unhurt.

The mishap occurred around 9.30 am while the Jaguar was on a routine training flight.

A rescue helicopter from their base picked up the men from the sea minutes after the £2M jet plunged into the Moray Firth.

Flt. Lt. Aitken, a former pupil of Elgin Academy, lives with his wife and 16-year-old son in Elgin, while Flt. Lt. Jackson, who is married with two of a family, has his home in Worthing, Sussex.

5 February

Carl Mason

Bazza Fisher

**DAVE LLOYD**



## Lochaber boy (4) in Coastguard search drama

A LITTLE Lochaber boy's spirit for adventure at the weekend alerted the emergency services and sparked off a two-and-a-half hour search of part of the Buchan coast.

But last night four-year-old Jamie Dodds was concerned only with a favourite picture story book — unaware that the adventures it contained were significantly less dramatic than his own personal adventure of 24 hours earlier. Jamie's adventure began on Saturday afternoon when he left with his brother, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother for a visit to Rattray Beach. The family live at 68 Blar Mhor Road, Caol, Fort-William.

### DISAPPEARED

After Jamie's mother, Mrs Ann Dodds, had parked the car, all left for a walk across the beach except great-grandmother Mrs Annie Strachan, who stayed in the car.

After a short time Mrs Dodds and her mother Mrs Johan Sinclair, 12 High Street, Buchanhaven, Peterhead, noticed Jamie had disappeared. No one, including his older brother John, had noticed him vanish.

They searched frantically among the dunes and along the shore and met a Coast-

guard patrol who immediately radioed for assistance.

Said Mrs Dodds, "Within minutes the police were out in force at the beach, and shortly afterwards the helicopter was overhead. It was quite amazing how quickly they turned out."

Jamie's father, Dr John Dodds, principal teacher of biology at Lochaber High School, was contacted at the grandparents' home.

Then, two-and-a-half hours and three-quarters of a mile from where he had disappeared, Jamie was found safe and well by Coastguard Graham Stephen, 11 Westhaven Crescent, Cairnbulg.

### LOOKING

Said Jamie's mother: "He had seen the helicopter and realised they must be looking for him. He is quite used to helicopters being involved in search parties as, living in Fort-William, we see them frequently on mountain rescue operations on Ben Nevis."

Jamie was discovered among the rolling sand dunes and was heading towards the lights in the distance once darkness began to fall.

The family had travelled North to spend the Fort-William holiday weekend with the grand-parents.

Mrs Dodds, is also a teacher and although not working full time at present, takes swimming pupils at classes for primary pupils at Fort-William Swimming Pool. Her mother also teaches swimming to young Peterhead school children at the head school.

28 February  
Malcolm Carlyle  
John Williamson  
Dave Lloyd

JAMIE in his mother's arms after his adventure.



# DEATH AND RESCUES IN HILLS

A GIRL climber died, another was injured and two parties were reported missing as rescue services in Glencoe and Lochaber had a hectic weekend.

Another young climber was last night critically ill in hospital after a climbing accident in the Cairngorms.

Aberdeen University student Mary McKerrrow, from Edinburgh, died in the notorious "Lost Valley" on the 3700ft. Bidean nan Bian in Glencoe.

Miss McKerrrow (22), who lived until recently at 31 Claremont Place, Aberdeen, fell 1000ft. while climbing with a party. Darkness prevented a helicopter from going to her rescue.

Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team, led by Hamish MacInnes, fought their way up the mountain but she died as they carried her down on a stretcher.

Earlier, an RAF helicopter from Leuchars had snatched another student, Miss Sheila Flatford, Thornliebank, Glasgow, from the nearby Central Gully. She had multiple injuries after a 100ft. fall, and was last night in Belford Hospital, Fort-William.

## OVERDUE

Barely had the Glencoe team returned down the mountain than they were again called out after four people were reported overdue.

Late on Saturday night two missing men checked in.

Early yesterday, two teenagers who had spent the night in freezing conditions 2000ft. up were met by the rescue team making their way slowly down. An RAF helicopter picked them up and landed them at Kings House Hotel.

Sylvia Konrad (16), 2 Glover Terrace, Perth, and Peter Miller (18), student, Morvern, Tay Bridge Road, Aberfeldy, had set out on Saturday to climb Meall A' Bhuidh, and got caught in the darkness.

There was also an alert on Ben Nevis. Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team set out yesterday morning after six climbers failed to return from a Saturday climb on the North Face.

The helicopter from Leuchars was called again, and around lunchtime the men were located safe and well.

A member of the rescue team said: "Conditions over the past week have been most changeable and we have had all the seasons wrapped into a few days. Climbers could easily have been caught out."

In the Cairngorms, Strling University student Malcolm Brown (19), 26 Gleneagles Gardens, Kirkcaldy, received serious head injuries on



THE injured Miss Flatford is carried to a waiting ambulance by members of Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team and a member of the crew of the RAF helicopter after being snatched off the mountain.

Saturday when he fell several hundred feet while in the Red Gully of Coire an t-Sneachda.

The accident sparked off a rescue operation involving the Cairngorm and Glenmore Lodge teams and a RAF Lossiemouth helicopter.

Aboard the helicopter were Dr Marjorie Langmuir, Aviemore; Mr Adrian Liddell, who is on the staff at Glenmore Lodge, and a guide.

The crew located the climber and flew him to Raigmore Hospital, Inverness. He was later flown by helicopter to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Foresterhill.

Last night his parents—Mr Robert Brown, a teacher at Kirkcaldy Technical College, and his wife, Helen—and brother Tom (21), a student at Edinburgh university were in Aberdeen.

In the Lake District Lesley Elliott (23), of Newcastle upon Tyne, died in a 300ft. fall at Angle Tarn, Langdale.

# men slam in maniacs



Hamish MacInnes

Climbers ignore warnings about gear

routes without ice axes and crampons. They never go out into the hills without an axe and metal spikes fitted to their boots."

The rescue co-ordinator said, "The R.A.F. saved us hours of exhausting work by flying us in by helicopter."

"I will be commending the pilot for his skill and courage, flying into the gully in such atrocious visibility."

girl Sheila Flatford, had no axe or crampons, though she was with three friends who were all well equipped.

Sergeant Sandy Whillans, "the R.A.F. saved us hours of exhausting work by flying us in by helicopter."

"I will be commending the pilot for his skill and courage, flying into the gully in such atrocious visibility."

## Praise

In the midst of criticism, there was praise for Peter Miller and Sylvia Konrad who were stranded on the Glencoe mountains.

Police Sergeant Ken Aird said: "They were well equipped and used their knowledge of the mountains."

When they failed to return to the Black Rock cottage in the evening, cloud conditions were so bad that a search was put off until first light yesterday.

They were found by Glencoe shepherd Walter Elliott and sergeant Sandy Whillans. A police spokesman said later: "The girl was badly shocked."

Aberfeldy, and his climbing companion 16-year-old Sylvia Konrad, from Perth, spent the night on Bidean in a shelter made from snow and their climbing gear.

Six climbers, missing on Ben Nevis after failing to return from a climb on the North Face of the mountain, were found safe after a helicopter search in the area.

As the incident toll mounted Mr. MacInnes spelled out again the warning to climbers: "They are still going out on

15 February  
Carl Mason  
Bazza Fisher  
Tony Goodyear





# When life is hanging only by a prayer and a thread

THIS IS the anatomy of last weekend's black holiday in Glencoe, pieced together from the confused reports of the time and the recollections of those involved.

It is Saturday. The setting is a narrow glen and the high, bare hills that enclose it like bony fingers in a cupped hand. Conditions—for experienced and well-equipped climbers—are crisp and good, and there are about 200 people on the hills.

The climbing huts are packed—the Rannoch Doss, the Bunk House, the Jacksonville, and the others—the Clachaig Inn and the Kingshouse Hotel full.

**IT WAS** almost 3 p.m. when the phone rang in the Elliot's cottage.

The voice at the other end—Hamish McInnes, Everest climber, mountain rescue expert, and leader of the Glencoe team—said someone was hurt in Lost Valley.

He thought the injured climber was a man. But in fact it was a student Mary McKerron from Edinburgh, and her young life was ebbing away at the foot of a snow and ice slope below 3,766-ft. Bidean Nam Bian.

Almost as soon as Willie Elliot put the phone down it rang again. This time it was Rory Macdonald, manager of the Clachaig Inn, to say someone had fallen in a gully near the same peak.

It was another girl, Sheila Slatford of Thornliebank, Glasgow. She was lucky. So were 16-year-old Sylvia Konrad and 18-year-old Peter Miller, of Perth, who spent the night huddling together in a scooped-out nest of snow on a high ridge.

They survived, as did the climbers reported overdue on the Elvie Slabs rock face.

There were four alerts in all, and it was nine in the morning before the weary Glencoe team stood down.

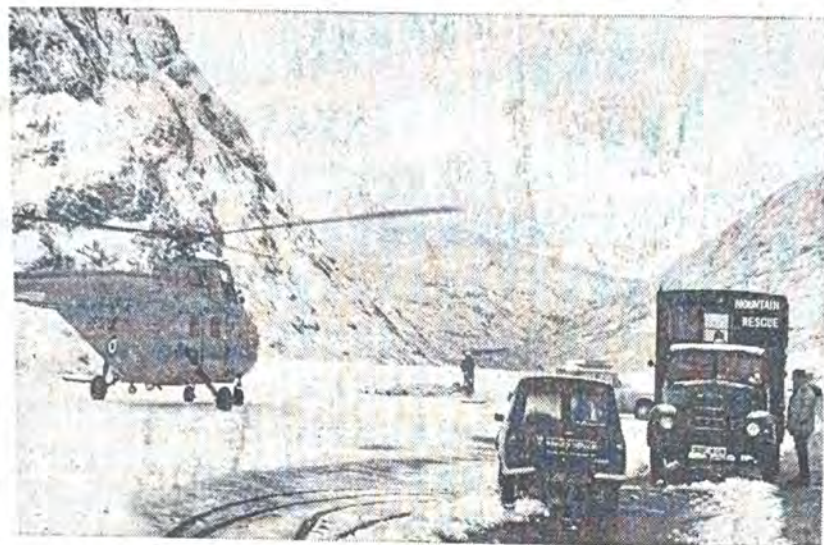
## A DILEMMA...

Even after that, Police Sergeant Sandy Whillans wore his climbing breeches all day in case there was another emergency on the hills.

Phones were ringing all down the glen on the first alert, and as far away as Lossiemouth air station where Flight Lieutenant Carl Mason and his team were on standby with their Whirlwind helicopter (another Whirlwind was already seeking an injured climber in the Cairngorms).

Hamish McInnes was immediately faced with the difficult decision of where to send the time-saving helicopter first. Since first reports suggested Sheila Slatford was badly hurt, he decided it should head for where she lay near Hour Glass Gully.

The rescuers gathered at the Elliot's two-storey, white-painted cottage where the glen broadens out beside Loch Acharrach, the Loch of the Torse Waters. There the



helicopter picked up Sandy Whillans and Walter Elliot. Sandy, 43, an ex-marine and a seasoned climber, is police co-ordinator for mountain rescue in the north of Scotland.

Walter is a shepherd. His father used to bike round the glen for volunteers when climbers went missing. Walter took part in his first rescue with him as a boy. Sure-footed and wiry, at the age of 44 he has had a hand. In more rescues in Glencoe than anyone else—he has lost count.

But this was his first flight in a helicopter. With daylight fading and fuel dropping too low for a lengthy operation they headed towards the high corrie. At 1,500 feet the chopper was straining, fighting the strong down-draught that was sucking at them in the gully. Pilot Mason had to lighten the load.

Sandy and Walter were dropped off to make their way on foot while the helicopter and its three-man crew lifted off again.

Soon visibility was down to 20 feet and they were edging cautiously upwards only 10 feet above the steeply rising ground, scanning the snow for tracks to lead to the accident spot.

At 2,000 feet a flashing

## HELICOPTER pilot Carl Mason was one of the HEROES of the mountain madness.

For 23 hours he and his two-man crew were on duty without a break.

Those hours saw Flight Lieutenant Carl, navigator Flight Lieutenant Barry Fisher and winchman Tony Goodyear take part in four mountain rescue bids.

Last night, within hours

Aid from R.A.F. helicopters has transformed daylight rescues when lives may depend on minutes saved. The rescue team also has its own truck to carry equipment.

said the injured girl was some 200 yards above them.

While the machine hovered near the spot where Sheila lay in the blood-stained snow, Tony was lowered to bring her aboard.

If anything, the return was trickier than the ascent, for there was always a danger of the long tail of the helicopter striking the face of the Corrie in the gloom.

Sandy and Walter arrived just as they were leaving.

Meanwhile Hamish and others of the team were pounding up towards the Lost Valley at a pace which took them to the dying girl in 40 minutes, a remarkable piece of sustained speed.

Every so often Hamish would stop, not to rest his long legs but to try to make radio contact with Walter Elliot's brother Willie at base.

Hamish wanted to divert the helicopter to this emergency since it was now learned that the girl in Lost Valley was critically hurt. But he couldn't get through.

Among those with him was 26-year-old climbing instructor Ian Nicholson with a portable

stretcher—awkward and tiring—strapped to his back.

Nevertheless Ian made light work of it.

A group of climbers were gathered round Mary McKerron when they arrived and though she had few visible signs of injury it was obvious she was seriously hurt.

Mary was with a party which had climbed Bidean, the highest peak in Argyll, had found themselves faced with difficult broken rock and had decided to retrace their steps across the col—a snow-covered ridge.

It would not be considered necessary to rope together on such a ridge. But safety demands that climbers wear crampons on their boots—metal spikes that dig into hard snow and grip the icy surface.

## A FATAL SLIP

It seems that Mary was not wearing them and at some point she slipped, perhaps from a step cut in the snow by one of the team.

Whatever happened, she was launched on a helpless glissade which shot her to the foot of the slope far below.

While the party gave her artificial respiration, Will Thomson was on his way up the hill with oxygen equipment which Hamish had asked for by radio.

Will, 32, is a powerful climber who used to work in

by JOHN FOWLER

forestry and was back in Glencoe after a spell at the Kishorn oil platform.

He heard the news by chance when shopping with his wife and two small children in Fort William, and dashed back to the Elliotts.

The helicopter, just back with Sheila Slatford, picked him up with the oxygen bottle and winched him down at the mist level.

As he continued upwards Flight Lieutenant Mason and his team sped the last light to Fort William where they landed with a margin of fuel for only four minutes flying.

When Hamish and his team in the Lost Valley realised their efforts to save Mary were hopeless they strapped her to the stretcher for the descent in the darkness.

They trudged back to the Elliotts farm at 7.30 to learn of the party thought to be missing on Elvie Slabs, and in time for a phone call from the Kings House Hotel announcing that the teenagers Sylvia Konrad and Peter Miller were overdue on the 3,500ft. wedge of Sron na Creise.

## SNOW TRACKS

Hamish reckoned that any climbers experienced enough to tackle the Slabs in winter could look after themselves for the night—and he turned out to be right—but was worried about the 16-year-old girl.

Two others in the team, Dennis Barclay and David Todd, set out to look for tell-tale snow tracks while the rest waited in the bar of the Kingshouse Hotel with the walkie-talkie.

At 3 a.m. on Sunday they all wearily called it a day, prepared to turn out later on.

The dawn was bright and clear. The helicopter took off into a blue sky, the stairwells of the rescue team put on their gear—and the 16-year-old and her companion were airlifted to safety as they picked their way downhill.

Everyone was accounted for, and the rescuers went home. For them, the long weekend was over at last.

Glencoe to pick up the two climbers who had spent the night on a mountain-side.

Their actions brought praise from two other rescue heroes—Hamish MacInnes, and police sergeant Sandy Whillans.

Sergeant Whillans said: "The RAF saved us hours of exhausting work. I will officially commend the pilot for his skill and courage in flying in such atrocious conditions."

By BILL MOWAT

of their last rescue bid, the crew were back on all-night stand-by at RAF Lossiemouth.

Carl said: "It was quite a weekend. I was very pleased we were able to help."

Carl and his crew got their first call to Glencoe at 3.30 p.m. on Saturday.

They headed for 3766-foot Bidean nam Bian, where they airlifted Mrs Slatford.

They set off again to take part in the bid to save student Mary McKerron.

## Fuel

Then the helicopter headed for Fort William where it landed—with only four minutes fuel left.

The crew were airborne again for the search for the climbers missing on Ben Nevis.

Then it was back to



# AVALANCHE 'TERROR' IN TWO IN CAR



THE CREW of the second helicopter at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, after their rescue operation. They are (left to right): Sgt. David Lloyd; Flt-Lt. Bill Gault, and Flt-Lt. Geoff Leeming, RAF Lossiemouth.

12 Mar 76

Carl Mason      Geoff Leeming  
Dave Pells      Bill Gault  
Tony Goodyear      Dave Lloyd

By JIM LOVE and NEIL MACPHAIL

TWO separate avalanches—thought to have been caused by fresh snow—sent young English climbers crashing hundreds of feet down the Cairngorms yesterday and set a full-scale rescue in motion.

And last night seven were in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, with various injuries, after being lifted off by helicopters from RAF Lossiemouth. Avalanches struck two parties of eight from Glenmore Lodge—walking with an instructor each as part of the winter course.

The three-hour rescue involved Cairngorm Mountain Rescue Team, police and lodge staff as well as the RAF.

The drama began when 18-year-old storeman Trevor Axworthy, 4 Alma Cottages, Coveide, near Plymouth, was caught in a snowfall in Coire an T-Sneachda.

An hour later six of a party of eight were struck in adjoining Coire an Lochain. Dockyard worker Nicholas Bickford (19), Clinton Avenue, Lipson, Plymouth, described what happened when the first snowfall roared down Coire an T-Sneachda.

"We were roped in pairs and wearing crampons. I looked up and that was it. The snow hit me and my mate and we fell about 300ft."

"I think one or two others also fell."

"I didn't see or hear a thing on the way down. Everything was white."

"When I stopped, I was lying on top of the snow. I fell further than Trevor and it was this that saved me from injury. He hit the rocks."

An hour later the second fall hit a party led by instructor Mr. Roger Thompson in Coire an Lochain.

Six were swept away, slithering and falling more than 500ft onto rocks below. Three were stretcher cases. They are Philip Golas (23), clerk, 104 Sandringham Drive, Mounton Lewis (head injured), William Goldsmith (27), shipwright, 72 Vespera Garsden, St Budeaux (head and spinal injuries), Roy Harris (21), electrical fitter, 6 Seaford Terrace, Lipson, Plymouth (broken leg).

The others who fell with them were Nigel Kingston (20), mechanical fitter, 22 Tatemere Avenue, Truro, Plymouth, Andrew Vadden (19), fitter, Queen's Road, Lipson, and Philip Hadfield (21) assistant state manager, 5 Highfield Drive, Greasby, Wirral.

Mr O'Donovan and two students, William Hopkiss and J. Mahy managed to stick to the mountain.

"Someone shouted 'dig in' and we plunged our ice axes over our heads."

"When everything settled down the rest of the party were out of sight."

Chief Insp John MacLean, who with Glenmore Lodge principal Mr Fred Harper co-ordinated the rescue from the lodge, said avalanche conditions were caused by fresh snow falling that day on top of old snow.

"It was snowing and windy, but the Lossiemouth helicopters were able to operate."

Mr Harper said he could not comment until he read reports from Mr O'Donovan and the other instructor, Mr John Thompson.

Several doctors were among those staying at the lodge. They gave expert medical attention to the mountaineers.

The first copter, piloted by Flt-Lt Carl Mason, was called at 2.30 pm and a second, piloted by Flt-Lt Geoff Leeming, joined about an hour later.

Low cloud, thick snow and poor light hampered them.



PICTURES BY DAVID MURRAY

3 Apr 76

Geoff Leeming  
Barry Fisher  
Dave Lloyd

## Airlift for hurt Skye walker

A 16-YEAR-OLD English youth was airlifted to hospital in Skye last night after he slipped and fell while walking in the Cairngorms.

The youth from Cullinstown, Gloucestershire, was taken to Broadford Hospital, suffering from a sustained ankle.

Philip Robinson (17), Chalfont, fell on the snow-covered Sgorr nan Gillian, one of the corrie peaks overlooking the Sligachan Dunvegan road.

He was one of a group of walkers who had set out on a course in the mountains. After the accident the main party stayed with the injured youth while others went to Stornoway.

At 6.15 pm the rescue services were alerted and within 90 minutes a helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth had picked up the injured walker and airlifted him to hospital.

An RAF spokesman said that the youth appeared to suffer only minor ankle injuries. He was winched on board the helicopter by winchman Sgt Dave Lloyd who had been lowered to secure the lifting mechanism.

The helicopter crew also included Pilot Flt-Lt Geoff Leeming and Navigator Flt-Lt Barry Fisher.

3 Apr 76

Stan D'Arcy  
John Williamson  
Jim Clark

1 Apr 76

Geoff Leeming  
Barry Fisher  
Dave Lloyd

8 Apr 76

Malcolm Carlyle  
John Williamson  
Jim Clark



# Copter rescue hero tells of night drama

## QUOTE

"We saw a couple of red flares... Using their torches and lamps attached to their headgear, the mountain rescue team formed a circle just wide enough for us to make a landing. It must have been the only flat patch in the whole area." —FLT. LT. LEEMING

## New weather 'spy' could save lives

THE world's first fully automatic weather station, aimed at helping to save the lives of hill walkers and climbers, was operating today on the summit of Cairngorm.

The equipment, hailed today as a lifesaver, was flown to the summit yesterday by a helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth.

From its 4000ft. vantage point the station will record wind speed and direction, temperature, humidity and visibility — vital information needed for telling about blizzards or avalanche hazard areas.

The station — weather recording equipment housed in a four-hundredweight cylinder — was flown by RAF helicopter to the summit. A second flight took up the three-man Heriot-Watt

University team responsible for the station.

On-the-spot weather conditions will be transmitted to Glenmore Lodge outdoor activities and mountain rescue centre and then to Glasgow Met. Office.

### LIFE SAVER

Glenmore Lodge principal Mr Fred Harper, explained how the weather station could be a life saver. He said: "The forecasts we receive from Glasgow at the moment are only estimates of the weather on top of Cairngorm."

To have better forecasting you need to compare past forecasts with what actually happened at the time. Until now we haven't been able to get this information on mountains.

"To have better forecasts you need to compare past forecasts for an area with recordings of what actually happened. Until now we haven't been able to get this information about mountains."

"With this equipment we can build up a history of weather that will improve forecasting for mountain areas all over Scotland, such as Ben Nevis and Glencoe, and not only the Cairngorms."

Mr Harper pointed out that Glenmore Lodge could have an automatic telephone service telling climbers about weather conditions in the Cairngorms. "Information about wind direction and snow fall, for instance, could tell us where avalanche dangers are."

### BENEFIT

But Mr Harper already has a great benefit. "From my desk," he said, "I can see on a dial how fast the wind on the summit is. That tells me whether or not it is safe to send up a rescue helicopter."

The Heriot-Watt team are Professor S. Desmond Smith, head of the department of physics; Dr Gordon Peckham, a reader in the department; and Dr James Curran, a research associate.

Professor Smith said today: "This is the prototype for what will be a permanent automatic weather station on the summit. The programme should be completed within the next two to three years."

"At the moment to obtain the data the weather lid of the cylinder opens automatically for three minutes every half hour exposes the sensors and then retracts on its own."

AN RAF Lossiemouth helicopter crew used flares to carry out a night search for a missing climber in the Cairngorms.

The rescue, last night, was the first time a Lossiemouth rescue helicopter had ventured into the mountain peaks in total darkness. And today the crew were praised by police and mountain rescue officials.

The helicopter captain, FLT. Lieut. Geoff Leeming, spoke of the drama which was sparked off late at night when a 19-year-old Birmingham student, Glenda Birmingham, slipped and fell 300 feet on Coire an t-Sneachda.

"The most difficult part was finding first of all at Glenmore Lodge," said FLT. Lieut. Leeming, whose crew comprised of second pilot FLT. Lieut. Michael Carlyle, navigator FLT. Lieut. Dave Pells and "bigglesman," Sergeant Andy Ball.

"We went in there in total darkness to find out what the latest position was. We took off again and searched around for a bit. We fired a couple of flares to see where we were going."

### FIRED

"Then we saw a couple of red flares coming up. They were fired by the mountain rescue team who had located the climber."

"Using their torches and lamps attached to their headgear they formed a circle just wide enough for us to make a landing."

"It must have been the only flat patch in the whole area."

The helicopter crew then flew the young climber to hospital in Inverness.

Chief Inspector John Macdonald of Kinross praised the helicopter crew.

"Quite a remarkable feat—excellently carried out," he said.



The RAF Lossiemouth helicopter crew who were involved in the Cairngorm mountain rescue (left to right)—LT. Malcolm Carlyle, Sgt. Andy Ball, FLT. Lt. Dave Pells and FLT. Lt. Geoff Leeming.



10 May 76

Carl Mason- Queen's Commendation  
Barry Fisher -)AOC in C's  
Tony Goodyear-)Commendation

Geoff Leeming  
Malcolm Carlyle  
Dave Pells  
Andy Ball



## Dinghy rescue alert at Nairn



SAFE on dry land — 16-year-olds Helen Thompson and Anita Roberts, of Leeds, who sparked off a rescue alert at Nairn yesterday.

The girls, holidaying at Nairn, were reported missing in a 6ft inflatable dinghy.

Police, coastguards and a rescue helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth were called in after Helen and Anita failed to return to their caravan for lunch.

Anita's parents raised the alarm.

After a three-hour search, the girls were found by the helicopter's crew walking along the beach east of Nairn with the deflated dinghy... unaware of the search.

Helen said yesterday they were not too happy with repairs they had made to the dinghy and did not venture into the water.

"We saw a helicopter overhead but did not think for a minute it was looking for us. We are sorry for any inconvenience we might have caused."

Inspector George Black, Northern Canalside's Pennine officer last night warned all visitors to the seaside against going out into the open sea in small dinghies.

18th May 1976

Geoff Leeming  
Bill Gault  
Jim Clark

## Skye climber escapes death by only 10ft

A CLIMBER escaped certain death in the Cooling of Skye by a mere 10 feet. For that was the distance that separated him from a 700ft. plunge.

Mr Thomas Sweeney (27), a computer programmer from Stretford, Manchester, had fallen 100 feet. His plunge was halted on the edge of the cliff face.

He was climbing the south-west face of Clach Glas when the accident happened. His companion raised the alarm and Skye police mountain rescue team went to Mr Sweeney's assistance.

However, an RAF helicopter from Lossiemouth reached the scene at first light today and plucked him from the 2500ft. mountain.

Master Signaller Jim Clark crawled along a ridge to reach Mr Sweeney, who had a broken leg and internal injuries.

The winchman dragged the climber to a spot where they could be pulled into the hovering helicopter and the climber was down to Skye's Broadford Hospital.

28th May 1976

Stan D'Arcy  
Dave Pells  
Jim Clark



## RAF copter in second Coolins rescue

FOR THE second time in three days, an RAF helicopter rescued an injured mountaineer from the Coolins, says yesterday.

While climbing the island's highest mountain, Sgurr A'Arda, Mr Michael Hall (23), Needlers End Lane, Balalis Common, Warwickshire, was badly hurt in a fall.

Another holiday climber heard his cries for help and drew him to Glen Brittle to alert Mr Gerry Askroyd, the Skye Mountain Rescue Team leader.

On exercise on the mountains at the time were the RAF mountain rescue team from Leuchars. They converged on the accident scene and were soon joined by the island volunteer team until the RAF Lossiemouth helicopter arrived in just over an hour after the initial alert.

From 200ft, below the summit it took Mr Hall directly to Broadford Hall, South Skye, landing in a field within 100yds. of the hospital entrance.

Late last night Mr Hall was undergoing surgery for his fractured legs.

His wife, who was camping with him below the mountain at Glen Brittle, did not know about her husband's accident until told by police. By that time, because of the speed of the rescue operation, he had been admitted to hospital.

The helicopter was piloted by Flt-Lt Geoff Leeming; navigator was Flt-Lt Bill Gault and the winchman was Sgt Dave Lloyd.

A climber who fell on the highest mountain in the Isle of Skye, Sgurr A'Arda, 3,251 ft., was rescued by an RAF helicopter yesterday.

The RAF mountain rescue team from Leuchars was on exercise on the mountain range and quickly converged on the injured man, Mr Michael Hall, of Needlers End Lane, Balalis Common, Warwickshire. Both his legs were badly fractured and he was flown to hospital.

30th May 1976

Geoff Leeming  
Bill Gault  
Dave Lloyd

## Winchman is Skye rescue hero



SIGNALLER CLARK

AN RAF Lossiemouth winchman was the hero of a dawn helicopter rescue of an injured climber in Skye yesterday.

Master Signaller Jim Clark deliberately twisted in mid-air to shield the climber as the stretcher swung pendulum-fashion and crashed into a rock face on the way to safety.

Mr Thomas Sweeney (27), of Stretford, Manchester, had slipped over the edge of a 700ft. precipice, on Blaven, falling 100ft. He was unable to move because of his injuries. M/S Clark spoke yesterday of the rescue incident.

"It went quite well until we lifted off and then we got this swing in. I thought to myself: 'This could be a can of worms.' I turned round to save the guy in the stretcher."

The stretcher was swinging for rocks on the other side of the gully as M/S Clark positioned himself to act as a human buffer.

He said of the impact: "It missed my spine and kidneys and just left me with a sore bruise."

Mr Sweeney was on a ledge about four feet wide and eight feet long. "He was very, very lucky to stay on the ledge," said M/S Clark.

The helicopter, from 202 Squadron RAF Lossiemouth, arrived at the scene about 5 a.m.

Waiting for it on the ledge were members of the Skye mountain rescue team including Pete Thomas, seen by millions of viewers earlier in the week as the guide in BBC TV's "Skye Trek".

M/S Clark said the rescue took about 20 minutes. He had been able to cling on to the ledge at his second attempt.

Mr Sweeney was taken directly to a small field beside Broadford Hospital, a six-minute flight. A hospital spokesman said for the "comfortable" though he had a compound leg fracture and face cuts.

A computer programmer from Stretford, Manchester, had fallen 100 feet. His plunge was halted on the edge of the cliff face.

He was climbing the south-west face of Clach Glas when the accident happened. His companion raised the alarm and Skye police mountain rescue team went to Mr Sweeney's assistance.

However, an RAF helicopter from Lossiemouth reached the scene at first light today and plucked him from the 2500ft. mountain.

Master Signaller Jim Clark crawled along a ridge to reach Mr Sweeney, who had a broken leg and internal injuries.









Barry Fisher and Tony Goodyear's AOC's Comm



Barry Fisher and Tony Goodyear's AOC's Comm



Barry Fisher and Tony Goodyear's AOC's Comm



## Two plucked from sea

A HELICOPTER from RAF Lossiemouth last night rescued two men whose sailing dinghy overturned in the sea opposite McDermott's yard at Ardersier.

The helicopter was crewed by Flt-Lt Malcolm Carlyle, Flt-Lt John Williamson and Master Signaller Jim Clark.

Mr Robert Gilles, 4 Woodside Gardens, Nairn, said last night that his friend, Mr William Gilles, was sitting on the dinghy when it was overturned.

Mr Gilles said they were very cold, and that they had been sitting on the dinghy for about an hour.

At home Mr Gilles said the dinghy had been going into a tack when the wind caught the mainsail and blew it over. Unfortunately it had not been possible to free the mainsail and upright the craft.

He estimated that they had been sitting on the dinghy for about an hour.



11 Oct 1976  
Carl Mason  
Bill Gault  
Mick Anderson

# Dentist dies in plane crash near Wick



DONALD HARROLD  
... first on scene



THE pilot of a light aircraft was killed yesterday when it crashed in thick fog near Wick.

Dentist Mike Rowbotham may have been taking the plane north as a favour to its owner.

He was on his way to Wick from Inverness when he got into difficulties.

He managed to send a distress call before losing radio contact about a mile south of his destination. The end of his message sounded like, "I'm going down."

Wick lifeboat and an air-sea rescue helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth were called out.

Then, soon afterwards, came a report the plane, a Cessna 150—call sign Juliet X-ray—had crashed into a field at Reiss, a mile north of the runway.

Police, firemen and a

doctor went to the scene and worked with cutting equipment and their hands to free the pilot. The plane was spreadeagled across a dyke, minus the tail.

But Mr Rowbotham (26), Louisburgh Street, Wick, was dead.

The alarm was raised by farmer Donald Harrold (44), who was working in a field about 200yds away with employee Mr Sinclair Bain.

Mr Harrold, Plover Inn, said: "We heard a bang and Sinclair thought he saw a puff of smoke. But when we reached the spot there were no flames or anything and no sign of life."

Ironically, Mr Harrold had a dental appointment with the victim today.

Airport manager Mr John Mason, who later started an on-the-spot investigation, declined to comment. But Flt-Lt. Carl Mason, in charge of the rescue helicopter, said: "It looked as if the plane just spun out of the sky on to the ground."

The tragedy shocked Wick, where Mr Rowbotham—who belonged to the Durham area—was a member of the squash and judo clubs, as well as the flying club.

The plane was owned by Moray Coast Flying Club, operated by Mr Jim Alexander, who instructs at Wick.

A friend said: "I understand Mr Alexander was coming to Caithness by car for a holiday with his wife

and family, and wanted to have the plane at Wick.

"Mike offered to take it north for him on his way home from a dental conference."

Mr Rowbotham's wife, Katie, is also a qualified dentist and is employed at area schools by the education authority. She was treated for shock at a hospital and later went home. The couple had no children.



1 Nov 1976

Carl Mason

Barry Fisher  
Tony Goodyear

# RAF help to rescue two comrades



THE WINCHMAN of the helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth is lowered to check out the crew of the small craft. The picture was taken from the RAF Kinless Nimrod which located the boat.

RIGHT: Safe and well after their ordeal, Jun. Tech. Raymond Smith (left) and Sgt. Steve Durant.



## Big Moray Firth search ends when Nimrod spots open boat

THE RAF played a major part yesterday in rescuing two of their own "off duty" Servicemen.

The two—Sgt. Steve Durant and Jun. Tech. Raymond Smith—sparked off a big sea and air search after a Sunday fishing expedition in the Moray Firth went wrong.

The search was mounted after they failed to return to Lossiemouth before darkness in Sgt. Durant's 26ft. former ship's lifeboat, Barbara Ann.

But it was not until early yesterday that a Nimrod from RAF Kinloss spotted them anchored in the open boat about eight miles north-east of Burchhead.

The two got into difficulties about 4 p.m. on Sunday when the engine starter failed.

They tried for two hours to repair it. Attempts to sail were unsuccessful because the wind was in the wrong direction.

The alarm was raised by Sgt. Durant's wife, who got in touch with coastguards after he did not show up for tea.

### SWEEP

Five vessels—the fishery cruisers Westray and Norna, the fishing boat Drumbeat, Buckle lifeboat and an oil-rig supply ship—made a sweep of a 200-mile area from Tarbat Ness to Buckle without locating them.

The Nimrod—from the station's 201 Squadron and captained by Sqn. Ldr. Bob Lydall—took off at first light and located the helpless boat shortly before 8 a.m.

A search and rescue helicopter from Kinloss's sister station at RAF Lossiemouth was then brought in to make contact with the men.

A crewman was winched on board and found them none the worse of their 16-hour ordeal—but in need of a tow!

Buckle lifeboat picked them up and took them to Burchhead with their boat in tow.

The men came near to rescue during the night when one of the rescue boats passed

close to them and put up a flare but never saw them.

Sgt. Durant, who lives in married quarters at Pinefield, Elgin, uses the Barbara Ann for regular weekend fishing trips. A bachelor, Jun. Tech. Smith lives at 63 Commerce Street, Lossiemouth. Both are engine-fitters with No. 8 Shackleton Squadron at RAF Lossiemouth.

They were reluctant to talk about their ordeal. But Jun. Tech. Smith said: "We anchored and tried to fix the starter, but it was too far gone. We tried to sail a couple of times, but the wind was coming off the land."

### FLARES

"We put up flares, but obviously no one saw them. We are very grateful to the rescue services."

The search was co-ordinated by Lossiemouth coastguards.

A coastguard spokesman said: "The two men did all they could. They started putting up flares at dusk—and then they had nothing left."

"One of the rescue boats came very close, but it was like searching for a needle in a haystack. They held up a metal tray to see if this would attract the rescue boats' radar, but this did not work."





● With map at the ready, Filt. Lt. Geoff Leeming (right) is pictured beside his Whirlwind helicopter with crew, Filt. Lt. Malcolm Carlyle, Sgt. Andy Ball and Filt. Lt. Dave Pells.

# Airborne lifesavers from RAF Lossiemouth

THREE men in a small, noisy box felt their way through the pitch black of a Cairngorm winter's night.

The RAF Lossiemouth crewmen peered out from their stubby helicopter as it followed the sudden dips and rises of the snow-covered hillside.

On the ground, rescue climbers waited in the cold for the faint clatter of the same engine. They had gathered on a rare piece of flat ground beside the swaddled, prone figure of a girl student who had survived a 300ft. fall on Coire an t-Sneachda.

The climbers saw two flares explode in the dark—the chopper was coming. They replied with two red flares and spread out into a circle, headlamps and torches marking the proposed landing area.

Filt. Lieutenant Geoff Leeming, commander of "D" Flight of 202 Squadron, landed the helicopter, and the girl was flown to hospital. "Quite a remarkable feat—excellently carried out," said a police chief inspector involved in the rescue.

## First time

That flight, on March 2, Filt.-Lieut. Leeming, second pilot Filt.-Lieut. Michael Carlyle, navigator Filt.-Lieut. Dave Pells and winchman Sergeant Andy Ball was the first time an RAF Lossiemouth helicopter had ventured into the mountains in total darkness.

Filt.-Lieut. Leeming's flight has three rescue helicopters. Other 202 Squadron flights, dotted around the British Isles, usually have only two copters.

A particularly fast two-minute scramble is used when jets are in trouble. The helicopter flies out with fire-fighting equipment, towbars and other "escape" tools to get crews out of their ditched aircraft. Last February an RAF Jaguar crew were picked out of the sea seconds after they had ejected from their aircraft. Crews on 24-hour standby wait in the Operations room with their brew-ups, or sleep in prefabricated cabins some yards away. They are on 15 minutes' readiness, but in practice they can expect to get airborne four to five minutes after the scramble call.

The men might yawn if you say they are like Battle of Britain flyers—they are not chasing the clichéd "Run in the Sun," but searching for people in

distress. However, they do have the good-natured confidence of a team which does a staggeringly good job time and again.

The extra ingredient which makes an RAF Lossiemouth posting particularly tough is mountain work. Since "D" Flight came to the base three years ago, most of the 229 people they have assisted have been climbers and others lifted off hills.

The flight's work covers the North of Scotland, Western Isles, Orkney and Shetland.

Filt. Lieut. Leeming, a Lincolnshire man, pointed at the crowded scramble chart and said: "We do all sorts of things including medivacs, taking patients from remote areas to hospital. This is a super area for search and rescue—it covers everything, including some of the most demanding countryside to fly in."

"There are some quick rescues. For instance, recently we reached a boy stuck on a cliff near Peterhead 15 minutes after call out. We got him off. Mind you, we could have done with more cable for the winch."

He does not resent being called to rescue climbers. "You come back and say 'We've done a bloody good job', whereas there is a bit of an anti-climax when you return after a five-minute job. You prefer a big rescue to a lilo job," he laughed.

Big rescues have resulted in members of "D" Flight receiving RAF medals and Queen's commendations. One recent recipient of the

Queen's Commendation was a pilot who tracked a lost woman climber through the snow in Glencoe.

He guided his Whirlwind through a blizzard, keeping the rotors only a few feet from the side of a gully, before finding her.

The Whirlwind carries three men—pilot, navigator and winchman. When the helicopter hovers over its "quarry" the navigator operates the winch and the winchman drops down on the cable. Navigator and winchman learn each other's roles during training, in case one or other is injured during a rescue.

## Hand signals

The winchman, with his body sling or stretcher, uses hand signals to ensure an accurate landing.

"Once the winchman has landed, you are committed," said Filt. Lieut. Leeming. "You must stay steady and go through with it. In good conditions there is no excuse for moving a foot. In bad conditions you must fight against winds to keep everyone safe."

But before the winchman can spin into space, the pilot and navigator must go through the nightmare of finding the rescue spot in, say, a blizzard. "If you know you are within a few feet of a mountain face and it suddenly disappears in a white-out, you are a bit pushed. If you go away, where do you go? You can't see the ground and the aircraft does not like snow."

## "MEN OF THE YEAR" AWARD



MASTER Signaller Jim Clark, AFC, AFM, RAF, of 202 Squadron (Helicopters), RAF Lossiemouth, has been chosen by the Under Secretary of State for the RAF as the Services nomination for the "Men of the Year Award" by the British Council for Rehabilitation of the Disabled.

The theme of the award is "courage and achievement" over the previous

year. Jim Clark was awarded the Force Cross in November, 1975, for skill, courage and determination in rescuing an injured climber from a 1000 ft. up a rock face in Skye. Jim lives in Hopeman with his Jean and two children, Jennifer and Andrew (10), and when not with the RAF, acts as one of Lossiemouth Coastguards.



# AIRLIFT TO SAVE FORESTER

By BILL MOWAT

**A HELICOPTER** lifted a badly-injured forester to hospital yesterday.

Donald Fraser, 63, had been struck by a falling tree during a clearing operation in woods near Lovat Bridge, Beaulieu—12 miles from Inverness.

## REMOTE

He lay in agony with a suspected broken back.

Then began the race to get him to

hospital for emergency treatment.

But the spot where the accident happened is remote.

And Dr Robert Ferguson from Beaulieu had to be taken by the estate Land-Rover for the last part of the journey to tend to the injured man.

After examining Mr Fraser, Dr Ferguson decided to call in a helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth.

As the 'copter flew to the rescue, other forest workers got ready with flares.

## LAY

Then, in the gathering dusk, they lit them to guide the 'copter to the clearing where Mr Fraser lay.

The 'copter was piloted by Flight Lieutenant Malcolm Carlisle, 31, from Bristol. Flight Lieutenant Dave Pells, 33, was the navigator.

Winchman Dave Lloyd, 31, from Wrexham, North Wales, said later: "Mr Fraser was

unconscious when we arrived.

"His workmates told us he had been hit on the head, shoulders and back by a falling tree.

"They had put him on an old wooden door."

The 'copter landed at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, where Mr Fraser of Balnacraig Road, Inverness, was said later to be "serious."



Mr Fraser is carried from the 'copter.

24 Jan 1977

Malcom Carlisle  
Dave Pells  
Dave Lloyd

## Inverness man taken to hospital by 'copter

A SALMON fisherman with the Lovat Estates, Beaulieu, Mr Donald Fraser, is carried from an RAF Lossiemouth helicopter to Raigmore Hospital, Inverness casualty department yesterday after an accident at work.

Mr Fraser, 5 Balnacraig

Road, Inverness, was in a squad of workers clearing scrub at an inaccessible part of the River Beaulieu when he was struck on the head by a falling branch.

One of his workmates ran for help and Dr R. Ferguson was called from Beaulieu to the scene.

After examining Mr

Fraser, who is in his 50s, the doctor decided a helicopter should be called to transport him to hospital. Mr Fraser's injuries are not thought to be serious.

He has been employed by Lovat Estates for several years. Part of his duties are to clear the banks of the river.

27 Jan 1977

Stan Darcy  
Dave Pells  
Dave Lloyd

## Search for fisherman called off

A sea and air search was called off last night for a missing member of the two-man crew of the lobster boat Alcedo which ran aground and sank on an island at the entrance to Lochewe in Wester Ross. The other crew member managed to get ashore and raise the alarm.

Coastguards searched the coastline and will resume the search today. Police divers may also be brought in to search an area where wreckage and a life jacket was found.

An RAF helicopter from Lossiemouth and two Royal Navy vessels from Loch Ewe conducted the search. Police later named the missing man as Stuart Murray, of Highfield Avenue, Wormit, Fife. The survivor was named as Perek Roxburgh, of Midtown, Inverasdale, Poolewe, Wester Ross.



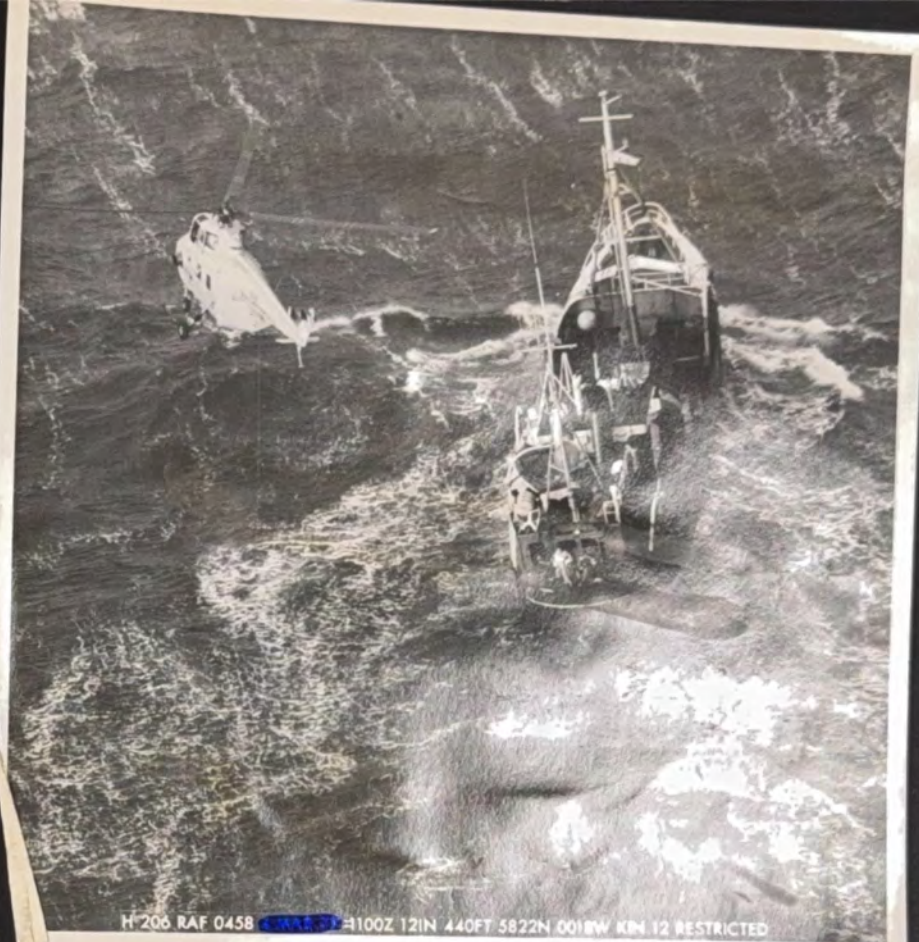








12 April 1977  
Geoff Leeming  
Bill Gault  
Mick Anderson



H 206 RAF 0458 1100Z 12IN 440FT 5822N 0018W KIN 12 RESTRICTED

4 Feb 1977  
Malcom Carlyle  
Brian Canfer  
Tony Goodyear



# Copter hovers over scene

RAF Lossiemouth crew in search off Rattray Head

Two drowned as boat capsizes

Two men were drowned yesterday after a motor boat they were trying to launch from a beach at St Fergus, Aberdeen-shire, capsized in the surf. Three other men in the boat managed to reach the shore, but the bodies of the two dead men were not recovered until a search by boats and a helicopter.

The names of the dead men are being withheld until relatives have been informed. The 36ft boat is used to ferry divers working on the gas pipeline which comes ashore at St Fergus between the shore and a crane barge a few hundred yards off shore. It had been beached there Thursday after its propeller became fouled.

Peterhead Coastguard said that they had no explanation for how the boat came to capsize, as wind and waves were not high, and the tide was at high water.

Peterhead lifeboat was launched in search for the missing men, with the help from the fishing vessel Barbarella and a helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth.

Police said that the men on board were employed by the Peterhead Engineering Company. The survivors were helped ashore by people on the beach.



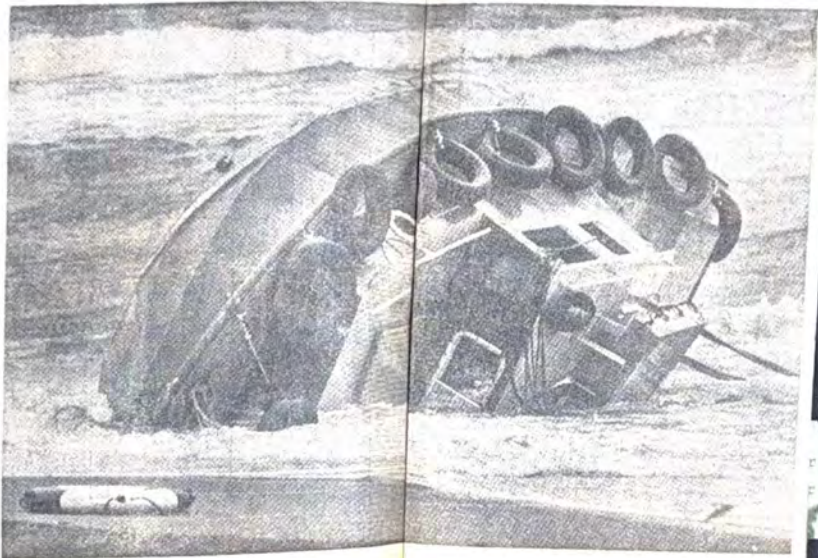
the overturned boat.

STORY BY GRAEME LYNCH  
AND COLIN McDONALD

PICTURE by "Press and Journal" reader JAMES HARRIS.

● THE overturned boat lies awash on the beach, with a lifebelt nearby.

17 June 1977  
Frank Pole  
Brian Conner  
Dave Lloyd



THE helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth engaged in the search after a boat overturned off Rattray Head yesterday, throwing five men into the water, hovers over the scene with the Peterhead lifeboat and a fishing boat in background.

CENTRE pictures show the helicopter winchman being lowered to carry out a closer search as spectators and helpers on the shore look on.

THE SEARCH ends and the helicopter flies away, leaving the overturned boat as mute evidence of the tragic accident, in which two men lost their lives.

PICTURES BY ALEXANDER MITCHELL



# PETERHEAD MEN DIE OFF COAST

Three survive in boat accident

TWO men drowned in a freak accident 50 yards off the North-east coast yesterday.

The men died after a boat which they were trying to refloat capsized, throwing them and three other crew members into the water.

The dead men were later named as Mr John Jones, 119 Catto Drive, and Mr James Robertson, 6 Morven Crescent, both Peterhead.

Mr Jones is survived by his wife, Bolla, and four of a family.

Mr Robertson in his early 30s, leaves a wife, Alison, and three children — aged three, five and seven.

The accident occurred shortly after 2 p.m. when the five men, employed by Peterhead Engineering Ltd., were helping to refloat a workboat known as "The Red Boat" from a beach less than a mile from Rattray Head.

The boat, which was on charter to Brown and Root (UK) Ltd., was involved in inspection of a pipeline leading to the St Fergus gas terminal.

A fouled propeller had forced the boat to beach on Thursday night.

Yesterday afternoon the Red Boat was freed by workmen using a bulldozer and pulled off by the Peterhead registered Barbarella.

As the vessel moved out to sea, she was struck by a lump of water and keeled over, tossing the five crew members into the water.

Two — Mr Alexander



ONE of the helicopter crew, winchman Sgt. David Lloyd, Hopeman, in conversation at the scene of the St Fergus tragedy with Grampian Police Chief Insp. George Cruickshank, Peterhead.

McLean, 21 Gordon Terrace, Peterhead, and Mr John Henderson, 14 Logie Road, Crimmond—scrambled ashore, but Mr Jones and Mr Robertson failed to surface.

The third survivor, believed to be from Peterhead, left the scene and returned home without requiring medical treatment.

Mr McLean was discharged from Peterhead Cottage Hospital last night and was later under sedation at home.

His wife said she was very relieved that he was alive, but she had still to hear full details of the accident.

Mr Henderson was being detained for observation.

A 999 call from the nearby gas terminal alerted Peterhead coastguards. Minutes later Peterhead lifeboat was launched and a helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth was on its way.

Police and an ambulance raced to the scene as employees from the gas terminal arrived to assist in rescue attempts.

One onlooker said: "It seemed impossible that any one could drown—they were only yards from the shore."

One of the men was washed ashore and someone tried to give him artificial respiration, but it was too late.



# Holidaymaker found after Culloden hunt



By GORDON FYFE

**WINCHMAN** Mick Anderson prepares James Gillespie for his airlift from Culloden Forest.

A FULL-SCALE search was sparked off yesterday afternoon when a diabetic holidaymaker was reported missing at a popular Highland tourist spot.

Teacher Mr James Robert Gillespie (28), 15 Orchard Court, Dundee, failed to rendezvous with his wife at the Culloden Moor Visitor Centre after going alone for a walk on a nature trail.

His wife, anxious that his three-hourly shot of insulin was overdue, alerted police and over 100 volunteers and RAF rescue helicopter from Lossiemouth joined in searching the forest tracks.

Three hours after the alert was raised two volunteers founded the bearded Mr Gillespie off the beaten track walking about dazed.

Mr Gillespie was winched into the helicopter and whisked off to Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, for treatment.

A nurse spokeswoman said last night that Mr Gillespie's condition was not serious but he was being detained on hospital overnight for observation.

He was found by Mrs Joan Grant, Corrievar, Culloden Moor and her daughter, Nicola, who were searching with four of their pet dogs. They found a watch lying on a forest track 400 yards from the Culloden - Balloch road near Keppoch Inn and decided to look into the trees.

Mrs Grant said: "I saw Mr Gillespie stumbling about in the trees and shouted to him. He staggered over to us and appeared to be very dazed. He did not know where he was or what was happening."

Insp. Harry Barratt who headed the search, thanked the many tourists and local residents for their assistance. "Their help was tremendous. The helicopter team again played a vital role," he said.

The helicopter was crewed by F1-L1 Frank Pole, pilot; F1-L2 Barry Fisher, navigator; and P1-Sgt. Mick Anderson, winchman.



Mrs JOAN GRANT Found him.

PICTURES BY NICK ANDERSON

## Boy Airlifted From Cairngorm

A 15-YEAR-OLD boy was airlifted to safety from the Cairngorm mountain yesterday afternoon.

He is Barry Thomas Haughe, of Linlithgow.

Barry, who had fallen injuring his head and back, was taken by helicopter to Raigmore Hospital, Inverness.

The helicopter from Lossiemouth winched him to safety from Fiacail Coire An Lochain, above Loch Morlich, near Glenmore Lodge. The hospital said later Barry's injuries were not serious.

9 July 1977  
Frank Pole  
Barry Fisher  
Dave Lloyd

2 AUG 1977  
Frank Pole  
Barry Fisher  
Mick Anderson

## Girl (14) taken off North mountain

A 14-YEAR-OLD Gloucester schoolgirl was airlifted off a Sutherland mountainside last night and flown by helicopter to an Inverness hospital.

Caroline Griffith, Tewkesbury, was in a party camping on the side of 2000ft. Foinaven when she complained of severe stomach pains.

A final year medical student in the party diagnosed acute appendicitis.

Another party member travelled 4½ miles to the nearest topography — Achvar at the head of Loch More, to phone police.

Headquarters at Dornoch summoned an RAF helicopter from Lossiemouth. Its crew flew through mist and rain to pick up the girl at the side of a little loch high up the mountain.

She was taken 60 miles to Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, and was being attended to.

late last night. No report was available

4 Aug 1977  
Frank Pole  
Brian Canfer  
Andy Ball

## Cromarty cliff ordeal hero tells of climb

AN Easter Ross man said yesterday he spent more than two hours perched on a cliff ledge keeping company with a young Dutch tourist who got into difficulties while climbing the North Sutor near the entrance to the Cromarty Firth on Sunday afternoon.

Maintenance fitter Mr Hugh Munro (22), 28 Oldmill Road, Milton, near Kildary, climbed 200ft up the cliff in heavy rain and made his way to where 21-year-old waiter Peter Wejn Ranningsch from Dourwerth, Holland, was trapped.

While waiting for a helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth to come to the rescue, Hugh chatted with the fatigued Dutchman and tried to raise his spirits.

Shortly before 10 p.m. the helicopter winched the two shivering men to the top of the cliff.

Peter, holidaying at Kindness near Invergordon was uninjured after his seven-hour ordeal and rejoined friends yesterday.

Hugh was out fishing with friends David Henderson (13), Burnside Cottage, Nigg, and Jim MacGregor (22), 60 Loch Sun Place, Balintore, in a 12ft boat when he heard shouts from the shore.

"We went to investigate and realised someone was in difficulties on the cliff. The boat could not get up nor down," he said.

"David and I made our way to the top of the cliff but we could not see Peter. We made our way left, down the cliff and I agreed to climb to the ledge and remain with him."

"Conditions were very unpleasant because of the



HUGH MUNRO Praised by police.

rain. Peter spoke English quite well and we passed the time chatting."

He was anxious to know how we were going to be rescued. The helicopter made a few sweeps over the ledge but could not get near enough.

"I climbed to a higher ledge and threw a rope to Peter. He tied it round his waist and made his way up."

Hugh was wearing shoes and said he would have had great difficulty in climbing to safety himself from the ledge.

Last night — Sgt George Mackay, Tain, who was assisted in the rescue by constables Hamish MacMillan, Nigg, and Ian MacLennan, Tain, said: "Mr Munro was a trained man while we made arrangements to get a rescue helicopter to the scene. The conditions were very unpleasant on the cliff."

## Lossiemouth airlift youth 'serious'

LOSSIEMOUTH youth John Hall, 67 Colonsay Street — who was flown by helicopter to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary with severe head injuries early yesterday after his motor cycle hit a stationary car — was said to be still serious but stable.

John (16), who has a broken collar bone and a broken leg.

The accident happened late on Sunday night opposite the town's St Andrew Hotel.

An apprentice motor mechanic with an Elgin garage firm John is one of a family of three. His father, Mr William Campbell, is a civilian fitter at RAF Lossiemouth.

25 July 1977  
Jim Gatherer  
Barry Fisher  
Andy Ball

9 Aug 1977  
Martin Cockedge  
Taff Bees  
Mick Anderson

## Injured man in Ben Nevis airlift

AN ENGLISH holidaymaker was last night airlifted from Ben Nevis by an RAF Lossiemouth helicopter after breaking his leg.

Mr Andrew Jamieson, from Lancaster, was flown to hospital in Port William.

Mr Jamieson, a university lecturer, was detained overnight.

The helicopter was piloted by P1. Lt. Martin Cockedge.

17 July 1977  
Frank Pole  
Barry Fisher  
Jim Clark





9 Aug 1977  
Martin Cocksedge  
Barry Fisher  
Mick Anderson

### Moor couple found safe

A MASSIVE search in Lewis was called off early yesterday when a missing American couple were found exhausted after spending the night on the moors.

Vaino Williamson, 55, and his wife, Birgitta, 54, from New York, lost their way during a seven-mile walk from Tolsta to Ness on Thursday.

30 Sept 1977  
Stan Darcy  
Bill Campbell  
Dave Lloyd

### Big search for fisherman

A large-scale search was carried out yesterday off Tolsta Head on the east coast of Lewis for a missing fisherman. He is Mr. Evannder Murray (55), of North Tolsta a member of the fishing boat Fiery Cross from Stornoway.

He was last seen early yesterday. Later however an amonak was found on the shore at the north end of Tolsta Head and it is believed that it belonged to Mr. Murray.

Stornoway lifeboat, the fishery cruiser Brenda and seven local fishing boats searched the sea helped by an RAF helicopter from Lussiemouth. The Stornoway Coastal Rescue Company, police and local volunteers combed the coastline.

The search by the fishing boat was called off later yesterday but local skin divers continue the search close inshore.

7 Nov 1977  
Stan Darcy  
Tony Cass  
Mick Anderson

Geoff Leeming - Queen's Commendation + R.H.S. Bronze Medal

Malcom Carlyle

Bill Gault

Mick Anderson

Rae Sefton (M.R.T.)

- R.H.S. Bronze Medal





A.O.C,s Inspection 28 Sept 1977

'D' Flight 202 Squadron 1977





# RAF rescue fishers

## Airlift after boat in distress is spotted off Nairn

THE SHARP eyes of a former RAF jet pilot launched an air and sea rescue off Nairn yesterday evening.

First officer G. Sneddon on the British ship from Nairn he was the RAF

First a Nimrod from Kinloss pinpointed the 20ft. lobster-line boat Pentland Firth, broken down, but at anchor five miles from Nairn.

Then an RAF search rescue helicopter from Lossiemouth, piloted by Flt. Lt. Geoff Leeming, airlifted the three occupants to Nairn beach after winching them on board. But there is a feeling among Nairn fishermen that the intensive rescue opera-

tion could have been saved if Nairn harbour had been dredged.

Fishermen and other sailors have been fighting for years to have the harbour dredged and thus make it accessible at all tides.

The rescue operation was carried out in darkness and freezing conditions.

The rescued three are the co-owners, Mr Robin Wallace

(42), 35 House Hill Terrace, Nairn, Mr John Main (32), 24 Whitelaw Crescent, Queens Park, Nairn, and Mr Ian Asher (39), 10 Doocot Road, Auldearn.

All three work at the McDermott oil yard at Ardersier, closed down because of an industrial dispute which allowed them to go for a day's sea angling.

After being taken to Nairn by helicopter Mr Wall-

asked to be flown back to his boat, where he waited to rendezvous with the Invergordon lifeboat (Cox. Angus MacDonald).

The Pentland Firth was towed back to Invergordon harbour, as Nairn harbour was inaccessible because of low water.

Mr Jimmy Magee, Soutar's Avenue, Nairn, a boat owner and friend of the three rescued men said that if the harbour had been dredged, boat owners could have gone out and brought in the Pentland Firth, as her flares had been spotted from the town.

"We have been fighting to have the harbour dredged for years," said Mr Magee, "but apparently there is no money to do this.

"What if there had been a more serious accident out there and we could not get a boat out?"

All three rescued men were none the worse for their experience.

The boat's engine would not start because of a flat battery and after vainly trying for 45 minutes to get under way they fired off the distress flares.

"We were anchored quite safely and the sea was not too rough," said Mr Main.

The first alert was made at 4 p.m.

First officer Sneddon of the Viscount's is no stranger to air-sea rescue.

The RAF say he was the first person in the RAF to be air lifted by the RAF air-sea rescue service, in 1953, when his Gloster Meteor jet crashed into the sea.

The Nimrod was captained by Wing Cdr. Peter Stean, who was doing most of the flying on a training exercise along with Flt. Lt. David Angus of Forres.

Last night Flt. Lt. Martin Christie, who was on board the Nimrod helping to



TWO of the three rescued — Mr Ian Asher (left) and Mr John Main.



28 Jan 1978

Geoff Leeming

Brian Canfer

Dave Lloyd

) went along for the ride

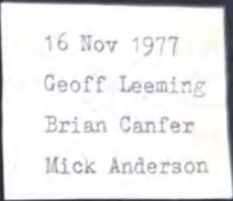




22 DEC 1977

Geoff Leeming  
Tony Cass  
Norman Atkinson  
CHIRP!!





## Three attempts to bring 'mystery' statue to earth

MRS Kathryn Crosby, widow of Bing Crosby, arrived in London yesterday a month after her husband's death to attend the Royal Variety performance.



# Climbers broke almost every rule

By NEIL MACPHAIL

TWO experienced mountaineers are lucky to be alive after breaking just about every rule in the book while on an expedition in the Cairngorms. The two were plucked to safety in blizzard conditions by a helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth after a massive search had been launched at first light yesterday.

They owe much of their survival to "Donald," a mystery lone climber who fed and warmed them when they staggered exhausted into the Fords of Avon Bothy.

"We made just about every mistake it was possible to make," said a relieved Mr Alan Grainger (40), after he stepped from the helicopter at Glenmore Lodge, the search headquarters.

His companion on the 15-hour ordeal, Mr Jo Marchant (32), with 14 years' climbing experience, said: "It was my fault. I was just too cocksure."

Mr Grainger, a toolmaker, 7 Berkshire House, Southend Lane, Catford, and Mr Marchant, a lift engineer, 21 Newton Close, Woodberry Down, both London, were with two companions on a rock climb on Coire an t-Sneachda.

After reaching the top they set off on their own, arranging to meet their friends at the ski-road car park. But they left behind map and compasses and after descending the wrong way became hopelessly lost.

In all they must have trekked 27 miles from Loch Avon to the Castle Gorge on the Water of Caiplich, heading for Tomintoul and in the

## Experienced mountaineers rapped after Cairngorms rescue

opposite direction to the car-park rendezvous.

Their companions raised the alarm in the evening when they had not turned up and at dawn the search was mounted. Cairngorm and RAF Kinloss mountain rescue teams, members of the Search and Rescue Dog Association and a helicopter piloted by Flt. Lt. Geoff Leeming began scouring the corries and glens.

The missing pair's companions, Londoners Ken Wilkinson and Dave Furness, joined the search.

Fog and snow driven by 30m.p.h. winds hampered the hunt and at one point an avalanche warning was flashed to the teams by radio.

The missing men had no survival gear apart from a lightweight bivouac bag, but were well clad for the conditions.

Mr Marchant said: "I have been climbing for 14 years and have lectured people about not taking chances on the mountains. I have every respect for the Cairngorms and have climbed them before."

"But on this occasion I was just too cocksure. I thought it could not happen to me. It will never happen again."

The two also made the mistake when they reached

the Fords Bothy and met "Donald" of not staying there — they pressed on, anxious not to cause any anxiety.

"We tried to bivouac during the night but it was too cold and we could not sleep," said Mr Marchant. "So when the moon came up and we could see the paths again we began walking."

"We were really very lucky. I was ready to drop and would have been happy to lie down and go to sleep. But Alan kept nagging at me to keep going."

"Not having a map or compass caused this search to occur," said Mr Fred arper, head of the Glenmore Lodge outdoor activity centre, who co-ordinated the search operation.

"These men were sound mountaineers but no mountaineer can expect to run around the Cairngorms without a map and compass and come out alive. This was an object lesson which I hope others will follow."

Police at Kingussie said: "It is rather unfortunate that experienced climbers should be lost without map, torch or compass. If we are getting experienced people going up without these things, what are we going to do about the poor inexperienced people who don't know."



MR FRED HARPER

... Lesson for others





OD. Wright  
Alan  
JMB

Bob K.  
Dave baby

Duncan

Chris Paine

Brian Taylor

Robert Lister  
(Sgt. Lister)

Taff Lewis

Brian Carter  
John  
Wing  
Goff Mearns  
SNO RN

Henry J. Reilly  
Wyle

Colin P. Young  
LTCDR  
RN

Cdr A. Leeming

Malcolm Hughes

Ted Mustard

Paul Coleman

Martin Case



OFFICERS' MESS  
ROYAL AIR FORCE  
LOSSIEMOUTH

### Luncheon

on the occasion of the

**Annual Inspection**

of

**D Flight, No 202 Squadron**

and the

**Introduction of Sea King into  
Squadron Service**

by the

**Commander**

**Northern Maritime Air Region**

**Air Vice-Marshal T L Kennedy**

CB AFC RAF

THURSDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 1978



Cordon L'Espoir  
Sqn Cdr.

WINE

Liebfraumilch Crown of Crowns 1975

J. Kennedy

AVM

D. Baldwin  
GP Capt

MENU

Melon Oporto

★ ★ ★

Supreme of Chicken Cordon Bleu

Rissolees Potatoes

Broccoli Spears    Sweetcorn    Tomato Farce

★ ★ ★

Coupe Andalouse

★ ★ ★

Coffee



# RESCUED..



Saved... the tramp who came in from the cold

## Two nights adrift for old Amos

**T**HIS is the moment the amazing Amos Luker emerged from his hole in the snow. The rescue wasn't too soon... for the 58-year-old tramp had been buried for TWO NIGHTS!

An ambulance man said: "He was absolutely rigid and certainly would not have survived a third night."

### Patch

Rescuers were alerted after a passerby spotted something moving under the snow beside a hedge on the Culloden road on the outskirts of Inverness.

The ambulance man added: "It turned out to be a tramp from Durham who said he had lain there for two days."

The seemingly fat Mr Luker was taken to hospital—where he shed six coats, three pairs of trousers and a pair of long johns.

Round his waist were strung his pots and pans and other cooking utensils.

In Raigmore Hospital last night his condition was said to be "fair."

# Chaos as Scotland

**T**HE worst blizzards in 20 years brought most of Scotland to a grinding halt at the weekend.

They also brought tragedy, unbelievable rescues and scenes of amazing courage.

And they brought the fear that an unknown number of people may still be buried under the massive drifts.

TRAGEDY came first for 43-year-old mother of five, Mrs Mary Thompson, from Primrose Bay, Loch Ness.

As she waited for a bus on the lochside road to Drumnadrochit, a lorry skidded and killed her. Her 14-year-old son, Charles, was at her side when she died.

**THE SECOND VICTIM** was 58-year-old Mr Nicholas Quinn, of Balnakeil House, Farr, Inverness-shire.

His body was found after the crew of an RAF helicopter spotted his feet sticking out of the snow near his abandoned car on the road from his home to Inverness.

Mr Quinn, a father of two, had been missing since Saturday night.

But last night, a family—mother, father and 11-year-old child were rescued.

Archie MacMillan, his wife, Elizabeth,

and their son, from Farr, had been trapped in their car on the Aberarder-Gorthlick road on remote moorland on Loch Ness side.

A climber had to be abandoned by his friends on slopes of Creag Meagaidh, Lagganish, where two men died just over a week ago.

### TENT

He was left in a small tent on Saturday while his friends struggled through the blizzard for help. He has not been seen since.

And a police spokesman said: "The death toll is only provisional. Many more could be dead."

**THE BIGGEST RESCUE** operation was launched in Sutherland, where 70 passengers were trapped in a train cut off by snowdrifts and derailments.

The train was stuck seven miles from Forinard on the Caithness-Sutherland border on Saturday night.

After spending a freezing night huddled in one coach, the passengers were shuttled in two helicopters to Halkirk and Wick.

And last night, the boss of British Rail in Scotland, Mr Leslie Soane, praised the rescue services and his own men.

He said: "The efforts of our track men and the rescuers was nothing short of heroic."

Meanwhile, rail staff fought a



Abandoned cars are slowly buried on the A87 at Glen Garry.

29 Jan 978  
Geoff Leeming  
Brian Canfer  
Dave Lloyd

Martin Cook  
Bill Campbell  
George Muir

# AND TRAPPED



hundreds of people trapped at the lonely Aultguish Inn, Wester Ross, wave to the rescue helicopter

# hit by blizzard

... battle to keep the North open.

... night, a B.R. official said there will be no trains to Glasgow tomorrow.

... hoping to get some through as far as the south, the line from Wemyss Bay was when gales brought down power lines.

... with their biggest living memory—Operation Whitehead. The RAF had to call in bombers from bases in Wales.

... spokesman at the service centre at Pitlochry, said: "Conditions are appalling—worse than I can remember. Our men are being forced to dig out the road."

... recall any time in which so many men have been used. The helicopters found the Inverness couple trapped in a car for more than 24 hours on the Long Tongue road in Sutherland.

... Mackay, 68, and his wife, 60, had set out to go home from Glenelg to Inverness, to Betty's home in Caithness. 16 were airlifted from trapped vehicles. Mr Charles

Finnie, of McLean Street, Dundee, said:

"I was stuck for 30 hours since 9 a.m. on Saturday. It was a complete white-out. I have never seen anything like it."

A farmer and his family had to fight a blaze themselves after three fire engines were stuck in six foot drifts in Glenishee, Perthshire.

A snowplough which tried to get through to them also became stuck.

Mr Simon Ferguson, 29, of Corb Farn, Bridge of Gally, his wife and his mother-in-law, built a platform of straw bales to tackle the rooftop blaze with buckets of water.

### FIGHT

**IN GLENCOE**, more than 80 trapped travellers cheered wildly as they were rescued from the snow-packed glen.

All day, snowploughs had fought to reach the men, women and children who had huddled all night in the Kierhouse Hotel without water or electricity.

Their ordeal began on Saturday night. Within minutes scores of cars and vans ground to a halt or skidded off the road. Police fought through 12 feet deep snowdrifts to reach the trapped vehicles.

Then, as the passengers

chewed on bars of chocolate, they were ferried to the hotel by police.

Though shut for the winter, the hotel was flung open and everyone was given blankets, hot water bottles and food.

By 5 p.m. last night, the road was finally cleared sufficiently to let two buses through.

The trapped people were hurried from the hotel to the buses and brought quickly out of the glen in case the weather closed in on them once more.

One of those trapped was David Wells, 19, of Polwarth House, Stirling University.

David said last night: "We were driving along in our van when the wind just filled the road in front of us with snow."

"We came off the road and found there was nothing we could do. We got out and tried to dig our transit van clear, but it was impossible."

One group of businessmen were trapped in the snow for more than 14 hours.

Colin McLeod and his partner David Harris were caught in lonely Glen Garry soon after they drove off the Skye Ferry on Saturday.

Early yesterday morning—as drifts built up around their car—they heard a welcome knocking on the CAR ROOF.

It was an RAF mountain rescue team—who dug them

clear and led them by foot to Invergarry Hotel.

NINE people were winched to safety in a tiny Highland hamlet after their bus stuck in drifts on a journey from Inverness to Ullapool.

A giant British Airways helicopter from Aberdeen plucked them from the stranded vehicle and took them to nearby Aultguish.

But because of the thick snow, the Sea King aircraft could not land and the passengers had to be dropped by winch outside the Aultguish Inn.

The village was totally cut off

### POWER

Orkney was entirely cut off by the blizzard and most of the islands were without power for 24 hours.

Parts of Shetland were still without electricity yesterday after a black out in most of the islands for up to 36 hours.

Caithness and Sutherland were also blacked out by power cuts.

Although most of the south and central belt of Scotland escaped the chaos, 10 cars were trapped in deep snow on the Newhousemill road between East Kilbride and Hamilton.

Police and snowploughs struggled for nearly two hours to free the occupants from the stranded cars.



By ALASTAIR BISSET

RESCUE helicopter crews from RAF Lossiemouth had their busiest 24 hours at the weekend when they were called out on five occasions to help in mountain rescue dramas.

On Saturday, one of the helicopters had to make a precautionary landing four miles from Braemar after almost running out of fuel in blizzard conditions—and later on Saturday with every available duty man already involved, an off-duty crew turned up to volunteer to fly a relief helicopter to Glenmore where a member of a mountain rescue team was suffering from exhaustion.

The first of the Lossiemouth helicopters—crewed by Flt. Lt. Jim Gatherer, Flt. Lt. Bill Campbell and Flt. Sgt. Mick Anderson—was called out on Saturday afternoon after nine climbers had been caught in an avalanche in the Cairngorms.

## Busiest day for Lossiemouth rescue crews...

The crew picked up two of the climbers who had been injured and flew them to Raigmore Hospital in Inverness.

Then the helicopter was diverted to Loch Laggan, near Fort-William, where two climbers had been injured after being hit by an avalanche.

Flt. Lt. Malcolm Carlisle and his crew, Flt. Lt. Brian Canfer and winchman George Muir, found the blizzard made flying conditions virtually impossible and with fuel fast running out, they had to make an emergency landing. A Land Rover later made the journey from Lossiemouth with extra fuel—and the helicopter was recalled to base yesterday after one of the injured climbers was found by the mountain rescue team and transferred to Aberdeen by ambulance. The other climber was found dead.

Later on Saturday night, an off-duty crew consisting of Flt. Lt. Geoff Leeming, Flt. Lt. Tony Cans and Sgt. Andy Ball turned up at RAF Lossiemouth to man a relief helicopter and fly to Glenmore where one of the mountain rescue team members had collapsed with exhaustion. Their assistance was not required however.

And yesterday morning Flt. Lt. Leeming and two other crew members, Flt. Lt. Bill Campbell and Flt. Sgt. Mick Anderson were called back to the Loch Laggan area to help in a renewed search for the two missing climbers.



PILOT of the Whirlwind helicopter which carried out the mission on Saturday, Flt. Lt. Jim Gatherer, tells reporter Jim Love about the incident.

A HELICOPTER from RAF Lossiemouth joins the search for the Glasgow climbers. In the background is Creag-Meagaidh.

## Two men missing on Creag-Meagaidh

# THREE DIE ON PEAKS

## Two Dundee men in fatal 350ft. fall near Loch Laggan

By GORDON FYFE and JIM LOVE

TWO Dundee climbers died on Saturday after falling 350ft. on Creag-Meagaidh, a 3700ft. mountain overlooking Loch Laggan.

Quantity surveyor Mr Ian Reilly (25), 60 Kemnay Gardens, and student Mr Brian Simpson (23), 15 Strathgordon Road, were swept together down the mountain.

Step. How, Dundee, were climbing nearby. Gerald raised the alarm while his friend waited with the injured men.

More than 20 members of Lochaber mountain rescue team, together with four police mountain experts from Fort-William, arrived after darkness had fallen, with conditions steadily worsening. The men were dead when the rescuers reached them. It was late at night before the rescuers recovered the bodies.

A rescue helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth was called, but was unable to assist because of the adverse conditions.

The alarm was raised at 4.40 p.m. Only an hour earlier the rescue helicopter had

been called to the Cairngorms, where three climbers were injured in two simultaneous mini-avalanche accidents.

Mr Brian John Clough (19), Apple's Nook, Penwortham near Preston, and Mr Stuart James (22), 22, Leith Road, Edinburgh, were taken to Raigmore Hospital.

The young men, with head and pelvic injuries, were flown to Northern Constabulary HQ in Inverness, where they were transferred to an ambulance and taken to Raigmore Hospital.

Mr James was detained in Raigmore Hospital and last night his condition was said to be "satisfactory". Mr Clough was taken to the Royal Northern Infirmary, Inverness, where his condition was also "satisfactory". Mr Andrew James Dowe (20), Ormie Lodge, Thurso, who was climbing with Mr James, managed to make his own way down the mountain. He was later taken to Raigmore Hospital by a suspected fractured leg.

A fourth climber, Mr Roger Wells (18), 113 Craigie Drive, Edinburgh, who was climbing with Mr Clough, was also involved but was uninjured. He received treatment for hypothermia at Glenmore Lodge.

### DOCTOR

The rescue helicopter, crewed by pilot Flt. Lt. Jim Gatherer, navigator Flt. Lt. Bill Campbell and winchman Flt. Sgt. Mick Anderson, picked up Dr Neil MacNeil at Aviemore before setting off on their mercy mission.

At first it was feared that as many as nine people had been injured in the avalanches, but the others made their way safely to Glenmore Lodge.

Flt. Lt. Gatherer said winds were 60 knots gusting to 80 knots. He added: "The cloud level was 2000ft and spindrift minimised visibility. Our winchman knew the terrain and fortunately the wind was in our favour. We followed a path up the mountain and found the injured climbers."

Chief Insp. John MacLean, Kingussie, said last night: "Anybody going into the hills in the present conditions, where the weather is changing so rapidly, should be conscious of the unstable underfoot conditions. They should keep clear of any where they think might be dangerous."

The two Dundee men who died were experienced climbers. The fathers of both men went to Inverness yesterday to identify the bodies. Both had been pupils at Craigie High School, brought by ferry. Relatives comforted the mother of Mr Simpson, a student at Dundee College of Commerce.

## Black weekend in Scotland

BLIZZARDS halted the search for two climbers yesterday, at the end of a weekend that saw three other climbers swept to their deaths and three more injured on Scottish mountains.

Fears for the safety of the missing climbers grew yesterday as search parties gave up their hunt after six hours when conditions worsened and darkness fell. The two men were climbing on the 3700ft. Creag-Meagaidh, overlooking Loch Laggan.

They were named last night as Terence Bernard Plommer (20), a duplicator, 62 Kellhead Avenue, Penrize, and Edward Waltham (21), a clerk, 3 Mossbank Boulevard, Mossport, both Glasgow.

The alarm was raised for one of their two companions Mr David Macdonald, from Leathie, near Elgin. The party of three was swept together down the mountain.

Chief Insp. John MacLean, Kingussie, said the search would continue at first light today when rescue teams from the Cairngorms, RAF Leuchars and Glenmore Lodge would take part. Police dogs and a rescue helicopter would be adding their assistance. Around 70 are expected to take part.

On Saturday, two young Dundee climbers were killed after falling 350ft. on the same mountain, and a student was swept to his death in an avalanche on Lochnagar.

Hours earlier, on Saturday, an RAF rescue helicopter was in action on the Cairngorms, when three climbers were injured in two avalanches.

Chief Insp. MacLean said last night: "Conditions on the mountain are bad and at times, because of the men's safety increases, but I have hopes they will be alive."

Chief Insp. MacLean paid tribute to the efforts of the helicopter crew and the Lochaber and police rescue teams for their efforts during the three rescues.

He said: "The helicopter crew have performed tremendous work in high winds, heavy snow and darkness and we are very grateful for these efforts in dangerous situations. We are also very grateful for the efforts by the teams on the ground."

Heavy snow continued to fall on mountains throughout the North and the meteorological office in Glasgow said snow and sleet were common all over the area, with frost causing problems last night.

## Climber tells of killer Lochnagar avalanche

By DENNY MACGEE

A YOUNG student was swept to his death by tons of snow while climbing Rieburn's Gully on Lochnagar at the weekend.

Last night, the dead climber's companion on the mountain told how they had been hit by "a big slab of soft snow" and how he survived the avalanche and a 700ft. fall.

The climber who died was 22-year-old John Greenhill, 1 Main Street, Menstrie, Clackmannanshire, a fourth-year mathematics student at St Andrews University.

The avalanche hit late on

Saturday afternoon as John Greenhill and fellow student Stephen Crozier (19), 9 Burnside Road, Invergowrie, were making their way up Rieburn's Gully—a classic winter climb on the sheer rockface.

Suddenly, tons of snow swept down on top of them, killing Mr Greenhill and carrying Mr Crozier 700ft. down the mountainside.

Braemar, Grampian police and Aberdeen mountain rescue teams were called out, along with an RAF helicopter from Lossiemouth, but condi-

tions on the mountain were so bad that the helicopter crew found it impossible to stay in the air.

With fuel running out fast, they were forced to make an emergency landing. Later, however, a Land Rover carrying fuel made a special journey from Lossiemouth, and the helicopter took off again. It was recalled to its base yesterday morning.

Without the aid of the helicopter the rescue teams had to struggle for hours through conditions which one team member described as "atrocious".

After battling through the snow for four miles the teams eventually reached Mr Crozier, but had to return without the body of the dead man.

They returned to the mountain yesterday to try to locate the dead man. Mr Crozier was taken to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Foresterhill, where his condition last night was "satisfactory".

From his hospital bed, he told "The Press and Journal" of his ordeal. Originally he said, there had been four climbers in the party, but they decided to split into two teams. He and John Greenhill, Rieburn's Gully, the other two scaling the more difficult Douglas Gully, climbed section, 1100 and went up the middle.

"I had some about 15ft. when I pulled a movement and could see cracks opening up all over the snow. The whole thing just started swinging down—tons of snow. I tried to get my eye in, but it was no use in the soft snow—I was too thick. I shouted to John, I could see him waiting for me."

"I expected to feel the rope connecting us as tight and be pulled into the safe. But I sort of jerked and then kept coming out. Then the snow started to cover my head and I fell back over the icy patches and was knocked unconscious."

"I didn't think I would survive."



ONE of the climbers injured in the Cairngorms avalanche is helped into an ambulance after he was flown by helicopter to Inverness police station.

21 Jan 1978

Jim Gatherer  
Bill Campbell  
Mick Anderson

Malcolm Carlyle  
Brian Canfer  
George Muir

Geoff Leeming  
Tony Cans  
Andy Ball



# Saved from an icy grave

## Motorist dug out after three days in drift

By ANGUS MACLEOD, CHRIS MULLINGER and ANTHONY PLEDGER

A man missing for three days in the Highlands was dug out alive from what was almost an icy grave yesterday as "Operation Snowdrop" Mark II swung into action.

The tremendous task of restoring some kind of order to the snow-stricken North was spearheaded yesterday by a fleet of more than 20 military and civilian helicopters.

All day they ferried food, emergency generators and other supplies to communities cut off by snow drifts.

In the Commons last night, Mr Bruce Millan, Secretary of State for Scotland, came under pressure from Scottish MPs to provide Government money for the Highland snow relief operation. He assured MPs they would look sympathetically at requests for special aid for blizzard damage. Meanwhile, Mr Harry Ewing, Scottish Under-Secretary, is to make a helicopter tour of the worst-hit Highland areas today.

### Loud cheers

The most improbable escape from the snows came as darkness fell last night when Mr William Sutherland (60) was found alive and apparently quite well in his Mini car surrounded by 18-feet deep drifts where he had spent three days.

As news filtered through to

the rescue co-ordination centre at Inverness, a loud cheer went up from the men and women who have manned the centre non-stop since Sunday.

A search by police and volunteers from Helmsdale had gone on all day in the two-mile stretch of the A9, where three people had already perished, for Mr Sutherland, a company representative of Henrietta Street, Wick.

Rescue workers talked to Mr Sutherland briefly before he was taken to Golspie Hospital. In spite of the deep drifts around, his car was covered by only 18 inches of snow and was 200 yards from a telephone kiosk.

His sister, Mrs Alice More, broke down with relief when told of her brother's safety. She and her family had a minister in the house earlier praying for his return and had been coming to terms with the

probability that Mr Sutherland would not be found alive.

A police spokesman at Inverness said Mr Sutherland was able to speak quite clearly after his ordeal. "He does not look as if he is in too bad a condition," he added.

### 200 rescues

Last night, the Northern Chief Constable, Mr Donald Henderson, said that the extensive helicopter searches of the Highlands involving 20 mountain rescue team members had discovered no further evidence of motorists or others still trapped in the drifts. Helicopters have now carried out some 200 rescues of various types during the emergency.

Yesterday's main efforts were concentrated on airlifting vital supplies to people stranded in remote homes. At the police co-ordination centre in Inverness,

queues of helicopters came in to pick up supplies from the heli-pad outside.

As well as food, helicopters ferried emergency generators to several parts of the Highlands but still many villages remain cut off from a power supply.

Those unable to telephone for assistance laid out crosses in the snow to attract the attention of helicopter crews. One of the first villages to receive help was Tomatin, only 15 miles out of Inverness, where 300 loaves of bread were dropped to a local baker. "It looks like they will be living on bread and whisky in Tomatin for a while," an RAF spokesman joked.

A 15ft snow bank on the A9 near Inverness



Helicopters taking part in Operation Snowdrop Mark II were using the A9 as a landing area yesterday. This photograph was taken at the junction with the Cowlumburgh/Glenmore road near Aviemore.



Newlyweds Alex and Pamela Downie and their wedding guests outside the Drummond Hotel south of Inverness yesterday. They have been stranded here since the morning on Saturday.







# OP. SNOWDROP

Geoff Leeming - Waiting for the 9.30 InterCity  
(Slochd cottages - A9 )



At one point, John watched  
an RAF helicopter flying up  
the A9 searching for cars  
— and flying UN-  
DERNEATH electricity  
pylons!

Geoff Leeming  
Brian Canfer  
Dave Lloyd



# AIR RESCUE FOR TRAIN PASSENGERS

## Fears mounting for motorists in drifts

By LESLIE ABLE

HELICOPTER crews last night rescued 70 people who had been trapped in a derailed train for 24 hours as the worst blizzard for 30 years swept the north of Scotland.

But police feared that motorists could still be trapped in cars beneath 20ft snow-drifts on roads on the Calthness-Sutherland border.

Rescue teams set out on what they knew could be life-or-death missions. People facing a second night in sub-zero temperatures could be suffering seriously from exposure.

Mr Donald Henderson, Chief Constable of the Northern Constabulary, said: "We know there are at least three cars beneath such drifts, but we don't know if there is anyone inside them."

Helicopter crews had to call off their searches as darkness fell after blizzards and gales had raged through the day. Forecasters said more snow was on the way.

Mr Henderson said police had cleared up more of the lost of missing people. "It was through the teeth, marginally, job of helicopter crew," but more people were not missing.

The train left Inverness for Wick at 5.15 pm, on Saturday but five of the six coaches were derailed near Alnashie in Calthness as severe winds whipped snow into drifts up to 20ft high.

The driver, Mr Stewart Munro, put all the passengers into the one coach still left on the line and tried to continue the journey, but 1½ miles further on it was derailed.

As the passengers huddled together in the one coach, fuel for heating ran out at 7 am.

A rescue team was also derailed about a mile short of the lost train. But a journey in the rescue team struggled through the snow with tons of soup.

The passengers were rescued by an RAF helicopter from Lornmouth and two commercial helicopters.

The RAF helicopter had reasoned that they intended to drop food and blankets as snow cut visibility near the train. Then its pilot, Flight Lieutenant Martin Goodwin, decided that a rescue was possible.

The people rescued included two patients returning home from hospital.

### Constant 'white-out'

The helicopter winchman, Master Air Loadmaster George Muir, said the machine ferried 70 passengers from the stranded train to the nearest cottages, eight miles away, and picked up 16 other people from stranded cars during a 10-hour working day.

He said that they had managed to land to pick up about half of the passengers but that the rest had been winched aboard.

He said: "The pilot had to contend with constant 'white-out' conditions and a bit of turbulence. When we landed after dark the police wanted us to fly 40 miles to where they were sure there were people buried in cars."

"We were anxious to help—but by this time it was dark the winds were gale force and it would have been tremendous dangerous. But we will be ferrying people to the spot at first light."

### No food

One of the train passengers, Mr William Coghill, a dump-truck driver of Hoddart Street, Wick, who boarded the train at Helmsdale, Caithness, at 9 pm, on Saturday, for a two-hour journey, said: "It was pretty crowded in the one carriage and we just packed the time talking."

"We heard on the radio what was happening. We had no food."

"We got some soup about 1 pm today—a relief train had come through and had got stuck one-and-a-half miles away, but one of the men had managed to get through with some food."

"We were glad to see the helicopters. But I was not too

## RESCUE

By LESLIE ABLE

Continued from Page 1

happened. It was just one of things."

The RAF is sending many helicopters from Oxta, Bays, today to help the operations in north British. It took part yesterday.

One machine was winched down in an hour until it was over a British Airways helicopter, apparently stranded, as it passed near an isolated road. People who were last night to a helicopter reported that all telephone lines in the area were down.

Mechanics were working through the night to change the engine of a derailed machine so that it could be made to resume the search at first light. Another helicopter, from Lornmouth, moved up a family of four from a stranded car together with two lorry drivers who had to abandon their vehicles on the A1 south of Inverness. It also took a woman, a diabetic from a cottage where she had sought refuge from blood rationing to hospital in Inverness.

### Bus stranded

A British Airways helicopter rescued 20 passengers from a bus which had been stranded overnight on the A1 south of Inverness. Passengers from another bus, stranded near Berriedale, Caithness, managed to walk to safety.

Mountain rescue teams failed to locate a climber who had become weak early yesterday in the Laggan area near Fort William. The rescuers had not him on a first summit but amongst boulders and left alone while they went to get assistance.

A rescue helicopter ran into severe icing conditions and had to land. There were also fears last night for the safety of two climbers from Edinburgh, Mr and Mrs. Mountaineering Club, suffering from exposure in Glen Shee.

Six climbers were reported to be trapped in a gully in the Cairngorms.

In Glenelg, 10 people were facing a new danger at a hotel after being rescued from the snow. The hotel was reported to have run out of hot water, and its electricity supply failed.

A man was found dead after leaving his car in a gully and safety rest was taken from Inverness.

RAF LOSSIEMOUTH helicopter winchman Sgt. David Lloyd rescues three people who had been stranded in their car on the road alongside Loch Ness yesterday. The picture was taken by another member of the helicopter crew.



# TWO FALL 500 FEET ON KILLER PEAK

## Critical After 'Copter Rescue

injured when they fell  
h mountain last night.  
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men, had been lying uncon-

climbers, who immediately

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am were also called out.  
ities were still unable to release the

18 Feb 1978  
Martin Cockledge  
Brian Canfer  
Dave Lloyd

29 Jan 1978  
Martin Cockledge  
Bill Campbell  
George Muir

2 Geoff Leuning  
Brian Canfer  
Dave Lloyd

3 Jim Gatherer  
Tony Cagg  
Andy Ball



# 'COPTER RESCUES FOUR CLIMBERS

AN R.A.F. helicopter snatched three pupils and a teacher to safety yesterday after they had fallen over 100 feet on Ben Starav, near Glenelg.

The party, from Larvik Grammar School, were coming from the summit when one pupil slipped and fell.

As her companions tried to reach her another two girls and the teacher tumbled down the rock face.

Two went for help while the injured were made comfortable.

The helicopter from Lossiemouth flew in as darkness fell and against strong winds completed the rescue.

Last night the four were detained in Belford Hospital, Fort William. Ben Starav (1541 feet) towers above the east shore of Loch Eive.

11 Feb 1978  
Martin Cockesedge  
Tony Cass  
Andy Ball

## Injured skier flown to Inverness hospital



AN INJURED skier is taken on to a stretcher after arriving by helicopter at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, yesterday. Soldier David Pearson (18), 16 Tudor Road, Wiltshire, Park, London, was injured while on a skiing course at the White Lady middle station in the Cairngorms.

He suffered neck, back

and leg injuries and could not be moved. A helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth was alerted. Crewed by Flt-Lt Jim Gatherer, Flt-Lt Bill Campbell and Sgt Dave Lloyd, it flew him to hospital.

He was stretchered to the casualty unit, where he underwent emergency treatment. Last night he was said to be "improving rapidly."

14 Feb 1978  
Jim Gatherer  
Bill Campbell  
Dave Lloyd



25 March 1978  
Fallen climber at Loch Avon (Cairngorms)  
Jim Gatherer  
Brian Canfer  
Andy Ball



# SKIER SAVED ON MOUNTAIN

Airlift  
after  
Macdhui  
ordeal

A SKIER was trapped in a gully near the summit of the 4296ft. Ben Macdhui in the Cairngorms yesterday for four hours after falling 100ft. over a cliff.

As darkness fell, Royal Marine Alan Wigginton (25), HMS Condor, was led to safety by two instructors from the Glenmore Lodge and flown off the mountain to the lodge by a rescue helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth.

Marine Wigginton was skiing with two companions when he fell 40ft. over a cliff and slithered another 60ft. down a mountain. He was uninjured, but his companions could not reach him.

Chief Insp. John Maclean, Kingussie, said conditions were very bad.

He understood that Marine Wigginton was afraid to move, fearing he might set off an avalanche.

Earlier yesterday, two climbers lost overnight in a blizzard on 3700ft. Creag Meaghaidh, near Loch Meaghaidh.

STORY BY  
GORDON FYFE

Laggan, were found safe and well, thanks to a faithful mongrel dog, Tuppence.

The dog's barking led rescuers to a snow-hole near the top of the mountain where his master, teacher Mr Clive Hole (38), from Durham Public School and pupil Michael Remington (16) had spent the night.

Two of the seven dog handlers called out by the Search and Rescue Dog Association, as rescuers knew a dog was with the missing climbers, were with Cairngorm Mountain Rescue Team when they heard Tuppence barking.

Mr Hole and Michael were preparing to leave their snow-hole to walk to safety when the rescuers reached them.

The rescuers had bivouacked near the summit and resumed their search at 6 a.m.

The drama began 18 hours earlier when Mr Hole, Michael and three other climbers were lost in a blizzard.

## SLITHERED

The two fell vertically 10ft., slithered another 20ft. down the mountain, when a snow cornice gave way under them.

Teacher Mr Edward Kay saw the two falling "out of the corner of my eye". He and two companions trudged six miles through blinding snow-drifts to get help.

Yesterday morning more than 75 rescuers were on the mountain — the scene of a number of rescues this winter — looking for the two climbers.

Later Mr Hole told his story: "We were climbing near the summit when I made a mistake with my compass reading in the white-out conditions."

"We went on a snow cornice which went from below us. We fell vertically down 10ft. and I rolled down another 40ft. or so."

"Michael couldn't stop himself so easily, and must have gone on rolling down for another 20ft. He clambered back up to join me and we dug a snow-hole. We knew we would be all right if we stayed put."

"Tuppence kept us warm during the night and as we were preparing to move in the morning his barks were heard by rescuers."

Mr Kay said: "I went for help because it would have been dangerous in the conditions to try to reach Clive and Michael. I did not know how big a drop there was at the spot."

After a change of clothing and hot soup the rescued pair later returned to join the school party at Glen Nevis camping site.

## BROKEN ARM

During the rescue, dog handler Mr Harry Bickerton from Balloch, Loch Lomond, side, fell and broke his arm. He was airlifted to Belford Hospital, Fort-William.

After the rescue was over Cairngorm team leader Mrs Molly Porter said the two climbers had been properly equipped and clad.

"What happened to them could have happened to anyone and they are not to be blamed in any way."

A librarian who was found dead at the bottom of a 3000ft mountain is believed to have carried his badly-injured girl companion two miles down from the summit.

Lake District rescue leaders think Derek Thomas (28) may have died of exposure and exhaustion after carrying Susan Hamilton (24) down Helvellyn.

Last night Miss Hamilton of Chelmsford, Essex, was in West Cumberland Hospital with back and leg injuries. She was flown there by helicopter after being found semi-conscious near the top of the mountain on Saturday. Mr Thomas, of Tarncliffe, sent, lay dead near the summit.



ABOVE — Cairngorm mountain rescue team with schoolboy Michael Remington and Tuppence whose barking led rescuers to Michael and teacher Mr Clive Hole. The group are pictured at rescue HQ at Aberarder Farm, by Loch Laggan yesterday.

BELOW — A cup of hot soup for teacher Mr Clive Hole after his ordeal on Creag Meaghaidh was over.



2 April 1978  
SKIER  
Geoff Leeming  
Brian Canfer  
Dave Lloyd

CLIMBERS  
Malcom Carlyle  
Taff Rees  
Andy Ball







# STORM BEATS MERCY FLIGHT

4 April 1978  
Martin Cockledge  
Bill Campbell  
Bob Sutton

5 April 1978  
Jim Gatherer  
Brian Canfer  
George Muir

AN ABERDEEN man died yesterday on his way for an emergency heart operation—after a mercy helicopter was repeatedly grounded by the weather.

Three times the spring-time blizzard forced the high-powered helicopter to the ground.

At its flew from RAF Lossiemouth to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Forceterhill, to pick up the critically ill man it had to force-land twice.

At the hospital's special helipad doctors and nurses were anxiously waiting its arrival to pick up Mr Robert Anderson (46), 56 Cattofield Place, Aberdeen.

Mr Anderson, a planning officer at the Wiggins Teape Stoneywood Paper Mills, had been in hospital since he had a heart attack last Wednesday.

A doctor and nurse were standing by to fly with Mr

Anderson when the helicopter arrived.

But after the helicopter left Aberdeen the weather once again forced it down.

Precious time—and fuel—were dwindling away.

Airborne again, the pilot decided he would have to divert to RAF Leuchars, Fife, to refuel.

It was there that Mr Anderson had another heart attack, said an RAF spokesman.

The spokesman said that the helicopter winchman, who died, and nurse tried to revive him, but he died.

Mr Anderson leaves a wife and a married daughter.

The winchman's conditions, which swept the North and North-east on Sunday and early yesterday, causing the death of a climber in the Cairngorms, blocking roads and causing scores of traffic accidents, had largely retreated last night.

But the lull, according to forecasts, may be only temporary.

The AA reported a "big improvement" in roads after heavy snow drifting on several routes but they said the Cockbridge/Tonistoul and Cairn o' Mount were still not advised.

The Aberdeen-Inverness route, which had been blocked yesterday morning at the Glen of Foyland, was clear and the Rhynie-Dufftown was slightly difficult.

All main roads in the Highlands were passable by lunchtime after a morning of hard work by snow-clearing squads. Highland Region's director of roads and transport said the worst-affected areas were Caithness and North Sutherland.

The sudden return of winter caught out many.

Two Thurso housewives who became separated from a party climbing 2500 feet Ben Loyal, followed a stream to safety in blazing conditions. Mrs Jean Duff, 60, of Welfield, and Mrs Jeanie Burns, 50, of Burnside, went hill walking with nine others, including two children, on Sunday morning.

As they reached the 1000ft level, visibility suddenly rose to 50 yards. The women felt behind and lost their way back to their cars.

They walked six miles into Tongue village to tell police they were safe.

Eight motorists were stranded at the lonely Crank Hotel on the Lairg-Tongue road.

A helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth yesterday rescued a party of Derbyshire hill walkers.

When they failed to return, the alarm was raised and the helicopter—piloted by P/L Martin Cockledge—landed with navigator P/L M. Hill and winchman P/L S. Robble Sutton.

The hill walkers were rescued in the Strathmore area and downed to Glenmore Lodge.

One of them was suffering from exhaustion—but the other five, after returning, were again set out.

## Lossie trio, seen from air, saved



THE Whirlwind helicopter hovers above the Adjax as one of the Lossiemouth men is winched aboard by Winchman Sgt. Dave Lloyd.

A SHARP piece of observation by a member of a Nimrod from RAF Kinloss led to three Lossiemouth men being rescued yesterday afternoon after their small craft developed engine trouble and drifted helplessly in equally conditions in the Moray Firth for more than 10 hours.

The trouble began half an hour after the 12ft cabin cruiser Adjax left Lossiemouth on a lobster fishing trip at 6 a.m.

On board were Skipper David Stewart (32), 31 Cowardhill, 27-year-old Mr James Stewart (his relation), 13 Baker Street, and Mr Sandy Taylor (17), Pitavenny Street.

Skipper Stewart said: "We were just off Covea Light house when the engine, which had undergone a complete overhaul only a fortnight ago, died."

"We tied an oilskin to an ear and waved frantically, but neither the lighthouse nor Lossiemouth Coastguard saw our signals. We tried in vain to get the engine going again and drifted steadily east all the time."

Their predicament was spotted by the eagle eye of beam look-out P/L Sgt. John Beattie, on board an Nimrod making a diversion practice approach to RAF Lossiemouth. He alerted the plane's captain, San Ldr. Colin Dods, who in turn, signalled 202 Search and Rescue Squadron at RAF Lossiemouth.

Within minutes a Whirlwind

helicopter, piloted by P/L Lt. Geoff Leeming, was on the scene. Winchman Sgt. Dave Lloyd was lowered to the boat and, with the assistance of the navigator, P/L Lt. Taff Rees, he took off Mr Stewart and Mr Taylor.

Meantime shore services had been alerted and Skipper Norman Stewart, of the Rosebloom, took out another vessel, the Triton, and towed in the Adjax with Skipper Stewart, who had elected to stay on board.

Cdr. Michael Woolcombe, coastguard inspector for the East of Scotland, said last night that Lossiemouth coastguard only keeps a watch when the weather is bad and conditions at the time were not serious.

He said: "It would have been more sensible if they had a proper distress signal on board. We encourage people who go out to sea to carry flares."



12 May 1978  
Geoff Leeming  
Taff Rees  
Dave Lloyd



# MAN DIES, THREE INJURED AT SEA

## Bollard tragedy as crew worked

By BERT OVENSTONE,  
DONALD SMITH and WILLIE PAUL

ONE deckhand was killed and three others were badly injured yesterday, when they were lashed by a warp on board an Aberdeen fishing boat.

The pocket trawler Pisces put out an urgent call for help following the accident, which happened as she was fishing 20 miles north-west of Cape Wrath. Several of the nine-man crew were gutting fish when a starboard bollard sprang from its moorings, sending a steel hawser attached to the trawl shooting across the deck.

Mr Arthur Stewart (48), from Aberdeen — a married man with six children — died almost immediately and three colleagues received multiple injuries when they were struck.

Airlifted to hospital at Stornoway were: Mr Leslie Smith (25), 20 Canal Street, Aberdeen; Sandend man Mr Raymond Thomson, who lodges in Bedford Avenue, and Mr Alex Donnelly (17), 33 Petershill Drive, Glasgow.

The dead man, Mr Arthur Stewart, lived at 63 Cruden Crescent, Northfield, Aberdeen.

Mr Thomson, who has a fractured right thigh, fractured ankle and a chest injury, Mr Smith (broken thigh) and Mr Donnelly (pelvic injury) were all reported to be "satisfactory" in Lewis Hospital. Mr Smith, the vessel's cook, said last night: "I just heard a crack and was thrown backwards. The bollard came right out of its moorings. Arthur Stewart was one of the deckhands and he received the full impact."

### ALERT

RAF and Royal Navy helicopters were alerted after the Pisces requested assistance at about 1.30 p.m. A Whirlwind helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth picked up a medical officer from RAF Kinloss before flying to the Cape Wrath area.

A Nimrod aircraft on routine patrol located the Pisces steaming at full speed for Kinlochbervie on the west coast of Sutherland.

The plane acted as homing beacon for the Lossiemouth copter, which was piloted by Ft.-Lt. John Dickens. The medical officer, W/Cdr. Jack Barker, was lowered on a

hoist and administered first aid to the injured crew members. Mr Barker said: "We were very lucky to find the boat and the crew. The weather was very bad and the sea was very rough. We were able to land on the boat and treat the injured crew members. The boat was then taken to the hospital for further treatment."

The boat was then taken to the hospital for further treatment. The crew members were then taken to the hospital for further treatment. The boat was then taken to the hospital for further treatment. The crew members were then taken to the hospital for further treatment.

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17 May 1978

TWO in ONE  
John Dickens  
Tony Cass  
Dave Lloyd

Tony and Dave went  
along for the ride

### INJURY

A HELICOPTER from RAF Lossiemouth flew 250 miles out into the Atlantic on Saturday to the frigate HMS Plymouth and took off a rating who had dislocated his shoulder.

The seaman was taken to Inverness for treatment.

The helicopter was crewed by Ft. Lt. Jim Bellingall, Ft. Lt. Brian Canfer and Sgt. Andy Ball.

20 May 1978  
Jim Bellingall  
Brian Canfer  
Andy Ball



hurt in  
cliff  
plunge

By ALASTAIR BISSET

GORDONSTOUN school-  
ri was flown by helicopter  
hospital yesterday after  
falling 20ft. down a cliff face  
picturesque Primrose  
ay near Hopeman, while  
king part in a school  
aining expedition.

Last night Jane Green (17),  
as receiving treatment for  
p and arm injuries in Dr  
ray's Hospital, Elgin. Her  
ndition was said to be  
fairly satisfactory.

Jane has a hairline fracture  
f the pelvis, and grazes to  
er arms.

Jane's parents live near  
igh Wycombe, Bucks, where  
er father — a wing-com-  
mander in the RAF — is  
ased. Until fairly recently he  
erved at RAF Lossiemouth.

The climbing accident  
happened late yesterday  
afternoon.

Jane was abseiling down  
a cliff face when she fell.

An RAF Lossiemouth  
rescue helicopter had pre-  
viously been carrying out  
routine crew training work  
in the area and navigator  
Pit Lt Taff Rees was on  
the ground in the Primrose  
Bay area.

"I was watching the  
youngsters practising and  
saw the accident," he said.

"The girl was coming down  
the cliff face, abseiling, lost  
her grip and fell quite  
heavily to the ground."

Gordonstoun masters  
called an ambulance from  
Elgin.

Jane was being strapped  
into one of the school  
stretchers just as the Lossie-  
mouth helicopter — piloted  
by Flt-Lt Geoff Leeming  
and with winchman Sgt. Andy  
Ball on board — returned  
to the scene and Brian Canfer.

To get Jane to hospital as  
quickly as possible the heli-  
copter clipped her up and  
flew her to the Borough  
Briggs football ground at  
Elgin where another  
ambulance was waiting.

\* Ops Controller (WT)

Geoff Leeming  
Brian Canfer - NICKS  
Andy Ball  
Taff Rees (from afar)  
(PENT A JOR)

# MAN SEES TWIN FALL TO DEATH

## Portree police plea after Coolins accident

A 20-YEAR-OLD climber stood helpless on a Skye mountain ridge yesterday as his twin brother lost his handhold and disappeared, falling 800ft. to his death.

Mr David Bolton, a fitter, who lived at 55 Underwood Lane, Crewe, was climbing Sgurr Thormaoid with his twin, Darren. They had been traversing the main ridge of the Coolins.

Other climbers saw Mr Bolton call for help, including a doctor—went to where he lay in a corrie. But nothing could be done. Other climbers went to the Glen Brittle climbing campsite 3000ft. below to contact police.

Less than 90min. later, a Whirlwind helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth touched down at Glen Brittle for details of where the accident had happened.

Because of uncertain wind currents, it could not take Dr Donald MacLeod, Portree, or Skye mountain rescue team leader Mr Gerry Ackroyd, Glen Brittle, but it flew to the scene and the winchman got Mr Bolton aboard.

He was flown directly to Portree, where police cleared an area in the car park.

As the rescue helicopter arrived, a large crowd of high school children and tourists stood on the roads above.

Mr Bolton was taken to a waiting police vehicle.

Mr Ackroyd said bad rock giving way on the ridge had caused the fall and that the third member of the party had also been in a perilous position.

The twin who survived, Mr Darren Bolton, was at a slightly higher spot and was in no danger, but was in a position to see his brother plunge to his death.

Mr Ackroyd said later that the mountain had been pretty crowded with a big influx of holidaymakers over the last few days.

"Picadilly Circus is a good description for the mountains at the moment," he said. At certain points of the ridges queues had been forming.

After Mr Bolton's death police at Portree issued an appeal to all climbers to go particularly carefully on the mountains, which are not for the inexperienced because of the alpine-like conditions—melting snow in continuing sunshine.

They appealed to all to go fully prepared and to be cautious at all times.

In the last six days in Skye, including yesterday's fatal accident, there have been four mountain incidents which have stretched the resources of rescue volunteers and police to the limit.



31 May 1978  
Jim Gatherer  
Tony Gaus  
Dave Lloyd

THE BODY of English  
climber Mr David  
Bolton is taken aboard  
the Whirlwind heli-  
copter from RAF  
Lossiemouth after the  
death fall yesterday  
on Sgurr Thormaoid. H  
had been climbin  
with his twin brother



# HELICOPTER RESCUES CLIMBER WHO FELL SIX FEET

By BILL MOWAT

A helicopter mountain rescue was launched after a doctor was injured. He fell only SIX FEET—but he broke his leg and was trapped halfway up a steep gully.

The rescue team had to lower a stretcher to the doctor. Slowly, he was lowered to the ground by a team of six. He was then taken to the hospital by ambulance.

24 June 1978  
Jim Gatherer  
Anther Cross  
Mel Ward

THE PRESS AND JOURNAL MONDAY JUNE 24 1978

## Climber breaks leg in 4ft. fall

A DOCTOR at Dundee Royal Infirmary, Dr Edward Moore, was winched by helicopter from a gully on the Aonach Eagach ridge on the north side of Glencoe on Saturday afternoon. He had fallen 4ft. while climbing and broken his leg.

An RAF helicopter took him to Belford Hospital, Fort-William, where last night he was reported to be "comfortable".

Another rescue was called off on Saturday when an Essex man and his son turned up safely after being missing overnight in West Sutherland.

Mr. and Mrs. Terence Hitchen, Chelmsford, had gone for a walk with their son and daughter in the hills near Kylesku. They were heading for a waterfall in Glen Coe.

Mrs. Hitchen and her daughter turned back two miles from the glen and returned to their caravanette son, Keith (12), carried on a heavy mist came down and, when they had not returned by Saturday evening, Mrs. Hitchen raised the alarm.

A helicopter was sent to the area and an RAF mountain rescue team from Kinross, who were on exercise near Fort-William, made for the area by road.

A search party, team of six, searched until darkness with searchlights and, at first light on Saturday, they were joined by Dunderdall rescue team, police, volunteers, the helicopter and RAF team, as well as tracker dogs.

The search was called off when father and son turned up at Cawley Power Station by Loch Assynt, early on Saturday morning.

The helicopter provided an extra attraction when the combined Kinlochhervie-Souris Schools football team arrived at Lochinver on Saturday morning to play against Lochinver School.

They found the pitch already occupied by two RAF rescue helicopters—one on the slopes and the other in the middle.

Both helicopters were from Lossiemouth. The one engaged in the mountain operation had landed at Lochinver for fuel and a mechanical fault was discovered. It was dragged off the pitch and a second helicopter arrived with spare parts.

Before the game started, teams and spectators had the bonus of watching the second helicopter take off from the centre of Lochinver's football ground. After the game started, mechanics worked on the grounded machine.

Mark Williams  
Taff Rees  
Andy Ball

## Copter takes crash man to hospital

AN RAF Lossiemouth helicopter airlifted a man to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary last night after he was seriously injured in an accident on the Aberlour-Grantown road.

The accident, at Deinsburgh Bridge, involved a car and a tanker and a pick-up truck.

The man, who is believed to be a company director in the Speyside area, was taken by ambulance to Elgin and then flown to Aberdeen.

Miss Anne Crawford, 17, who was travelling with the injured man in the car was taken to Dr Gray's Hospital, Elgin, with minor injuries, and was later released.

The driver of the tanker and the pick-up truck, were not hurt.

A doctor treated the injured man on board the search and rescue helicopter. It landed Leeming with navigator Flt Lt. Taff Rees and search attendants, Andy Ball.

28 June 1978  
Geoff Leeming  
Taff Rees  
Andy Ball

## Airlift for youth after fall

Stewart MacKenzie (16), of 19 Lockerie Place, Lockerie, Dumfriesshire, who was badly hurt when climbing yesterday in the Cuillin, yesterday was airlifted to a hospital on the Isle of Skye by RAF rescue helicopter. Stewart had been working on the island as a kitchen hand.

After camping overnight in the mountains, he tackled Corr A Bhaidh with a workmate, Kevin Murphy (19), of Cloverfield Gardens, Aberdeen. At about 1700 feet Kevin heard the sound of rock fall and a shout.

He found Stewart lying amongst loose rock, still conscious, and with a gash in his head. He left to get help from the Glen Brittle mountain climbing campsite, three miles away, and contacted police. An RAF Whirlwind was sent from Lossiemouth and reached the injured youth within three hours.

Stewart was flown to the Mackinnon Memorial Hospital, at Broadford, where he was found to have a fractured skull and a broken wrist. Later he was flown to Glasgow for specialised treatment.

11 July 1978  
Geoff Leeming  
Tony Cass  
Len Mills

## CLIMBER AIRLIFTED

A young climber who fell on boulders whilst descending Ben Modhu (4296 ft) in the Cairngorms with four friends, was airlifted to hospital by an RAF helicopter on Saturday.

David McLean (18), a student of Aberdeen, fell as the party were about to cross a snowfield. Two of the party continued the descent to raise the alarm. McLean is detained in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary where his condition yesterday was said to be "satisfactory".

8 July 1978  
Dave LeMare  
Tony Cass  
Len Mills



## WALKER HURT

Emergency worker Brian Kirkwood (25) duty to help money to Inverness hospital after having his back in fall by Cairngorms above Loch Morich. He was allowed home.

25 June 1978  
Mark Williams  
Brian Cawley  
Dave Lloyd



# CLIFF RESCUE AT PORTSOY

## RAF helicopter called out after boy becomes stuck

By JOHN THOMSON

AN AFTERNOON outing to Portsoy yesterday for four boys from a Dr Barnardo's home resulted in a full-scale rescue operation being mounted.

Police, firemen, coastguards and a helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth sped to the rocky shore near the town's outdoor swimming pool after one of the boys became trapped on a cliff face.

Only the day before, the boys had paid RAF Lossiemouth a visit with their two house parents to see a rescue helicopter.

Yesterday one of the boys, Sean Smith (13), from the Dr Barnardo's home in Kilmarnock, was almost on the receiving end. He got into difficulties 40ft up the cliff and was unable to move up or down.

After 45 minutes he was rescued by Portsoy firemen, who managed to reach him by ladder from the base of the cliff.

Police and coastguards also gave assistance, but the helicopter was not required and it returned to base.

The drama began shortly after 3 pm as Sean, his three companions and two house parents were walking along the shoreline. One of the house parents, Miss Alison Rodger, said: "We had been to the Portsoy Marine premises and then we started walking along the shore."

"The boys were clamber-

ing about on the rocks and the first I knew that Sean was in trouble was when I heard him shouting."

The other houseparent in charge of the party, Mr Chris Lafferty, said he was unable to reach Sean on the cliff and decided to summon help. "I am very grateful to the rescue people for what they did," he said. "The whole episode had me worried and I am sure Sean was frightened."

After the rescue, the party were given tea and soft drinks by Mr and Mrs William Hay, 31 Fra Vista, Marine Terrace, whose house overlooks the cliff.

The other youngsters in the group are Tommy Bartkus and John Mullin (both 13) and John Cramb (14). They arrived for a week-long adventure holiday in the North-east last Sunday. They have been camping near Keith.

Their holiday finishes today when they will travel back to Kilmarnock in their mini-bus.

PICTURED during their visit to RAF Lossiemouth on Wednesday are Kilmarnock party Sgt. Dave Lloyd (left) and Flt-Lt Smith. In charge of the boys are Mr Chris Lafferty (left) and Mrs Rodger.

29 JUNE 1978  
Jim Gatherer  
Arthur Cross  
Dave Lloyd

Firemen 1 SAR 0

SCENE at Portsoy yesterday as firemen bring Sean Smith to safety. The picture was taken from an RAF helicopter.



# RAF DOUBLE RESCUE CALL

## Lossie copters pick up hurt climber, capsized canoeist

HELICOPTERS from RAF Lossiemouth were called out last night on two mercy missions.

One had to fly to the Coolins to pick up an injured climber — the second time within 24 hours a helicopter has been called there.

And while this rescue was going on, a second helicopter joined in a search for a missing canoeist at Lewis.

In Skye, Flt-Lt Dave Reid and his crew flew the climber, 17-year-old Lawrence Jordan, 3 Brookdale Close, Leyland, Preston, to the Mackinnon Memorial Hospital. He was later said to be "comfortable".

He has head and arm injuries after a 10ft fall.

Lawrence was with a group of seven others on the mountain ridge about 2800ft above sea level on a peak known as An Dorus.

After boulders were heard rumbling, the group backtracked to the main island of Hirta and Dum. He was flown to Dalhousie Hospital in South Uist.

Off Lewis, a helicopter piloted by Flt-Lt Dave Lemare plucked a man from the chilly waters suffering from exposure.

The canoe of Barra Venture Scout Donald Ian Macneil (23) capsized off Uig.

He was adrift in the Atlantic for two hours.

He was taken by the helicopter to Lewis Hospital, Stornoway, for treatment for exposure. Later he was said to be "satisfactory".

The accident happened near Tom Island.

Donald, a social worker who comes from 3 Alasdale, Castlebay was camping with a group of Scouts from Barra. Meanwhile, a Royal Navy helicopter was in action in St Kilda, when an American, Mr Robert Richard (53), from Boston, was severely bruised in a 25ft fall while travelling by Breaches buoy.

The cable snapped as he was crossing the 2800ft between the main island of Hirta and Dum. He was flown to Dalhousie Hospital in South Uist.

Last night he was said to be "satisfactory".

Mr Richard, who is attached to the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology at Banchory, was working on a research project.

12 July 1978  
Dave Reid  
Paul Todd  
Andy Bell

Dave Lemare  
Taft Reed  
Dave Lloyd

## Cliff fall teenager is saved

AN RAF helicopter was called out last night to rescue a 15-year-old girl.

Holidaymaker Gillian Mason had plunged 40 feet into the sea from cliffs at Findochty, Banffshire.

Gillian, who had been climbing with four friends, managed to scramble up rocks to a cave near sea level.

Her friends raised the alarm and a helicopter was sent from RAF Lossiemouth.

Gillian (Cheltenham, was taken to Grey's Hospital, Exeter, suffering from cuts, bruises and exposure. Her condition later was "comfortable".



# 'Blind' hero of

By Wilson Russell

A HELICOPTER pilot pulled off a daring rescue early yesterday — after flying blind through thick fog.

R.A.F. pilot Geoff Leeming had joined in the search for two men who crashed in another helicopter.

The men, who were on an aerial photographic mission, had engine trouble.

They sent up a distress flare after crashing on frozen Loch Avon near the 4,000ft. Cairngorm mountain.

Flight Lieutenant Leeming set out, guided at first by a light on a Land Rover driven by another rescue party.

When the Land Rover could get no further, Lieutenant Leeming flew on blind through the fog.

Then a circling R.A.F. Shackleton sent to the area

## Copter pilot flies through fog and saves two men in daring mountain rescue

fired flares to help him pinpoint the stranded men.

Crashed pilot John Poland, 32, a married man from Cawdor, Nairn, and photographer Peter Allwork, 49, of Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, were winched to safety after their eight-hour ordeal in Arctic conditions.

### Doubtful

An R.A.F. spokesman said later: "They had started to walk over the Cairngorm making for Aviemore.

"But it is doubtful, according to medical evidence, whether they would have made it.

"When we found them they

were in the first stages of hypothermia.

"They were seen by a doctor when they got back, and seemed to be all right, apart from some bruising.

"It was a hazardous mission carried out in fine style—an excellent example of co-operation between the Shackleton and the helicopter."

Lieutenant Leeming's co-pilot, Flight Lieutenant Malcolm Carlyle said last night: "When we took off, we had to feel our way up the valley, following the lights of a land-rover on the ground.

"Then we made height and came out in moonlight. But it was bad once we got over the rescue area.

"It was too dangerous to

attempt a landing on the ice-covered loch."

Ex-Royal Navy pilot Mr. Poland said at his Inverness hotel after the rescue that his helicopter had suddenly gone out of control.

He added: "I was forced to make an emergency landing and the helicopter toppled over.

"We decided to walk the six miles back to Glenmore Lodge, but when darkness fell, we built a snow hole and sheltered under a ledge.

### Daring

"At times we were waist deep in snow, and it was very cold.

"We were down to our last distress flare when we heard the Shackleton's engines.

"It was a great feeling to see the helicopter arrive."

Chief Inspector John MacLean of Kingussie, who had co-ordinated a police search for the helicopter, said the rescue was one of the most daring he had seen in the Cairngorms during his 12 years experience in the mountains.

"They all acted far beyond the call of duty," he added.

Photographer Mr. Allwork said: "They did a marvellous job and we owe our lives to them."

Crew of the rescue 'copter were Lieutenants Leeming and Carlyle, navigator Flight Lieutenant Bill Gault and winchman Flight Sergeants Mick Anderson and Ray Sefton.



Mr. Allwork

# Cairngorm





THE RESCUED: Mr Peter Allwork (left) and Captain John Poland, the helicopter pilot

THE RESCUERS (l to r): Flt-Lt. Malcolm Carlyle, Flt-Sgt. Mick Anderson, Flt-Lt. Geoff Leeming, and Flt-Lt. Bill Gault

BRILLIANT AND courageous flying by an RAF helicopter crew, aided by strong support from teams on the ground, culminated this week in one of the most daring rescues ever to have taken place among Scotland's mountains.

The drama began at about 11.15 p.m. on Tuesday east of the sunbathed Cairn Gorm summit in Speyside. About 20 minutes earlier, Captain John Poland, managing director of F. L. M. Helicopters, Inverness, lifted his Jet Ranger helicopter from the landing pad at the Coylumbridge Hotel, Aviemore, with Mr Peter Allwork of Air Film Services, High Wycombe, as his passenger.

Mr Allwork and Captain Poland had been working together since last Thursday filming over the snow-and-ice-covered mountain range for a feature film entitled "The People that Time Forgot," being made by American International.

Flying at about 30 feet above Loch Avon, the Jet Ranger suddenly began to go into a spin.

At his hotel base yesterday Captain Poland took up the story, which ended in one of the most remarkable aerial mountain rescues on record.

"It was some sort of mechanical failure which caused the spin and I was obliged to take corrective action and land immediately on the ice-covered loch. When we hit the loch the helicopter toppled to one side, but remained firm. However, we didn't think it wise to remain in there as the ice gave way. Also there was a strong smell of fuel. We simply grabbed the emergency flares and got out quickly."

The two men, who were clad for cold weather flying—they had removed one door of the helicopter to facilitate filming—trudged through snow, often waist-deep, for three miles along Strathnethy beneath Cairn Gorm's summit. They were trying to make for Glenmore Lodge, about 12 miles away.

As it began to get dark the two men found themselves on an uncertain terrain dug out a shelter hole in soft snow beside a rocky outcrop, and fired their first flares. These were spotted some miles away by a Nethy-bridge farmer, Mr. William MacGillivray, who alerted the police.

Later an RAF Shackleton from Lossiemouth circled the

ANTHONY PLEDGER gives a blow-by-blow account on this week's daring aerial rescue in the Cairngorms

## Cairngorms rescue went 'beyond the call of duty'



"Then the vehicle could go no further, so we followed the twisting route of the burns through Strathnethy towards Loch Avon. Fortunately, just before we reached the position of the two men, we broke into clear air. As the fog dispersed we saw another flare go up and we were able to go in and winch the two men aboard."

Flight-Lt. Leeming has completed several rescue operations in the mountains. He added: "I wouldn't describe this as the most frightening or hairiest experience I've had, but certainly would not like to do it again."

Last night Captain Poland and Mr Allwork praised highly the skill of the RAF team and the ground searchers. "They did an absolutely marvellous job and we are very grateful to them."

The rescue was described as "unique" by Chief Inspector John MacLean, of Kingussie, who co-ordinated the operation. He said: "The crew of the RAF helicopter acted far beyond the call of duty in such adverse conditions. It was a daring mission."

Today Air Accident Investigation officials and an insurance surveyor are to fly to the area to examine the damaged charter helicopter. Captain Poland and Mr Allwork will go with them, principally to recover £8000 worth of photographic and other equipment they had abandoned.

Next week Mr Allwork intends returning to the north this time to Skye, with his own helicopter, in order to film some of the Cuillin peaks. He was the only man injured in the accident—he had a cut to his chin.

# TWO MISSING IN COPTER

## Search for men on film assignment

A SEARCH was launched last night for the pilot and passenger of a Jet Ranger helicopter missing on a filming assignment over a wide area of wild Cairngorm terrain.

They were last seen at the helicopter pad at the Coylumbridge Hotel, Aviemore, around 3 p.m. yesterday.

The pilot of the small but powerful helicopter is Capt. John Poland, managing director of FLM Ltd., who operates the helicopter from Inverness Airport, Dalcross.

His sole passenger is film cameraman Mr Peter Allwork, Air Film Services, who have the helicopter on charter.

They were reported missing by the hotel management at 3.30. They had only enough fuel to last until then.

Around that time, a farmer five miles south of Nethy-bridge reported seeing a red distress signal on a peak known as the Saddle.

Just after 6 p.m., a rescue helicopter took off from RAF Lossiemouth. But it found nothing and was forced back to Lossiemouth by bad weather.

Late last night a 12-strong team of men from Cairngorm rescue unit were going to the area.

Chief Insp. John A. MacLean, Kingussie, reckons



CAPT. POLAND from Inverness

the missing men are in the area of Loch Avon at about 2000ft.

He said it was a difficult spot to reach "It is impossible to reach Loch Avon by going over the top of the Cairngorms because of the dangers of an avalanche."

There are 9in. of powdery snow on top of another fin of hard-packed snow. The only other way to reach Loch Avon is by Strathnethy. The going is very slow for the rescuers.

He said the two men were probably well equipped for the conditions.

Flares were initially seen by a farmer, Mr D. Black, Mains of Clatschiz, Nethy-bridge, and later spotted by a Shackleton.

Reinforcements from RAF Kinloss Mountain Rescue team and from RAF Leuchars were due to arrive this morning.

A helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth set to Glenmore Lodge last night. The crew of Flt-Lt. Geoff Leeming and Flt-Lt. Bill Gault were set to go out in the dark if conditions improved.

There is also a police track vehicle from Fort-William at Glenmore Lodge.

## Helicopter: search delay

Mountain rescue teams last night were standing by at Glenmore Lodge in the Cairngorms ready to set out at first light in search of a helicopter reported missing in the area with two people aboard.

The helicopter, piloted by Captain John Poland, had been operating from Aviemore on an aerial photography assignment when it failed to return from a flight near Cairn Gorm. Shortly after 6 p.m. a red distress flare was spotted in an area known as the Saddle, 11 miles south-east of Cairn Gorm summit and near the northern end of Loch Avon.

The passenger is Mr A. Allwork, a photographer, who intended filming in a gully between two crags.

Inspector Norman Mackenzie, of the Northern Constabulary, said mist and low cloud were preventing the RAF helicopter from setting out to search. There was also a risk of avalanches.

## READY TO LEAVE

RAF Lossiemouth helicopter ready to go into area—about 12 flying miles from Aviemore over 4000ft. Cairngorm—early today to probe by light of moon.

RAF spokesman said "the helicopter could have landed on flat areas, either from fuel shortage or because of weather." Said that the Shackleton saw white light like flashing torch indicated survivors.

SEE THIS PAGE

A SNOWPLOW is out at first light to clear the A9 at Drumochter Pass 11 miles north of Blair Atholl. Police said yesterday that some drivers had opened storm gates at the pass in the North and gone through—leaving a hazard for following drivers.



11 Jan. 1976

Geoff Leeming  
Malcolm Carlyle  
Bill Gault  
Mick Anderson



# Peak rescue heroes

A HELICOPTER hero told last night of the most daring mountain rescue ever tried in Britain.

"It was tough," said pilot Geoff Leeming. "I wouldn't like to do it every day."

Flight Lt. Leeming and his RAF crew plucked two men to safety yesterday from blizzards on Cairngorm mountain, in the Scottish Highlands.

They reached John Poland and Peter Allwork just as the men were going into the first stages of hypothermia in sub-zero temperatures and thick fog.

Experts say they would not have survived the trek over 4,000ft. Cairngorm to

the ski resort of Aviemore and only the bravery of the RAF crew saved their lives.

The drama began when the private helicopter taking Surrey photographer Mr Allwork on an aerial mission developed engine trouble.

Mr Poland, the pilot, from Nairn, force-landed 2,000ft. up in the mountains and sent up distress flares.

They were spotted by an RAF Shackleton, diverted from a training mission. And a full-scale rescue operation was launched as darkness and the blizzard closed in.

"The decision to go after the men was taken democratically," said Flt Lt. Leeming, a 34-year-old father

of three based at Lossiemouth.

"We discussed the operation from 7 p.m. until midnight. In the conditions it seemed madness to go."

"But we decided that with lives at stake we really had no choice."

Messages from the Shackleton guided the pilot and his three-man crew to the stormy search area.

"What with darkness, snow and fog we could see nothing," said Flt Lt. Leeming.

"We waited for the moon to come out, but with full cloud cover it never did."

All that drove us on was

Turn to Page 2, Col.

## PILOT FLEW 'BLIND' TO RESCUE

By LESLIE ABLE  
In Edinburgh

THE rescue of two men in the Cairngorms early yesterday by an RAF helicopter crew in near Arctic conditions, was described last night as a "bloody dangerous" exercise.

It required "a particularly hairy piece of flying," with the helicopter at one stage being guided up a valley in thick fog and darkness by the light on the roof of a Land Rover.

In freezing fog, Flt Lt Geoff Leeming, 34, with his three-man crew successfully winched to safety two men whose own civilian helicopter had been forced down on a frozen loch over seven hours earlier with engine trouble.

### Making film

The pilot of the civilian helicopter, Mr John Poland, the managing director of an Inverness company from Cawdor, Nairn, and his passenger, Mr Peter Allwork, a photographer, of Walton on Thames, Surrey, were flown to Aviemore suffering only slight bruising.

Mr Allwork and Mr Poland were making a feature film, "The People That Time Forgot," when the helicopter crash-landed. Mr Poland said: "We kept walking for about three miles, then we dug a snow-hole under a ledge and sent up flares."

It was the red distress flares which first raised the alarm, and rescue teams set out on foot. When a Land Rover joined the search, Flt Lt Leeming was guided by its roof light, but when the vehicle could get no further he flew in "blind" through the freezing fog.

Chief Inspector John Maclean, who co-ordinated the police search for the missing men, described the rescue as one of the most remarkable and daring he had seen in the Cairngorms.



## Flyers in mountain drama



After the rescue . . . Peter Allwork (left), and John Poland with pilot Geoff Leeming and second pilot Malcolm Carlisle.

Continued from Page ONE

"The realisation that men's lives were in danger. The helicopter was guided far as possible by a Land-Rover of the mountain rescue team at Glenmore Lodge."

After that we were on our own. For most of the way we were flying 100ft. off the ground among terrifying mountain peaks. "We must have been very close to the men as they ploughed their way through massive snowdrifts. Eventually we spotted their distress signals and saw we were within reach. But there was still a serious risk of starting an avalanche with our noise and vibrations. I decided to put down in the base of the valley, and my crewman, Flight Sgt. Mike Derson, climbed up to the

## 'We really had to take the risk'

pier to explain what we intended to do.

"We finally winched them on board. The worst that was left was to find our way back home."

Also in the rescue were Flight Lt. Malcolm Carlisle, the second pilot, and Flight Lt. William Gault, the navigator.

Flight Lieutenant Leeming added: "Fortunately you don't have much time to think about the danger while you are working."

"There were times when I was worried. Last night was very different from the normal rescue, and I think

what carried it off was our wide knowledge of the area, where we did our training."

Police Chief Inspector John McLean, of Kingussie, Invernesshire, said: "The RAF team showed exceptional bravery."

Mr Poland said of his crash: "I don't know what happened, but suddenly the helicopter went out of control and we had to crash land."

"The helicopter flipped over, but neither of us was hurt. We set out to walk the six miles to safety, but with snow up to our waists at times, we were beginning to despair."



Doctors pleased with condition

# QUEEN MUM — OP. DENIED

PRESS & JOURNAL  
10/9/80



SWALLOWED TROUT  
BONE CULPRIT  
PAGE 5

of Wales holds the Queen Mother's car door open while she waves to the crowd during her visit to Scrabster yesterday.

## She may leave hospital today

By JOHN DUCKERS

THE Queen Mother last night underwent tests and X-rays in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary after being airlifted to the hospital from her Caithness home where she had complained of feeling ill. And all the indications are that no operation is being planned.

A Clarence House spokesman said: "She is resting comfortably and doctors are very pleased with her."

It is even thought the Queen Mother could be released today.

Her hospitalisation came after she choked on a fish bone earlier in the week, and problems persisted.

### Second time

It is the second time that fish — one of the Queen Mother's favourite foods — has caused trouble. Five years ago she had an operation at a London hospital to remove a bone caught in her throat.

The drama unfolded quickly yesterday after the Queen Mother, who is 86, met the Royal party off the Britannia at Scrabster, Caithness.

A surgeon from the Royal Yacht was called to the nearby Castle of Mey to examine her.

A helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth was scrambled to go to the castle, and health authorities in Aberdeen alerted.

Emergency services were put on stand-by.

An ambulance and fire engine were at the helicopter's landing pad at the hospital from 3.40 p.m. They had been given no indication of who was being flown in or the arrival time of the helicopter.

It eventually touched down at 4.40 p.m. By this time a crowd of onlookers had gathered on the pavement just over the wall and they were able to see the Queen Mother, walking to a waiting ambulance.

The ambulance took her to the accident and emergency department where the Queen Mother got off herself, walked into the hospital and shook hands with the senior staff on duty before being led away for treatment.

She had been in the hospital about 30 minutes when it was revealed she had been taken to the private wing of the hospital.

### Personal belongings

At 5.25 p.m. a second helicopter landed at the hospital, this time with the Queen Mother's personal belongings.

Two plainclothes policemen were seen carrying two small black suitcases and clothing on a hangar with a dark protective cover. They took the luggage into the hospital.

At that point it was indicated to "The Press and Journal" that the Queen Mother would be kept overnight for observation. It was expected she would receive any visitors.

Those people who had seen her said she appeared comfortable and in no pain and was walking about herself. Security was tight at the hospital.

When the helicopter carrying the Queen Mother arrived uniformed policemen lined the public road outside the hospital grounds.

Plainclothes officers guarded the entrance and others walked about the corridors of the hospital.

About 15 plainclothes policemen guarded the entrance to the Queen Mother's ward.

## Boost for Rolls-Royce

BRITISH Airways are to place an order worth £600 million to the State-owned UK aero-engine manufacturers Rolls-Royce, it was announced yesterday.

BA will order 16 advanced Boeing 747 jets, to be powered by the latest Rolls-Royce engines.

The decision to "buy

British" followed months of stiff competition from two US aero-engine manufacturers, General Electric and Pratt & Whitney.

Transport Secretary John Moore said yesterday: "British Airways have chosen to order Boeing 747-400s powered by Rolls-Royce engines on commercial grounds in the face of stiff competition."

## Double Royal link . . .

THE private wing of Aberdeen Royal Infirmary where the Queen Mother is staying was opened by her in 1966.

During her visit to Aberdeen in October of that year she opened and then toured the £1,800,000 hospital extension which houses the wing.

The word is the only one on the extension's top floor.

The reception hall is small and salubrious. Glass panelling and a door separate it from the main part of the ward which is made up of private rooms.

LOOK OUT on Monday for our full coverage in picture and story of the big Royal weekend in Aberdeen and on Royal Deeside. Make sure you don't miss

this record of a Royal arrival that begins with a historic ceremony marking the 850th anniversary of the Port of Aberdeen.

VISIT GOES AHEAD — PAGE 5

The only way to the ward is by lift and the small room between the lift and the ward was last night being watched over by plainclothes police.

A well-prepared plan swung into operation as soon as Grampian Health Board got word that the Queen Mother was to be admitted to Aberdeen Royal.

A special side ward always reserved for the Royal Family in the private wing of the hospital would have been got ready.

Special nursing care would have been swiftly arranged and security arrangements established.

The man who would have made the crucial phone call to set the plan in motion would almost certainly have been Dr Peter Brunt, Physician to the Queen in Scotland.

Aged 50, he lives in the Kings Gate area of Aberdeen and has held the Royal appointment since 1963.

Since 1970 he has held the twin posts of consultant physician and gastro-enterologist with Grampian Health Board and clinical senior lecturer in medicine at Aberdeen University.

### REGISTRAR

Dr Brunt is well-versed in examining throats but might have wished to call on the services of an ear, nose and throat specialist.

Surgeon to the Queen in Scotland is Dr Jetmund Engset, who lives in the Milltimber area of Aberdeen.

## A popular figure in her Caithness castle . . .

THE Queen Mother has a special affection for the Castle of Mey where she spends the majority of her summer holidays.

A well-loved figure in the North community the Queen Mother feels at "home" in the relaxing surroundings of the Caithness countryside.

It is customary for her to stay at her own personal residence before joining the other members of the Royal Family for their annual holiday on Deeside.

This year the Royal holidaymaker travelled north following her birthday celebrations at Clarence House, London,

in time for her to attend the Black Isle Show at Muir of Ord on August 7.

Since her arrival in Caithness she has, as usual, charmed the community by appearing at numerous engagements in the area.

Last Saturday she attended the annual Highland Games near Castle of Mey, taking time to chat with many of the tourists who had attended, and on Thursday the jewellery exhibition at Scrabster received a Royal visit.

The Queen Mother's first official appearance after her Scottish holiday break was due to be a series of engagements in Glasgow on September 9.

### INSIDE

Births, Marriages, Deaths; Church notices — 2    World Report — 2    District news — 3    Business — 3  
Farming, Sea section — 11    Weatherguide — 11    Classified — 12-18    Sport — 18-20    Crossword — 20



1975

61	19 JUNE	AIR PRIORITY 2 - JAGUAR ENGINE MALFUNCTION	LANDED SAFELY	95	19 AUG	AIR PRIORITY 2 - JAGUAR KNEE AIR	LANDED SAFELY
62	20 JUNE	AIR PRIORITY 2 - JAGUAR CONTROL MALFUNCTION	LANDED SAFELY	96	20 AUG	OVERTHEATED TIRE IN BECKLEY FIVE	SHAW HANDED N. A. R.
63	20 JUNE	MEDICAL - MAN WITH CHEST INJURIES	UNLATER ELGIN - DYCE	97	22 AUG	MISSING YACHT OFF SANDAY, CAIRNGORMS	ONE RESCUED MAN TAKEN TO RAICHMORE ONE RESCUED TAKEN TO RAICHMORE
64	21 JUNE	INJURED SEAMAN ON BR SUMMIT VESSEL "ARCA LIGHT"	ONE RESCUED TAKEN TO RAICHMORE	98	24 AUG	MISSING HILL WALKER - DORNIE	ONE RESCUED TAKEN TO RAICHMORE
65	24 JUNE	SEARCH FOR MISSING MAN IN LOCH NESS AREA	TURVED UP SAFELY	99	25 AUG	MEDICAL - MAN WITH RENAL FAILURE	RAICHMORE - ABERDEEN
66	25 JUNE	AIR PRIORITY 2 - PHANTOM DOUBLE HYDRAULIC FAILURE	LANDED SAFELY	100	25 AUG	SEARCH FOR MISSING MAN IN ISLE OF SKYE	FOUND DEAD ON BEACH
67	29 JUNE	SEARCH FOR MISSING BOY ON BENBECULA	ONE RESCUED TAKEN TO RAICHMORE	101	26 AUG	AIR PRIORITY 2 - UEN A/G HYDRAULIC FAILURE	LANDED SAFELY
68	30 JUNE	AIR PRIORITY 2 - PHANTOM LOST CANOPY	LANDED SAFELY	102	30 AUG	MEDICAL - MAN WITH BURNED SKIN IN STOMACH AREA	PORTGLO - TO GLASGOW
69	2 JULY	MEDICAL - MAN WITH BROKEN NECK	RAICHMORE - EDINBURGH	103	2 SEPT	AIR PRIORITY 2 - JAGUAR FIRE IN THE AIR	LANDED SAFELY
70	5 JULY	INJURED CLIMBER AT SMETTER STONE, CAIRNGORMS	ONE RESCUED TAKEN TO RAICHMORE	104	2 SEPT	CAPTURED CANOES OFF MORRISMAN	ALL SAFE N. A. R.
71	7 JULY	MEDICAL - ROAD ACCIDENT VICTIM	FORT WILLIAM - EDINBURGH	105	8 SEPT	FALLEN CIG CLIMBER CULLIN SKYE	ONE RESCUED TAKEN TO BURNINGFORD
72	8 JULY	TASKED FOR MEDICAL LUGNIVER - RAICHMORE	N. A. R. - PATIENT DYING ON ARRIVAL	106	11 SEPT	AIR PRIORITY 2 - JAGUAR ENGINE SURGE	LANDED SAFELY
73	10 JULY	SMALL BOAT FIRING FLARES OFF COVESA	FALSE ALARM	107	15 SEPT	AIR PRIORITY 2 - SHIRAZ UNDERCARRIAGE MALFUNCTION	LANDED SAFELY
74	12 JULY	COLLAPSED HILL WALKER - LARIG CHRU	D. O. A. TAKEN TO GLENNEE LODGE	108	16 SEPT	AIR PRIORITY 2 - SHIRAZ FIRE IN THE AIR	LANDED SAFELY
75	14 JULY	MEDICAL - MAN COLLAPSED LOCH ELGIN - DYCE	DIED EN ROUTE	109	19 SEPT	AIR PRIORITY 2 - SHIRAZ ENGINE FAILURE	LANDED SAFELY
76	15 JULY	AIR PRIORITY 2 - JAGUAR ENGINE FAILURE	LANDED SAFELY	110	19 SEPT	MEDICAL - 2 DAY OLD CHILD WICK - RAICHMORE	KEPT ALIVE ON OXIGEN
77	17 JULY	AIR PRIORITY 2 - GANNET REAR CABIN FIRE	LANDED SAFELY	111	20 SEP	FISHING BOAT "DUPRA" THUNDER IN WATER IN MORAY FORTH	POD PUT ON BOARD VESSEL THROWN IN TOW BY TUG (WARR)
78	17 JULY	FALLEN CLIMBER - SEON NA GENE, CULLIN	ONE RESCUED TAKEN TO RAICHMORE	112	20 SEP	BOAT FIRING FLARES - PORTGLO	TOWED INTO HARBOR BY FISHING BOAT
79	17 JULY	MISSING YACHT OFF RAISAY, SKYE	FOUND SAFE N. A. R.	113	20 SEP	FALLEN CLIMBER - CULLIN ISLE OF SKYE	ONE RESCUED TAKEN TO BURNINGFORD
80	18 JULY	AIR PRIORITY 2 - JAGUAR BIRD STRIKE	LANDED SAFELY	114	23 SEP	MEDICAL - MAN WITH CRUSH INJURIES	RAICHMORE - RAICHMORE
81	23 JULY	FALLEN CLIMBER CAIRNGORMS	ONE RESCUED TAKEN TO RAICHMORE	115	25 SEP	MEDICAL - ONE DAY OLD RESPIRATORY PROBLEMS	FROM THAMES TO RAICHMORE
82	24 JULY	MEDICAL CANOIST LOCH NEVIS	FOUND BY HALLING LIFEBOAT	116	28 SEP	AIR PRIORITY 2 - BUCANER FIRE ON GROUND	N. A. R.
83	25 JULY	MISSING FRIGATE AND SON CAIRNGORMS	TWO RESCUED TAKEN TO GLENNEE LODGE	117	29 SEP	AIR PRIORITY 2 - BUCANER HYDRAULIC FAILURE	LANDED SAFELY
84	25 JULY	AIR PRIORITY 2 - JAGUAR DOUBLE ENGINE SURGE	LANDED SAFELY	118	1 OCT	AIR PRIORITY 2 - BUCANER HYDRAULIC FAILURE	N. A. R.
85	28 JULY	AIR PRIORITY 2 - JAGUAR FIRE WARNING	LANDED SAFELY	119	3 OCT	AIR PRIORITY 2 - JAGUAR ONE ENGINE FAILED	LANDED SAFELY
86	29 JULY	AIR PRIORITY 2 - CANBERRA ENGINE FAILURE	LANDED SAFELY	120	3 OCT	RED FLARES SIGHTED OFF HANNA ISLAND	RESCUED - MAN RESCUED BY FISHING BOAT
87	30 JULY	BOY IN DRAFTING INFLATABLE 1 MILE EAST OF CAIRNGORMS	ONE RESCUED TAKEN TO RAICHMORE	121	4 OCT	LOBSTER BOAT IN DIFFICULTIES LOCH ERIKILL	ENGINE RESTARTED
88	31 JULY	COLLAPSED CLIMBER IN CULLIN, SKYE	ONE RESCUED TAKEN TO RAICHMORE	122	5 OCT	AIR PRIORITY 2 - GRIMPA TROUBLE - CONTROL FAILURE	N. A. R.
89	1 AUG	SEARCH FOR MISSING WALKER IN GLEN MORRISTON	FOUND BY POLICE	123	8 OCT	AIR PRIORITY 2 - JAGUAR TWO ENGINE PROBLEMS	LANDED SAFELY
90	1 AUG	FALLEN BOY ON CLIFFS AT APTONCHIE	ONE RESCUED TAKEN TO RAICHMORE	124	8 OCT	MEDICAL - MAN'S PATIENT HEAD INJURIES	RAICHMORE - DYCE
91	4 AUG	SEARCH FOR MISSING WALKER ON ISLE OF SKYE	NOTHING FOUND	125	11 OCT	COLLAPSED CLIMBER OFF LOCH ERIKILL	ONE RESCUED TAKEN TO RAICHMORE
92	8 AUG	FALLEN BOY ON LINTHORN IN TORRIGON	ONE RESCUED TAKEN TO RAICHMORE	126	15 OCT	LEIS - BEN NEVIS FIRE, THAMES	TAKEN TO RAICHMORE
93	11 AUG	SEARCH FOR MISSING GUN NEAR NARN	FOUND BY GUNBOAT PARTY	127	16 OCT	MAN - HUNTER	ONE LANDED
94	11 AUG	POLICE SET SEARCH AREA NEAR LOCH AVON	ONE RESCUED TAKEN TO RAICHMORE	128	22 OCT	ENGINE OVERTHEATING AIR PRIORITY 2 - JAGUAR FIRE WARNING	SAFELY AT WICK N. A. R.



61	MAY 8	2 GWS ON MOUNTAIN LOST OFF COAST - BOAT NAR	FOUND SAFE MOUNTAIN	95	JUL 27	SINKING CANOE CAPE WRATH - LOST	SEARCHING MOUNTAIN
62	MAY 21	BOY FALLEN DOWN CLIFF NEAR DUNNET HEAD	1 RESCUED TAKEN TO BROADFORD	96	JUL 30	MISSING CANOE - CONTINUED SEARCH	NO INFO
63	MAY 25	AIR PRIORITY 2 - JAGUAR ENGINE MALFUNCTION	LANDED SAFELY	97	AUG 4	WOMAN CANOE WITH SUSPECT HEART ATTACK	ONE RESCUED TAKEN TO BROADFORD
64	MAY 28	FALLEN CLIMBER BLA BHEINN SKYE	1 RESCUED TAKEN TO BROADFORD	98	AUG 4	OVERTURNED YACHT IN MOUNTAIN FIRTH	NAR BOAT NAR
65	MAY 30	CLIMBER WITH 2 BROKEN LEGS ALASDAIR SKYE	2 RESCUED TAKEN TO BROADFORD	99	AUG 10	BEINN DEARG SHEPHERD FALLEN 500 FT	ONE RESCUED TAKEN TO BROADFORD
66	JUNE 1	INJURED CLIMBER NORTH SKYE	1 RESCUED TAKEN TO BROADFORD	100	AUG 11	MEDEVAC ROAD ACCIDENT VICTIM	ELLEN TO ABERDEEN ROYAL INFIRMARY
67	JUNE 2	AIR PRIORITY 2 - CANBERRA ENGINE FIRE	LANDED SAFELY	101	AUG 18	INJURED GIRL CLIMBER ON GLEN COE	ONE RESCUED TAKEN TO BOAT WILLIAM RAILMORE
68	JUNE 7	AIR PRIORITY 2 - BASSETT STEEL ENGINE PROBLEM	LANDED SAFELY	102	AUG 22	ASSIST POLICE LOCATE ARMED MAN WITH HOSTAGE NEAR GRANTON	RAILMORE OUT
69	JUNE 8	COLLAPSED TOURIST BEN NEVIS	1 DEAD TAKEN TO BOAT WILLIAM	103	AUG 24	YACHT SUNK IN BEAULY FIRTH WITH 4 POB	NAR RESCUED BY CIVIL LAUNCH
70	JUN 9	SEARCH FOR SWIMMER OFF LOSSIE BEACH	RESCUED BY SHORE PARTY NAR	104	AUG 25	AIR PRIORITY 2 - JAGUAR INTERMITTENT FIRE WARNING	NAR LANDED SAFELY
71	JUN 10	SEARCH FOR POSSIBLE MISSING PERSON - FORTH OF MOUN - UNDISCOVERED	NOTHING FOUND	105	AUG 26	AIR PRIORITY 2 - JAGUAR HYDRAULIC FAILURE	NAR LANDED SAFELY
72	JUN 15	AIR PRIORITY 2 - PHANTOM ELECTRICAL PROBLEM	LANDED SAFELY	106	AUG 29	FALLEN GIRL CLIMBER - CULLINS SCURR NA BHAIRNICH	1 RESCUED TAKEN TO BROADFORD HOSP TAKEN TO RAILMORE
73	JUN 21	SEARCH N. SKYE FOR OLD MAN MISSING OVERNIGHT	1 RESCUED FOUND SAFE	107	SEP 2	MEDEVAC - RUPTURED APPENDIX AT APPLECROSS	RAILMORE TO EDINBURGH
74	JUN 30	AIR PRIORITY 2 - GANNET HYDRAULIC MALFUNCTION	LANDED SAFELY	108	SEP 4	FROM FRACTURED NECK MEDEVAC - PARALYSIS	RAILMORE TO EDINBURGH
75	JUL 1	AIR PRIORITY 2 - NIMROD HYDRAULIC LEAK	LANDED SAFELY	109	SEP 7	AIR PRIORITY 2 - JAGUAR CONTROL RESTRICTION FOLLOWING BIRD STRIKE	NAR LANDED SAFELY
76	JUL 1	CALLED TO YACHT IN DIFFICULTIES OFF BANFF	NO HELP REQUIRED	110	SEP 8	AIR PRIORITY 2 - JAGUAR UNDERCARRIAGE HYDRAULIC MALFUNCTION	NAR LANDED SAFELY
77	JUL 3	BOAT ON FIRE NORTH OF DALCROSS	NAR	111	SEP 9	3 BELGIANS EXPOSURE ON CAIRNGORM	ASSIST MRS
78	JUL 3	AIR PRIORITY 2 - TORN PHANTOM HYDRAULIC LEAK	LANDED SAFELY	112	SEP 10	MEDEVAC - BROKEN BACK FROM ROAD ACCIDENT	RAILMORE TO EDINBURGH
79	JUL 3	DINGHY IN DIFFICULTIES NORTH OF MACKLUFF	NAR PICKED UP BY BOAT	113	SEP 17	AP 2 BUCCANESS WITH UNDERCARRIAGE MALFUNCTION	NAR LANDED SAFELY
80	JUL 5	MEDEVAC - 2 BOY ROAD ACCIDENT VICTIMS	TAKEN FROM ELGIN TO ABERDEEN	114	SEP 20	AP 2 JAGUAR HYDRAULIC FAILURE	NAR LANDED SAFELY
81	JUL 7	SEARCH HEBRIDES FOR MISSING FISHING BOAT	BOAT ARRIVED LATE BUT SAFE	115	SEP 21	AP 2 BUCCANESS WITH ONE ENGINE VLS	NAR LANDED SAFELY
82	JUL 9	RECE OF FOREST FIRE CARRIBRIDGE AREA	RECE CARRIED OUT. NAR	116	SEP 22	NIGHT SEARCH FOR 2 IN CANOE OFF INVERNESS	1 RESCUED NOT FOUND
83	JUL 13	AIR PRIORITY 2 - PHANTOM ENGINE FAILURE	LANDED SAFELY	117	SEP 23	AIR PRIORITY ONE, NIMROD ENGINE FIRE WARNING	NAR LANDED SAFELY
84	JUL 13	AP 2 NIMROD - FIRE WARNING	LANDED SAFELY	118	SEP 25	4 PEOPLE ON OVERTURNED BOAT OFF CULLEN	NAR FOUND SAFE ON BEACH
85	JUL 13	AIR PRIORITY 2 - JAGUAR REHEAT FIRE INDICATION	LANDED SAFE	119	SEP 25	2 INJURED CREEPS CUT OFF BY TIDE IN CROMARTY GAP	2 RESCUED AT NIGHT TAKEN TO DALCROSS
86	JUL 13	AIR PRIORITY 2 DEVON - HAD FAILURE	LANDED SAFELY	120	OCT 1	FISHING BOAT WITH MINE ON BOARD (BURCHARD)	TAKEN OFF BY BOAT NAR
87	JUL 13	DUNNET HEAD - MAN FALLEN FROM CLIFF TOP	1 DEAD - TAKEN TO LIGHTHOUSE	121	OCT 7	AP 2 JAGUAR WITH ONE ENGINE VLS	NAR LANDED SAFELY
88	JUL 16	MEDEVAC - PARAGLIDER POISON VICTIM	TAKEN FROM RAILMORE TO EDINBURGH	122	OCT 8	MEDEVAC - RAFT OFFER MULTIPLE INJURIES	ABERDEEN TO KINLOSS
89	JUL 18	SCRAMBLE TO YOUTH STUCK ON CLIFF AT FINDICUTY	1 RESCUED LIFTED TO CLIFF TOP	123	OCT 8	AIR PRIORITY 2 JAGUAR BIRD STRIKE	NAR LANDED SAFELY
90	JUL 20	COLLAPSED WALKER SLIGACHAN - SKYE	2 RESCUED TAKEN TO CLIFF TOP	124	OCT 8	AIR PRIORITY 2 - JAGUAR ENGINE MALFUNCTION	NAR LANDED SAFELY
91	JUL 23	AIR PRIORITY 2 JAGUAR FIRE ON BOARD	LANDED SAFELY	125	OCT 10	MEDEVAC - GIRL WITH BROKEN NECK	INVERNESS TO EDINBURGH
92	JUL 24	FALLEN CLIMBER MELL GORM - KISHORN	1 RESCUED TAKEN TO BOAT FORTH	126	OCT 11	CESSIVA 150 CRASH AT WICK	FOUND BY GRAM PART NAR
93	JUL 25	MEDEVAC - PREMATURE BABY - 3 HRS OLD	THIS TO RAILMORE	127	OCT 14	AP 2 GANNET WITH FUEL LEAK	NAR LANDED SAFELY
94	JUL 27	SMALL BOAT IN TROUBLE PORTMAN	NAR	128	OCT 14	AP 2 PHANTOM - SHORT OF FUEL	NAR LANDED SAFELY



1977

## D FLIGHT No 202 SQN SCRAMBLES

1	JAN 3/4	SEARCH FOR MISSING YOUTH IN STORNOWAY AREA	NOTHING FOUND	31	APR 7	SQUIRE NAN GILLEAN	FALLEN CLIMBER	TO PORTREE
2	JAN 6	AP 2 GANNET WITH ENGINE FAILURE	NAR	32	APR 7	FALLEN CLIMBER ON HILLS ABOVE GLEN AFRIC LODGE	RESCUED	TO RAIGHMORE
3	JAN 6/7	INJURED SEAMAN ON SHIP "ANGLIA TEAM" WEST OF LEWIS	1 RESCUED TAKEN TO STORNOWAY	33	APR 9	ROAD ACCIDENT 4NM SOUTH DAWLINNIE	RECALLED BY RCC	
4	JAN 8/9	INJURED CLIMBER TORRION AREA	RESCUED BY MRT	34	APR 9	SQUIRE NAN GILLEAN	FALLEN CLIMBERS	WALKED OUT
5	JAN 11/12	HELICOPTER CRASHED IN LOCH AVON, CAIRNGORMS	2 RESCUED AT NIGHT IN FOG	35	APR 10	ROAD ACCIDENT NEAR TOWNTOUL	2 RESCUED	TO ABERDEEN
6	JAN 18	AP 2 GANNET WITH FUEL LEAK	NAR	36	APR 11	CLIMBER STRUCK BY LIGHTNING	1 RESCUED	TO RAIGHMORE
7	JAN 19	AP 2 BUCCANEER WITH FUEL LEAK	NAR	37	APR 12	AIRCRAFT CRASH LANDED ON EIGG, 6 PDS	LANDED SAFELY	
8	JAN 24	AP 2 JAGUAR WITH FIRE WARNING	NAR	38	APR 23	FLARES OFF HOREMAN	FALSE ALARM	
9	JAN 24	WOODMAN INJURED IN FOREST NEAR BEAULY	1 RESCUED TAKEN TO RAIGHMORE	39	APR 24	WOMAN MISSING IN WICK AREA	FOUND BY GROUND PARTY	
10	JAN 26	AP 2 GANNET ON ONE ENGINE	NAR	40	APR 27	AP 2 CANBERRA WITH SUSPECT TYRE	NAR	
11	JAN 27	SEARCH LOCH EWE FOR MISSING FISHERMAN	NOTHING FOUND	41	MAY 3	BUCCANEER WITH HYDRAULIC FAILURE ENGAGED RHAG	NAR	
12	FEB 4	SICK SEAMAN ON DANISH BOAT "MIGNON" TOWN NE PETERHEAD	1 RESCUED TAKEN TO ABERDEEN	42	MAY 11	AP 2 - FIH WITH OVERHEATING WHEEL BAY	NAR	
13	FEB 8	SEARCH BEAULY FIRTH FOR MISSING WOMAN	NOTHING FOUND	43	MAY 12	AP 2 - JAGUAR WITH ENG. FAILURE	NAR	
14	FEB 8	AP 2 JAGUAR WITH HYDRAULIC FAILURE	NAR LANDED SAFELY	44	MAY 13	AP 2 - GANNET WITH ONE ENGINE SHUT DOWN	NAR	
15	FEB 11	MEDEVAC - MAN WITH CHEST INJURIES	BRANF TO DYCE	45	MAY 21	COLLAPSED POLICEMAN 1NM SOUTH OF LOCHNAGAR	BODY RESCUED TAKEN TO BEAULY POLICE	
16	FEB 11	MEDEVAC - GIRL WITH HEAD INJURIES	ELGIN TO BUCKIE	46	MAY 23	CAPSIZED DINGHY IN LOCH NESS	2 RESCUED	
17	FEB 14	AP 2 PHANTOM WITH LOW FUEL STATE	NAR	47	MAY 28	MEDEVAC - MAN WITH SEVERE HEAD INJURIES	ELGIN TO ABERDEEN	
18	FEB 17	AP 2 GANNET WITH UNDERCARRIAGE MALFUNCTION	NAR	48	MAY 29	FLARES SIGHTED BETWEEN BROGA AND TABBET NESS	FALSE ALARM	
19	FEB 18	AP 2 SHACKLETON UNABLE TO STOP FUEL JETTISON	NAR	49	MAY 30	AP 2 JAGUAR WITH FUMES IN COCKPIT	NAR	
20	FEB 23	MEDEVAC - MAN WITH CHEST INJURIES	PORTREE TO RAIGHMORE	50	MAY 30	INJURED CLIMBER ON SQUIRE AUSTAIR, SKYE	2 RESCUED TO ABERDEEN	
21	MAR 2	SEARCH FOR SUSPECTED BODY IN SPEY BAY	NOTHING FOUND	51	JUN 2	AP 2 JAGUAR WITH ENGINE FAILURE	NAR	
22	MAR 4	FALLEN CLIMBER ON GREAT SLAB COIRE AN LOCHAN	1 RESCUED TAKEN TO RAIGHMORE	52	JUN 16	CESSNA FORCE LANDED 2 NM WEST OF DALRUGGS	NAR	
23	MAR 8	AP 2 SHACKLETON	NAR	53	JUN 16	75 YR OLD WALKER COLLAPSED ON BEN STARRAN	1 RESCUED TO OSAN	
24	MAR 11	AP 2 GANNET WITH SINGLE ENGINE FAILURE	NAR	54	JUN 17	BOAT CAPSIZED OF RATTRAY HEAD	1 BODY RECOVERED SEAMAN	
25	MAR 11	MEDEVAC - MAN WITH FRACTURED SPINE	RAIGHMORE TO EDINBURGH	55	JUN 17	BOAT OVERTURNED PORTSOY	NAR FALSE ALARM	
26	MAR 15	AP 2 JAGUAR WITH ENGINE FAILURE	NAR	56	JUN 21	AP 2 JAGUAR WITH ENGINE VIBRATION	NAR	
27	MAR 20	85 YR BREACHCOMB MISSING PORTGOWRIE SEARCH COAST AROUND BROGA	NOTHING FOUND	57	JUN 24	DUTCH DEER COUNTER, BRAERHACH, BROWN LEG	1 RESCUED TO RAIGHMORE	
28	APR 1	MEDEVAC - AMPUTATED HAND	RAIGHMORE TO ABERDEEN	58	JUL 1	2 BOYS SWIFT OF ROCKS PORT OF NESS 1500 OF LEWIS	BODIES RECOVERED BY BOAT AND JIB	
29	APR 2	MEDEVAC - FEMALE DIABETIC WITH RENAL FAILURE	TARSKAVAG - RAIGHMORE	59	JUL 5	AP 2 - JAGUAR	NAR	
30	APR 6	COIRE AN LOCHAN CLIMBER FELL 600'	WALKED OUT MET FLOATH IN	60	JUL 5	MIL VAC - MAN WITH HEAD INJURIES	RECALLED	