

# East Scotland

## Lifeboat and helicopter Exercise

A combined exercise between Broughtyferry lifeboat and the local helicopters was carried out on December 8 about five miles west of Bell Rock, the object being to test communications and to rescue ditched airman.

The Broughtyferry lifeboat with ten airmen, complete with rubber dingies, arrived in the operation area about 1400 and proceeded to launch the airmen. Helicopter assistance was asked for through the usual channels and within ten minutes two were over the operation area. They rescued the men one at a time and placed them aboard the lifeboat. The operation was successfully carried out and the rescued party was on board the lifeboat within the hour. A stretcher case was then taken from the lifeboat. Visibility was poor but generally conditions were suitable for this type of rescue.



(By courtesy of Aberdeen Journals)

We very much regret that some time after the above operation one of the helicopters delivering papers to the Bell Rock struck the lighthouse and crashed. Both airmen were lost.

### THE GERTRUD

On Sunday, January 29, at 0900, information was received that the German ship Gertrud was sinking in a position about 133 miles east of Aberdeen and that two British trawlers were standing by. The crew of the Gertrud were rescued by the two trawlers and



(By courtesy of Aberdeen Journals)

they proceeded to Aberdeen. At 1400 contact was made by D.O. by link call and from then on all information from and to the York City (one of the trawlers) was by this method. The crew was landed at Aberdeen about 0300 the next morning.

An account of the rescue by Gardenstown and Banff LSA Companies of the rescue of the Belgian trawler Beatrix Fernande appears elsewhere.

M.H.R. CRICHTON,  
Inspector.

## North West

On November 22, 1955, Portpatrick L.S.A. Company made a very successful rescue from the m.f.v. Integrity which had run ashore on the southern side of the entrance to Portpatrick Harbour. The whole crew of five were brought ashore entirely according to plan. The vessel subsequently became a total loss.

It has been encouraging to note that most of the vacancies for Coastguardsmen in the Division have now been filled. In recent months we have welcomed Mr. Wadsworth at Southend, Argyll, and Mr. Edwards and Mr. Shepherd at Kilchoman, Islay, Argyllshire.

As we go to press we learn with regret that Mr. Spreadborough will shortly be leaving Portpatrick, where he has been District Officer for ten years, for Tenby. Both he and Mrs. Spreadborough will be greatly missed by their many friends in this Division, and we wish them both a very happy commission in South Wales. We welcome Mr. and Mrs. Dodds to Portpatrick in their place.

S.W. PINCHIN  
Inspector