

12 under arch
Sw of Selsca Bill.
near Thomey Island.

30 ft above water

2 mi Paul Bowry. of Leeds
F/S. Grand Scoppius
of Portenaults.

3 mi

Whitcomb

22 Search
& Rescue Sqdr
T. Island

—

2mswd 2381.

← Tuesday.

30- 9. 55.

Q. 1100.

INFORMATION DIVISION,

AIR MINISTRY,

WHITEHALL GARDENS,

LONDON, S.W.1.

August, 1955.

Tel: TRAFALGAR 8811
Extn.

Dear Sir,

No. 22 (Search and Rescue) Helicopter Squadron, R.A.F. Coastal Command, will give a demonstration in the Newhaven-Portsmouth area of the Channel of various helicopter rescue techniques on Tuesday, August 30th, 1955. You are invited to send a reporter and/or photographer to cover what should prove to be a very interesting exercise.

Subject to weather the programme will begin at sea at 10 a.m. and include:-

- (a) helicopters of No. 22 Squadron; personnel of R.A.F. Thorney Island's Flying and Training Wings acting as aircrew to be rescued; R.A.F. Marine Branch search and rescue surface craft. A Shackleton long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft from Cornwall will also probably take part. The demonstration will be co-ordinated and controlled by the R.A.F. Rescue Co-ordination Centre at H.Q., No. 19 Group, Mount Batten, Plymouth;
- (b) demonstrations of rescues by the use of the scoop-net, strop and breeches-buoy methods;
- (c) transferring a "wounded" man in a stretcher from the deck of a R.A.F. rescue craft to a helicopter;
- (d) the first demonstration for the press at sea of the use of S.A.R.A.H. (Search and Rescue and Homing), by which rescue aircraft and surface craft can be homed on to a floating man by the man himself, who is equipped with his own radio beacon;

The Rescue Co-ordination Centre at Mount Batten, in times of actual emergency, controls and co-ordinates all search and rescue operations south of The Wash and out into the Atlantic.

The press will be embarked in R.A.F. high-speed search and rescue launches at 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 30th. As far as facilities permit, the party will be accommodated in the Officers' Mess overnight at Thorney Island, and Air Ministry transport will leave Whitehall Gardens at 4 p.m., on Monday, August 29th to take them to Thorney Island, and to bring them back to London the following afternoon.

The party will visit No. 22 Squadron to see its aircraft, talk with aircrews and see ground servicing crews working on a helicopter undergoing a major inspection. The squadron, which is constantly on rescue standby, depends on the speed and thoroughness of its ground crews.

Those arriving on the Tuesday morning, should report to the Air Ministry conducting officer at the Officers' Mess not later than 9 a.m. on the Tuesday 30th.

Yes we may get something published

G.23999/JPB/8/55/130

40PM. ADD HELICOPTER CRASHES IN CHANNEL.

SQUADRON LEADER BOWRY SAID " I KNOW I HAD PLENTY OF PETROL BUL TALL I CAN SAY IS THAT THERE APPEARED TO BE A COMPLETE ENGINE FAILURE. IT WAS ALL OVER SO QUICKLY I CANNOT TELL YOU REALLY WHAT DID HAPPEN."

THE CRASH OCCURRED 12 MILES SOUTH OF SELSEY BILL.
AIR VICE MARSHAL CONSTANTINE HAD FLOWN HIMSELF FROM HIS HEADQUARTERS AT MANBY, LINGS., TO THORNEY ISLAND IN A VAMPIRE AND WAS EMBARKED IN ONE OF THE HIGH SPEED LAUNCHES TAKING PART SO THAT HE COULD WITNESS THE DEMONSTRATION. IT TOOK LONGER THAN HE HAD EXPECTED AND REALISING HE HAD A CONFERENCE ATR.A.F. STATION, SWINDERBY, THIS AFTERNOON HE ASKED FLIGHT LIEUTENT H.C. FIELD, THE CAPTAIN OF THE LAUNCH, IF HE COULD ARRANGE FOR HIM AND HIS A.D.C. TO BE PICKED UP BY A HELICOPTER IN THE SAME WAY THAT HE HAD SEEN "DITCHED" PILOTS PICKED UP FROM THE SEA.

4.3 PM. HELICOPTER CRASHES IN CHANNEL

A HELICOPTER TAKING PART IN AN R.A.F. DEMONSTRATION OF AIR-SEA RESCUE CO-ORDINATION CRASHED INTO THE ENGLISH CHANNEL THIS AFTERNOON TEN YARDS FROM A RESCUE BOAT IT WAS ABOUT TO HOVER OVER.

IT BROKE IN TWO AND SANK IN TWO MINUTES

THE PILOT AND NAVIGATOR, WHO WERE ABOUT TO EMBARK AIR VICE MARSHAL H.A. CONSTANTINE, WERE RESCUED UNHURT.

IN A MATTER OF SECONDS THE HELICOPTER WOULD HAVE BEEN OVER THE DECK OF AN R.A.F. HIGH SPEED LAUNCH CROWDED WITH REPORTERS, PHOTOGRAPHERS AND HIGH RANKING OFFICERS INCLUDING THE AIR VICE MARSHAL.

THE PILOT WAS SQUADRON LEADER P.C. BOWRY WHO COMMANDS THE HELICOPTER SQUADRON STATIONED AT R.A.F. THORNEY ISLAND.