

VOLUNTEERS IN PRACTICE "CRASH"

No, this isn't a real plane crash, it's "Operation Ditch", a true-to-life re-enactment of an airliner disaster at sea, staged off the Virginia coast. Rafts and Survival kits are launched automatically from outboard compartments, and volunteers, ranging from children to grandmothers, jump aboard.

Typical disaster-conditions are reproduced as closely as possible, to find the best and safest ways of organising the escape.

If this were a real crash, the modern emergency equipment would give passengers and crew a much greater chance of survival. Organised jointly by Government, Armed Forces, and industry, these trials may pay big dividends in the saving of human lives.