

Eastbourne - an R.A.F. Sunderland Flying Boat ~~was~~ ~~visiting~~ suddenly nose-dived and crashed into the sea. Small launches raced out to lend a hand in rescue operations, and were later joined by service helicopters that flew in from nearby coastal stations.

The "Sunderland" was bringing visitors for the R.A.F. Association's Silver Jubilee Conference that was being held in the town - and crashed while coming in to land.

After ten survivors had been picked up by rescue craft, the Eastbourne lifeboatmen passed hawsers around the stricken plane and towed it nearer the shore.

An "all-hands-on-deck" manoeuvre that gave holiday-makers the chance to share in the operation.

The machine sank so quickly that only ten of the fourteen people on board managed to scramble clear - and frogmen were flown in from Gosport to search the wreckage.

~~Two bodies were recovered from the Duke of Edinburgh, and the Silver Jubilee~~

~~Later~~ ^{LATER,} the frogmen found four bodies in the ~~surrounding~~ fore-part of the Sunderland. The ten survivors were rushed, by ambulance, to hospital - after an unexplained flying ~~down~~ ^{tragedy} on the South Coast.