



(Above.) WRECKED ON THE GOODWIN SANDS: THE LIGHTSHIP SOUTH GOODWIN ON HER SIDE, WITH THE SOLE SURVIVOR, MR. RONALD MURTON WHO WAS LATER RESCUED BY HELICOPTER, STANDING AMIDSHIPS.

AN unprecedented disaster occurred during the great gale on the night of November 26-27, when the South Goodwin lightship was torn from her moorings and wrecked on the Goodwin Sands, about six miles from her anchorage. She is the first Trinity House lightship ever to be wrecked by a gale. There was only one survivor, Mr. Ronald Murton, aged twenty-two, a Ministry of Agriculture scientist, who had been on the lightship for a month, studying bird migration. He managed to climb from the galley and cling to a deck-rail when the ship

(Continued opposite.)

(Right.) A HELICOPTER TO THE RESCUE: THE U.S. HELICOPTER WHICH RESCUED MR. MURTON AND FERRIED MEN AND EQUIPMENT TO THE STRICKEN LIGHTSHIP, SEEN IN THE FOREGROUND.



(Continued.) heeled over after striking the sands. About eight hours after the start of his ordeal he was able to grasp the noose of a rope lowered by a helicopter of the American Air Force and was hauled to safety. All seven regular members of the crew were missing and it was believed that they were trapped on board, but a party of Trinity House men from the vessel Patricia and frogmen from H. M. S. Remola searched the vessel on November 28 and found no trace of them. The rescuers, who were assisted on to the hull by the American helicopter, used oxy-acetylene burners and other cutting equipment, and went into all the compartments. At first light on November 29 another attempt to solve the mystery was made when Royal Navy frogmen searched the wrecked lightship but failed to find any trace of her crew.

TORN FROM HER MOORINGS AT THE HEIGHT OF THE GALE: THE LIGHTSHIP SOUTH GOODWIN WRECKED ON THE GOODWIN SANDS.