

Sussex: In recent years, the helicopter

has proved so

successful (using many different methods) that the Air Ministry is to set up units, at strategic points, throughout the country...

This news was the background to a Royal Air Force coastal rescue exercise when a crashed airman, directed his own rescue - by radio.

The demonstration also featured the latest scoop net technique - which can be used when the victim is badly injured - and cannot co-operate imaking

But then came an unrehearsed incident - when one helicopter crashed into the sea. The pilot was the C.O. of the Thorney Island base, Squadron-Leader Paul Bowery - and with his crewman - he had the galling experience of being rescued himself.....by a launch...