

6th S/L Paish , F/L Hewitt, M/LM Allen

Responded to a mayday stating a Lightning was seen to crash into the sea 20miles southeast of Spurn. R28 were beaten to the site of the incident by Coltishall's Wessex it was a close race. They lifted the pilot and took him to Binbrook. R28 remained over the crash site untill a Trinity House vessel arrived to mark the site. It appears that the pilot had ejected having got into a spin but the parachute failed to work.

14th F/L Longden, F/L Whittaker, F/S Barnes

This crew callously left the rest of the flight bobbing about in a liferaft mid way through a dinghy drill to go to Immingham Docks , where a man had fallen from a pier and picked up by a tug. Barney was put on board did what he could for him but to no avail. He was pronounced DOA at Grimsby Hospital (the casualty not Barney, I think)

17th F/L Best, M/Nav Dedmen, F/S Barnes

Barney must have been OK 'cause here he is again , this time using the opportunity afforded by the Easter school hols to lift 3 children cut off by the tide at North Landing, watch this space.

18th F/L Best, F/L Hewitt, Sgt Williamson

A nasty one this. A man had fallen 200 feet down Buckton Cliffs at Bempton sustaining severe injuries to his legs and back. Terry enlisted the help of a local doctor then stretcher lifted the casualty and flew him to Hull R I .

18th F/L Pierce , F/L Whittaker , F/S Barnes

This crew assisted the above rescue by recovering the cliff rescue team from the base of the cliffs.

Rescue drama in dock

A MAN was plucked unconscious from Immingham Dock this afternoon after falling overboard from a ship.

He was picked up by a tug and transferred to an RAF rescue helicopter from Leconfield.

The man, who has still to be identified, was flown direct to Grimsby District General Hospital for emergency treatment.

An RAF spokesman said: "We happened to be in the area on a routine training flight and were able to go to his help."

Helicopter rescues stranded boys

A helicopter on exercise saved a soaking for three teenage boys, who were cut off by the tide at North Landing, Flamborough, on Sunday morning.

The boys, visiting holiday-makers aged about 14, had walked out too far and were stranded as the RAF helicopter from Leconfield hovered above.

Flamborough coastguards spotted them and alerted the helicopter, which winched the trio back to the North Landing beach.



A Wessex helicopter at RAF Leconfield provides the backdrop for the presentation of the Super Mark It cheques by Mr Martin Russell, Grandways stores director, and Flt. Sgt. Barney Barnes to (from the left): Mrs Alice Sutton, Mrs Emmie Johnson, Mrs Gillian Dickinson, Mrs Florence Bulbeck and Miss Joyce Thacker.

Copter squad hosts to lucky winners

THE men of the RAF's search and rescue helicopter squadron at Leconfield played host yesterday to the winners of the latest Hull Daily Mail Super Mark-It competition.

The £500 prize money in the fourth of the Hull Daily Mail / Grandways games was shared by six winners, all of them regular entrants.

Four of the six winners attended a champagne reception at the helicopter base, where they received their cheques from Flt. Sgt. Barney Barnes and Mr Martin Russell, stores director for Grandways, with Mr Richard Dodd, the Hull Daily Mail's circulation manager, looking on.

They were also shown one of the RAF Wessex helicopters and told about some of the work carried out by the helicopter crews based at Leconfield.

One of the winners, Mrs Alice Sutton, of Hereford Street, Hull, said the prize money had come as a very pleasant surprise and her visit to the helicopter base was an added bonus. "It is a

wonderful experience", she said.

The other winners who attended the presentation were Mrs Emmie Johnson, of Bewholme Grove, Marfleet Lane, Hull; Mrs Gillian Dickinson, of New Village Road, Cottingham; and Mrs Florence Bulbeck, of Holmgarth Drive, Hull.

Mrs Fay Thacker, of St. Matthew Street, Hull, sent her daughter, Miss Joyce Thacker, along in her place, and Mrs Irene Smart, of Ledubry Road, Hull, was unable to attend.

Copter heroes beat the fog on foot

By DEREK HORNBY

HELICOPTER winchman Eric Ainslie turned pathfinder when fog threatened a mountain rescue mission.

He climbed out and led the way on foot, firing orange flares and using a walkie-talkie link with the pilot to guide his RAF colleagues.

"I suppose it was a bit unusual walking in front of the helicopter," he said last night. "I must have looked like the Statue of Liberty. But in the circumstances it was the only thing to do."

The helicopter from 22 Squadron at Leconfield, Humberside, had been trying to reach a squad of Territorial Army soldiers stranded at the top of 1,836ft. Wards Stone in the Bowland Forest in North Lancashire.

Fog

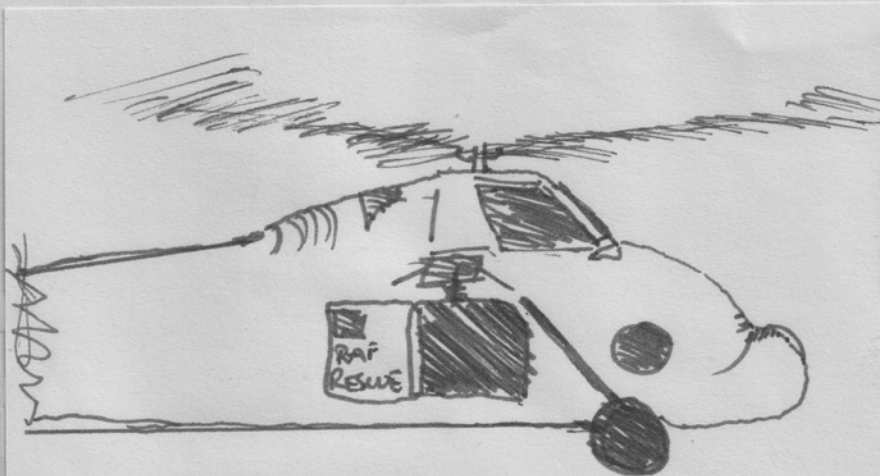
A mountain rescue team had already found the men and called for an airlift to hospital.

But thick fog and low cloud barred the helicopter's way — until 42-year-old Eric took a hand.

The helicopter landed at the bottom of the hill and he began the two-mile trek to the summit, lighting his path all the way and keeping in constant touch with his pilot.

The two-hour mission ended successfully with nine TA men being picked up and flown to hospital at Lancaster.

Four, including one on a stretcher, were found to be suffering from exposure after their weekend exercise was wrecked by the weather.



Mystery on the cliffs

THE MYSTERY of what happened to a man who was seen on Sunday night waving his arms furiously at the top of 200ft. high cliffs at Filey, then disappeared, remained unsolved today.

Two lifeboats, an RAF rescue helicopter, coast-guard rescue teams and police combed the cliffs just north of Filey Brigg and the heavy seas below, but found nothing.

A woman walking her dogs had seen the man, who was wearing a dark track suit, shouting and waving his arms. He appeared to be angry.

After some four hours the two lifeboats gave up. Coastguards Peter Gray, and brothers John and Martin Haxby climbed part way down the cliffs and were then airlifted by the helicopter after finding no trace of the man.

Coastguards warn: Don't be stupid

COASTGUARDS today issued a stern warning to Bank Holiday trippers, after six people were saved in three incidents in the Bridlington and Flamborough area.

A spokesman at the Bridlington coastguard station bluntly told people to use their commonsense, following the incidents, which included two men being airlifted to safety, and a mother and son being winched up cliffs at Flamborough.

"I do not understand the people that come here and do silly things.

"They do have a tendency to forget that the sea is continually moving," he said.

But he went on: "It is quite easy to keep an eye on it and see which way the tide is going."

He advised holidaymakers and visitors to take care, and to contact stations to

check tide times, before walking in sea areas.

In one of the incidents, two men from the Driffield area were plucked from cliffs at Flamborough Head by an RAF helicopter from Leconfield.

Helicopter men shine on ground

FIVE AIRMEN and a civilian from the helicopter search and rescue unit at Leconfield completed the City of Lincoln half-marathon at the weekend to raise money for a local school.

The six men were among about 5,000 runners who lined up at the start of the race. One senior aircraftman Brice McDermid, was among the front runners, completing the course in 1 hour 20 mins.

Sgt. Terry Williamson, another of the airmen taking part, said today that they were all tired after their efforts, but were pleased to have completed the course, particularly as three of the group were novices.

He added that they hoped to have raised between £500 and £600 towards the purchase of a computer for Etton Pasture School.

The others taking part were Flt. Lt. Geoff Clark, the new flight-commander at the base; Sgt. Steve Higgins; Cpl. Ron Milam and fireman Mr Ian McDougall.

'Not in trouble'

Mr Steven Pether (19), of Black Carr Lane, Nafferton, and his friend, Mr Simon Glover (25), of Exchange Street, Driffield, were winched to safety, after being cut off by the tide.

But a slightly surprised Mr Pether said afterwards that they had felt that they were not in any real danger.

"We could have got back easily," he said.

They thought we were in trouble, and we were not."

He added: "They started rescuing us and we did not want rescuing. We were just enjoying ourselves.

"We were at the bottom of the cliffs clambouring from rock to rock.

"They told us we were in danger and could have drowned. We can both swim and it was not really deep.

"They might have been right though... we might have been in danger, but we did not think so. It will be something to tell my kids."

Mr Pether said, "We had not got very far when a boat came past. The next thing we knew a helicopter came down." But a coastguard spokesman said today that the pair had been in real danger.

"They were cut off by the tide. It is a known trouble spot. We would have been asking for trouble if we had

Winched up

He said that if holidaymakers wished to walk in that area, they should contact the coastguard station.

"If we know that they are going, we can keep an eye on them and advise on the tide times and how to get there and back," he said.

On Thursday, a Sheffield woman and her eight-year-old son were winched 300ft. up the cliffs at Flamborough by coastguards, after they were cut off by the tide.

Mrs Darrio Merrills, her husband John, son Andrew and teenage daughter Elizabeth were on a day trip to Flamborough when they were cut off at West Scarr, North Landing. Coastguard in charge at Flamborough, Mr Vic Crosthwaite, explained that Mr Merrills and his daughter were tall enough to walk to safety, but mother and son could not get back and were getting a bit upset.

Mr Crosthwaite climbed down the cliff face and once Mrs Merrills and Andrew were fitted with safety harnesses and helmets, they were winched to safety.

Bridlington Coastguard station said that yesterday evening two men became stuck on the sea wall by the resort's Floral Hall, after being cut off by the tide.

Mr Simon Carr (19), Mr Christopher Marshall (23), both from Bridlington, were brought to safety using a rope ladder.