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Scotland: Air Rescue for snowbound

In Northern Scotland, the R.A.F. Station, Kinloss, was one of the points from which "Operation Snowdrop", the great Service airlift, was launched. With the minimum of delay, planes (including training craft) were taking off - loaded with food and supplies, on their errand of mercy.

Their route lay across the Moray Firth, to Caithness and Sutherland, ~~Scotland's most northerly counties~~, where families, in isolated villages and crofts, had been cut off for days, by deep snowdrifts.

and soon, life-giving supplies were dropping on to a white wilderness - fodder for starving cattle - food and fuel for hardy Highland folk - ~~many~~ some of whom were <sup>THEMSELVES</sup> near starvation.

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Farther north, at Wick, (the H.Q. of Operation "Snowdrop"), Royal Naval helicopters from Lossiemouth, were being loaded with medical supplies and food.

Pausing only to re-fuel (often under emergency conditions) the pilots flew mission after mission - frequently in dangerous flying weather.

Meanwhile, a floating rescue headquarters, the Aircraft-Carrier "Glory" had raced northwards - carrying thousands of gallons of fuel to keep the helicopter airlift going.

During the voyage, thousands of loaves had been baked in the galleys - another ~~striking~~ <sup>fine</sup> example of the service organisation ~~that characterized~~ this mercy <sup>MISSION</sup> undertaking.

And so - against the background of frozen coastline - the helicopters kept up their shuttle service.

~~During the operation, our cameramen flew in a relief plane, high over the distressed areas - ~~where~~ <sup>BALES</sup> tons of fodder were <sup>STILL BEING</sup> pushed out - a difficult task in planes ill-equipped for dropping operations.~~

With the emergency largely over, the ~~Member of~~ <sup>FOR M.P. for the area</sup> Caithness and Sutherland has echoed ~~his~~ <sup>North Scotland's</sup> constituents' praise of the wonderful co-operation that brought swift relief in their hour of need.