

04072

~~At Dungeness a Westland-Sikorsky helicopter demonstrated how~~

At Dungeness a Westland-Sikorsky helicopter <sup>showed</sup> demonstrated how lighthouse men can be relieved by air when storms ~~make~~ prevent ~~men~~ boats approaching. ~~Details of the harness and hoisting device were~~ <sup>demonstrated</sup> noted by <sup>the</sup> lighthouse authorities, Elder Brethren of Trinity House. Bishop Rock, where BBC commentator Edward Ward was marooned last Xmas time, is stormbound as we go to press, but in the most favourable weather ~~making~~ <sup>relieving is</sup> a dangerous business. <sup>By using</sup> ~~Having~~ a helicopter the men who guard the western approach to Britain could ~~be almost as~~ <sup>be almost as</sup> sure of getting home on time as if they'd gone by train. The stronger the gale the more easily the queer craft can heave. The Westland-Sikorsky people are willing to carry out a relief of Bishop Rock at any time Trinity House may want them to.

The rescue of wrecked sailers is another job the helicopter could tackle. The breeches buoy method employed when the Herzogin Cecily came to grief ~~off~~ <sup>at</sup> the Devon coast before the war is impossible unless the vessel is close in, and ~~is~~ <sup>it's</sup> a perilous undertaking at best.

Perhaps the most difficult rescue of all would be picking up men sighted in helpless boats. Although this part of the demonstration was done with the help of a lifeboat, in practice it would save lifeboats many a task. One way and another there seems quite a field open to this increasingly popular type of aircraft.

S.V. <sup>Y</sup> <sub>anglo</sub>

