



## Trinity House Helicopter Trials

It has already been reported in the last *Journal* that Helicopter Lighthouse rescue and relief trials were carried out last October, when a Westland-Sikorsky S-51 carried our Vice-Chairman MR NORMAN HILL, from the windswept gallery of the Dungeness Lighthouse to a lifeboat, in a successful endeavour to prove the suitability of the Helicopter for this type of rescue and relief work

We now hear that during February of this year, the Elder Brethren of Trinity House had occasion to make a genuine emergency call for a helicopter relief. The crew of three men

on the Wolf Rock Lighthouse, eight miles off Lands End, were overdue for relief owing to the bad weather and to the fact that their rations were almost exhausted, the Trinity House Tender, the 300-ton *Triton*, having made numerous unsuccessful attempts to bring relief to the Lighthouse

As on the occasion of the earlier trials, the Westland Aircraft Company collaborated with the British Electric Traction Company, and on the morning of February 7th, despite high winds gusting up to 45 knots and a ten-tenths cloud base at 800 feet, MR A E BRISTOW, the Pilot, and MR L SWAIN, Engineer, took off from the Royal Naval Air Station, Culdrose, in the Westland-Sikorsky S-51. The flight to the Lighthouse was made at 100 feet, and on arrival the machine hovered while 250 lbs of provisions were lowered by the hydraulically-operated winch to the crew of the Lighthouse

These trials and their results are significant in showing that the helicopter is now generally recognised as a practical and useful vehicle, and due credit should be given to the Companies concerned for their initiative, the results of which will undoubtedly reflect beneficially throughout the British helicopter industry