

Rescue team brings
girl down mountain
Keswick Mountain Res
team were called out
on a 15-year-old
Milk
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KESWICK MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM

Affiliated to the Mountain Rescue Committee

1972 report

Twelve hour search but girls turn up safe

A MASSIVE search by police and mountain rescue teams was called off after two 16-year-old girls missing on a hill. They were safely turned up safe and sound. Police with a tracker dog searched Cockermouth mountain hours after the girls were reported missing. But Trilby...

Girl injured in fall

Keswick Mountain Rescue team was called out for the second time yesterday about 5.30 when a 15-year-old girl sustained leg in a fall, while on a party of young people taken to Keswick...

KESWICK RESCUE TEAM AID MAN

Keswick mountain rescue team turned out about midnight when Christopher was staying at the door of the side...

WOMAN INJURED IN FELL WALK

Keswick's mountain rescue team was called out early yesterday when a 45-year-old woman, who was walking down the tourist track from Helvellyn to Wythburn with a male companion slipped and injured her ankle.

The team carried her down off the fell and she was treated at Keswick Cottage Hospital but not admitted. Police said she had specifically requested that her name not be divulged.

Accidents

The Mountain Rescue Team were called out on Sunday morning when a woman fell towards Wythburn, fracturing her ankle. She was taken to Keswick Hospital and was able to leave after treatment.

BOY RESCUED ON MOUNTAIN

Keswick Mountain Rescue team was called out yesterday afternoon when a 15-year-old boy of Shire, Hayes, was taken to Keswick Mountain Rescue team Monday evening when he was on a holidaymaker's Street, Dagenham, after the boy was found while walking with facial injuries. Mr. St. Gress.

President: Lt. Col. H. Westmorland, O.B.E., Riddings Lodge, Threlkeld.
Hon. Secretary: G. E. Gate, Grisdale, High Portinscale, Keswick.
Hon. Treasurer: K. Brannan, "Corthill", Portinscale, Keswick.

LIST OF MEMBERS AND OCCUPATIONS

- *D. V. Angus, National Park Warden.
- C. E. Arnison, Solicitor.
- *A. Allcock, Boatman.
- F. Barnes, Gardener.
- *O. Bennett, Jeweller.
- *K. Brannan, Company Director (Hon. Treasurer).
- *E. B. Clark, Schoolmaster.
- *P. Denny, Schoolmaster.
- P. Dickinson, Student.
- S. Edmondson, Farmer.
- *G. Fisher, Mountain Equipment Specialist.
- *R. Fisher, Fine Arts Dealer.
- *A. Ferguson, Company Director.
- *D. Ferguson, Printer.
- *G. E. Gate, Schoolmaster (Hon. Secretary).
- *Miss T. J. Gradwell, Schoolmistress.
- *G. Graham, Butcher.
- *Sgt. Hall, Police Sgt.
- *D. Harper, G.P.O. Technician (Radio Officer).
- *D. Hume, Schoolmaster.
- *P. Jarvis, Veterinary Surgeon.
- Dr. J. D. Mitchell, }
Dr. M. R. Turnbull, } Team's Medical Officers.
- *M. Miller, Schoolmaster.
- F. Mills, Decorator.
- *W. Neate, Chartered Accountant.
- *M. Nixon, Shop Assistant (Quartermaster).
- Mrs. V. Nixon.
- *J. D. Oliver, National Park Warden.
- *D. Reay, Police Constable.
- *G. Reid, Police Constable.
- *R. Rutland, Student.
- L. Sandham, Bus Driver.
- *R. Scott, Schoolmaster.
- *I. Smeaton, Mountain School Instructor.
- *B. Spencer, Schoolmaster.
- *J. G. Stoddart,
- Lt. Col. H. Westmorland, R'td. Army Officer (President).
- Mrs. J. Weeks.
- *D. A. Weeks, Shop Assistant (Assistant Quartermaster).
- *J. A. Wood, Chartered Accountant.
- *members on 'call out list'.

HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1972

Between 23rd January and 27th December 1972 the team attended 28 incidents which included one fatality. This total does not account for many minor incidents which occur each year and are dealt with by experienced first-aiders at the scene, nor does it include the many incidents dealt with by team members who happen to be in the vicinity and so prevent what otherwise would invariably develop into an unnecessary call upon a team's services. It is quite evident that wardens and team members through their advice to fell walkers and climbers must also contribute considerably to averting many incidents. Our calls during the year have clearly illustrated the usual well publicised accident causes. We have encountered for example school groups in inclement weather unaware after 2 to 3 hours of the loss of a party member — climbers roped and moving together in unsafe snow conditions — a party leader who considered personal survival equipment to be a packed lunch and a cold drink — an unfortunate man so keen to respect the country code that while attempting to close a gate he slipped on wet rock and sustained a fractured leg — a boy found to be suffering from little else but a lack of pre-expedition training — an unfortunate miner who went exploring and fell 60 feet down a disused shaft — climbers attempting "excess" routes but having no torches, causing alarm by failing to rendezvous with colleagues and apparently safe and enjoying liquid refreshment while a search was being instituted. 4 incidents resulted from slips on ice or snow and 4 from slips on wet rock or grass. A 79 year old solo walker, the victim of a black-out and subsequent fall on steep ground escaped with lacerations and a fractured wrist, but had his house burgled as he was recovering in hospital and there was also a false alarm during the year, but with good intent. There is always a good deal to be learned from mountain accidents or incidents. When considering the case of a boy missing in April in foul weather there can be little doubt that in spite of poor equipment he owed his survival to a brand of strong brown ale and Cornish pasties which served as his sole diet for a period of 2 nights and 3 days while he patiently awaited rescue. Mountain accidents are on the increase. The causes are incorrect or inadequate footwear — sheer incompetence — inexperience — ignorance — over-ambition — late starts — lack of personal survival equipment — solo expeditions — Exceeding one's physical ability — failure or inability to understand weather conditions — exposure due to unexpected inclement weather or becoming benighted and having no personal survival equipment. In the majority of cases accident victims are rule breakers — usually guilty of extreme carelessness and unsound techniques, seemingly intelligent people who consider torches to add unnecessary weight to their normal day sack equipment and have to be recovered from some exposed mountain track well after closing time or have to spend an enforced night out and cause some unnecessary suffering to waiting relatives, wives, girl friends or rescuers. Solo expeditions in secret locations have been known to produce some very dramatic results. It should be emphasised that even small searches can cost upwards of a thousand pounds and it is the duty of any intending expedition group regardless of size or experience to leave a route card and a time of return and to report their return even if they unexpectedly appear in the wrong valley. Some years ago the estimated cost of one rescue operation in the area entailing a straightforward casualty recovery from a mountain location was in excess of £25, without taking loss of members' earnings into account. and it should be remembered that rescue teams' running costs are not met by the National Health Service, nor do we receive any national grant. We are of course greatly indebted to the Cumbria police authority for the insurance cover now in force. One of the most important aspects of a team's work is the rendering of early and efficient first aid to the mountain injured, and though basically having no effect in preventing accidents this action significantly reduces the death rate and improves the degree and speed of recovery of the injured. Ideally all hill walking or climbing groups if faced with accident,

sudden illness or injury, should have the ability to attempt to save life, to protect a casualty from further possible harm, and to obtain expert assistance if necessary. Every school child should receive minimum instruction to cater for the basic principles of maintaining an adequate air supply — controlling bleeding and generally attending and caring for a patient while expert assistance is being summoned, and there would appear to be a real need for the inclusion of a first aid-course in every school curriculum. Accidents to school parties and young persons figure significantly in rescue reports. Outdoor education has become an important part of school life and teachers should aim to return children to their parents preferably in one piece after school visits to the hills. Leaders should have the ability to recognise any abnormalities which might point to the onset of a deterioration in physical condition indicating approaching exhaustion or exposure. Boot and waterproof clothing hire facilities are available in most climbing centres and in spite of this the wearers of wellingtons, fashion, and basket ball boots, sling back sandals and plastic macs., with their umbrellas and carrier bags advertising some supermarket or other can still be observed in high places on their 'jolly' Sunday afternoon rambles. Members of rescue teams are always willing to give advice upon local weather conditions, equipment and mountain safety, and most education authorities issue booklets on safety out of doors and are now insisting upon a higher standard of competence in school party leaders.

Rescue teams are established and equipped to evacuate casualties expeditiously and without further aggravating their injuries to a roadside or roadhead rendezvous with a doctor, directly to a hospital or in cases of serious injury warranting urgent specialist attention—to a roadside rendezvous with an accident unit or directly to the nearest specialist centre. The work is purely voluntary and onerous and entails operating in difficult situations and sometimes in adverse weather conditions. Our thanks go out to our financial supporters, the team's officers and members who willingly give up a good deal of spare time and many working hours, the Hon. Medical Officers, the police for their assistance and co-operation, the Hon. Auditors, Messrs. Ward & Pridmore, collecting box organisers, the Keswick Cottage Hospital staff, the ambulance personnel, and the many volunteers who have assisted in searches or during rescues.

*George Elliott Gate,
(Hon. Sec.)*

ANALYSIS OF AN ACCIDENT

In February this year, two team members, as experienced observers, accompanied a group of ten from R.E.M.E. Arborfield on a walk from Seathwaite to Scafell Pike. The weather was warm and damp, with low cloud and mist obliterating the tops. The party were in noisy high spirits, until, at about 1000' in thick mist and slippery wet snow, their heavy rucksacks began to tell. During a halt, it was discovered that one lad carried, in addition to his personal equipment, a 120' length of rope, a sleeping bag, a poly bag, a survival blanket, and Army 24-hour man pack and a primus stove.

From Ruddy Gill, Great End was not visible. Conditions were so poor, that at Esk Hause in a white-out, plans were changed. All were in favour of snow-holing in an interesting crest of snow that had drifted across the beck. After lunch, it was decided to move further down the beck to find a steeper snow-slope, where breaking with ice-axes could be practised, although the snow had proved too damp for serious working.

2-30 p.m. — Two Esk Hause-bound walkers appeared out of the mist and informed the group that there had been an accident in S.E. Gully on Great End. They had been

asked to contact any parties returning to Borrowdale. Having done so, they continued on their way. The group hurried to Great End, where they located a man with a broken leg. He had been a second, safe-guarding the leader on a belay of two ice-axes. The leader had fallen, the belay had not held and both men had fallen 300'. The Styhead stretcher had been sent for.

2-40 p.m. — As an inflatable splint was being zipped on to the leg and tea being prepared on the invaluable primuses, a man ran down shouting that there had been an accident. The group replied that they were in attendance. The man shouted that this was a second accident in Central Gully and involved three people.

2-50 p.m. — Leaving half the group with the first casualty, the rest of the party climbed up about 200', out of sight of the first accident due to thick mist. In the snow at the foot of the gully a man was spread-eagled upside down. Above him and roped to him lay a semi-conscious, groaning woman. A third woman, roped to the other two, was standing dazed and shocked. They had fallen 600'.

2-55 p.m. — A quick appraisal of the situation and casualty examination revealed that the woman had a probable skull fracture and facial lacerations and that the man, who complained of numbness in his lower limbs, had a fractured spine; arm, shoulder and rib injuries. It was decided to evacuate the woman on the Styhead stretcher and that one team-member should go down to Seathwaite, to alert the team, who would then bring two more stretchers. At Ruddy Gill, a third team-member was encountered and, acquainted with the details, he hurried to assist at the accidents.

3-0 p.m. — All casualties were placed in Army sleeping-bags. Great care was taken that the spinal case was not moved unduly before sufficient qualified helpers were at hand. He was given an injection of Fortral to combat the pain in his arm and shoulder. Hot tea was prepared and administered by the soldiers.

3-15 p.m. — The Styhead stretcher arrived and the team-members supervised the evacuation of the woman with the fractured skull.

3-30 p.m. — The second team-member telephoned Keswick police. Keswick Mountain Rescue Team turned out and the Special Accident Unit left the Cumberland Infirmary at Carlisle.

4-0 p.m. — The team arrived at Seathwaite and set off up Grains Gill with two stretchers and other necessary equipment. On their way up, they met the first stretcher party, who were advised that the Special Unit would rendezvous with them at Seathwaite.

5-15 p.m. — The team reached Great End, locating the scenes of both accidents easily, as the mist had cleared. R.E.M.E. were handing out cups of tea and coffee to the great variety of people who had arrived to help or to watch. The original casualty with the broken leg sat patiently. The man with the fractured spine lay white and shivering, despite his layers of sleeping-bag and duvet. With difficulty, he was loaded on to the stretcher and moved down towards Seathwaite.

5-35 p.m. — The final stretcher and all other equipment left for the valley.

6-50 p.m. — In darkness, the ambulance left Seathwaite. R.E.M.E. transport arrived. A cheerful soldier jumped out shouting, "Did you have a good walk?"

T.J.G.

LOOKING BACK

It has been said that everyone who goes to the hills for sport or recreation, exhilaration and excitement, or quieter pleasures and studies, should be well aware that in the wild and lonely country which attracts him he is largely beyond the reach of professional services of the state which ordinarily deal with accidents.

This consciousness of self-dependence is one of the lures to adventure which will always take men of spirit to dangerous and far-off places, but with it goes the duty for a man to be equal to the occasion if a mishap should strike, whether himself or others. He should know what precautions to take to reduce risks, how to give first-aid on the spot, what equipment and facilities are close at hand, where to seek help, and he should give his share too, joining with others to make sure that the equipment that may be needed in an emergency is available and that there are people practised and ready to use it.

Men and women have always been fascinated by mountains and eager to climb them. Few, one imagines, still retain their enthusiasm with four score years and more behind them. Probably fewer still are to be found at the age of 87 walking the fells as regularly as Lt. Col. Horace Westmorland, O.B.E., affectionately known as Rusty, chairman of the search panel which co-ordinates all the major rescue operations for walkers or climbers missing on the Lakeland fells, and founder of the Keswick Mountain Rescue Team in 1946. Rusty Westmorland has enjoyed a lifetime experience of mountaineering adventure. Born in Penrith, having a Westmerian father and a Cumbrian mother, he completed his education at the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School and worked for some time in his father's tannery and leather business. In his leisure-time he was to be found on the fells or yachting on Ullswater. He has a number of first ascents to his credit and has given his name to "Westmorland's Route" on Dove Crag. His Aunt Mary was in 1873 the second woman to climb "Pillar Rock", and he climbed with men like Godfrey Solley and the Abraham Brothers, widening his experience abroad in the Dolomites and Switzerland.

At 23 years old and after the death of his father, like many young men of his era, he made for the new horizons opening out abroad, and with an introduction from a family friend in Canada went there to take up forestry, only to find that the pay was 90 dollars a month after a three years qualifying course at a university. Rusty had a letter from Godfrey Solley to the leader of the Alpine Club of Canada who was in charge of surveying the boundary between Alberta and British Columbia along the crest of the Rockies. Here he gained valuable experience on line, photo-topographic and plane table survey work and learnt a great deal about canoeing and pack-horsemanship. Eventually he took charge of a survey party in the mountains on Vancouver Island and later with the main surveying party climbed the snow capped Rockies, a task which was nearest to his heart. In 1912 he took a commission in a Canadian Territorial Highland Regiment and in 1914 was transport officer with the Royal Canadian Regiment where his experience with horses proved invaluable when serving in Belgium and France from 1915-1919. In the early years of the second world war as Commander R.S.A.S.C. of the 4th Canadian Infantry Division he trained troops in mountain craft. He remained in the service until invalided out in 1944.

Early in his career he developed quite unexpectedly into a good horseman, enjoyed success in mounted sports, tournaments and steeplechasing, and for several winters in Canada did a good deal of ski jumping. In 1934 when stationed in Quebec he qualified at the age of 47 for the Canadian Championships. The winner was a 17-year-old, and although Rusty agreed that it was an adventure and good fun, he had two falls, was placed last and had to have his neck straightened out a few days later. In 1910 he became a member of the Fell and Rock and of the Alpine Club in 1922, and has been awarded in recognition for mountain services the 'Silver Rope' given in exceptional cases for service as an amateur guide in the Alpine Club of Canada, a Testimony of appreciation by the British Mountain Rescue Committee and the O.B.E., but he regards this not as a tribute to himself but to the work of all the teams in the Lake District.

Rusty Westmorland had his first taste of mountain rescue when attending a summer camp of the Alpine Club of Canada in Vermillion Pass (5,400 ft.), a day's walk west of Banff. His day's climbing had begun at 5 a.m. when he led a rope of four up through 2,000 ft. of trackless timber and to the summit of Mt. Storm, 10,372 ft. After returning

led by Oliver Wheeler, son of the club President, and after a four hour trek by compass they reached a clearing, where by the light of a small fire the badly injured man was being tended by Dr. Fred Bell. The casualty had been leading a party of twenty and had accidentally tripped and fell some 50 ft. on steep rocky ground, sustaining severe injuries. At dawn, saplings, a climbing rope and blankets were used to fashion a stretcher, the injured man roped on and two men sent ahead down a steep 2,000 ft. wooded slope to clear brushwood where necessary. The stretcher party reached camp at nine o'clock after a rather long day of twenty-eight hours.

Owing to the severity of his injuries it was several weeks before the casualty was well enough to be moved from the camp in Vermillion Pass. His evacuation was possibly effected by two pack ponies supporting a make shift pole stretcher in tandem fashion. This was Rusty Westmorland's first experience of mountain rescue, and although there had been little mountain feature about it, no crags, crevasses or snow, but only what a Canadian terms 'bushwhacking', it left its impression upon him.

Many years later, on 24th April, 1946, a cold and blustery day in the Cumbrian hills, Rusty was to experience his second all-night rescue, when he should have been celebrating his sixtieth birthday with a good dinner and a bottle of wine. His companion on this occasion was a young friend of Dr. Wakefield's and as they walked up to the Gable Traverse and paused for lunch below Arrowhead Ridge they decided that because of inclement weather honour would be satisfied by climbing the moderate ordinary route. After the climb as they neared Hell Gate on the homeward journey in drizzle and low mist they were informed by two youths who had been sent to summon help that a man had fallen and broken his leg, and they mentioned Shark's Fin and Tophet Bastion. Rusty climbed a gully which runs to the left of Hell Gate, to the top of Needle Ridge, then down the two top pitches of Tophet Bastion and looked down the Shark's Fin, where on a ledge providing little shelter from a bitter wind he saw the injured climber, Wilfred Noyce, secured by a rope belayed to a spike nearly forty feet above. He climbed down, did what he could for him, and established that the injured man was leading Shark's Fin when a sudden gust of wind blew him off a sloping hold and that he had sustained a fractured femur in the fall. His companion, also an experienced mountaineer, had with assistance gone for the Styhead stretcher, and arrangements had been made with the police for a follow-up party to assist in the evacuation of the casualty and to provide food, blankets, torches and other necessary equipment.

When the stretcher arrived a party of six were assembled, a leader appointed, and they made their way onto the crag and down to the injured man. By 7 p.m. the leg was Thomas-splinted and the patient wrapped in a down bag and blankets and roped to the stretcher. The rescuers did not have enough rope to 'barrow boy' 200 ft. down the climb, so it was decided to haul the stretcher to the top of the crag about 120 ft. above. Two ropes were fastened to the stretcher head and one man to each rope climbed 20 or 30 ft., found a suitable belay, took in the slack rope and snubbed the stretcher so as to prevent it from slipping back. The remaining four men held on to the stretcher side bars, gained footholds and when given the word, heaved the stretcher up a few inches, slack was taken in and the procedure was repeated. The stretcher was literally inched up the crag by this slow process and when a man lost his footing he just had to hold onto the stretcher because no-one was roped. Altogether, at a rate of 34 vertical feet an hour, it took 3½ hours to reach the top, and this was accomplished only with immense effort. During the operation, about 9 o'clock, voices were heard sweeping up the crags with the mist and heavy rain interspersed with wet snow, and it was assumed that the relief party was on its way. The rescuers expected that once the crag had been scaled and the casualty lowered down the gully into Hell Gate, there would be a party of fresh men to

relieve them.

At 10-30 p.m., as the stretcher was hauled to the top where Needle Ridge and Tophet Bastion meet, the lingering dusk had turned to darkness and as four men lowered the stretcher Rusty and Bobby Files guided it over the obstructions on Hell Gate, and with 1,500 ft. of scree to negotiate before Styhead track was reached it was realised that the support party, unable to hear any response to their calls, had returned to base, taking with them much needed torches, food and hot drinks. During the laborious 'lower' down the scree the party were in constant danger from falling rocks, inadvertently dislodged by the anchor men, who after paying out all their rope and while the stretcher was being held by Rusty and Bobby Files, had to negotiate the scree in total darkness and grope for fresh belays. The rough ride caused the patient considerable pain but he refused morphia. At about 5 a.m. as a new day began to dawn an exhausted stretcher party were met by two policemen from Wasdale Head and an R.A.F. Mountain Rescue team who had been standing by with a jeep. At the farm the stretcher was placed close to the Aga stove and hot tea, warm clothing and breakfast provided by the farmer's wife. As Wilfred Noyce was conveyed by jeep to a waiting ambulance the farmer's wife remarked "Aye, it's far less trouble when they kill theirselves". Rusty and his volunteer rescuers left Wasdale Head and were driven round to Borrowdale for a second breakfast, after a successful rescue lasting twenty-one hours, fourteen of which had been endured without food and in inclement weather.

Afterwards, as Rusty pondered the factors concerned with the organised recovery of injured mountaineers and fell walkers, he was concerned by the easy readiness with which the support party organised by the police had given up the search and had returned to base leaving neither men, lights nor food in the vicinity of the search and also by the fact that though the police were responsible for the recovery of bodies, they had no statutory duty to go to the aid of the injured in mountain country, and were neither trained nor equipped for this work. He later heard that Jim Cameron had organised the Conistone Fell Rescue Team and convinced that this was the answer to the problem, decided to do the same in Keswick, and in summer 1946 he appealed through a local newspaper for volunteers to form a mountain rescue team and had 34 replies, four of these being from local doctors.

List of persons enrolled in the Borrowdale Mountain Rescue Team in summer 1946:— Lt. Col. Westmorland (Leader); Capt. Badrock; Frank Barnes; Treeby Bolton; Alan Calder; Mrs. Rosamond Creighton; Morley Dobson; Stanley Edmondson; Col. A. W. Edwards; Roy Eynon; George Fisher; Richard Fisher; Brian Harden; W. P. Haworth; Robert Kelly; A. Little; C. Saur; H. Sunderland; S. Watson and Mrs. Watson; D. J. Whalley; Major Wilkinson; N. Lusby; T. Davison; V. Veevers; A. W. Birch; Mrs. C. Sauer; Lt. Com. Stanley Jones; E. Midgley; G. B. Spenceley; S. Thompson; Dr. Kirkpatrick; Dr. McDonald; Dr. Cameron; Dr. G. C. Lyth; Supt. J. Eggleston; Ambulance Driver R. Hutton.

The original appeal was reinforced by a letter to the Keswick Reminder dated 21st Nov. 1947, requesting more volunteers and indicating that the team's rescue equipment comprising Thomas stretcher, first-aid rucksacks, splints and ropes, were held in readiness at the Scafell Hotel in Rosthwaite in the charge of Capt. Badrock.

The first business meeting of the team was held on Saturday, February 14th, 1948, in the Royal Oak Hotel, when Col. Westmorland, appointed leader, spoke generally upon rescue work and outlined the immediate aims of the team. At the A.G.M. held on 19th February, 1949, Conrad F. Sauer, Hon. Secretary, stated that the year had been successful, the team having attended 4 major incidents and many minor ones, and gained valuable experience from these and two practices held during the year.

The incidents attended by the team during their first year of operation are reported in the records as follows:—

Saturday, April 3rd, 1948 — A search on Cross Fell by 13 members for a walker missing

since March 31st. The team were unsuccessful in their search and the missing man was later found dead by boy ramblers on the Alston side of the fell.

Tuesday, 20th July 1948 — The team was called to rescue a young lady from Westwater Screes. The young lady, however, having been assisted by two climbers, was in a favourable position when the team arrived.

Wednesday, 21st July, 1948 — The team were called out to search for a boy from St. Bede's Grammar School, Bradford, reported missing in the Scafell area and later found dead above Esk Hause.

Sunday, August 22nd, 1948 — The team were called out at 7-30 p.m. to search for a woman on Gt. Gable and continued their investigation until 2-30 a.m. unaware that the casualty had previously been located and removed to Keswick Cottage Hospital for medical attention by a team of volunteers operating from Seatoller.

The number of incidents attended during the first few years of operation were as follows:

1949	—	5	1950	—	3	1951	—	3
1952	—	4	1953	—	4	1954	—	7
1955	—	7	1956	—	10	1957	—	11

Some of these operations were tinged with humour, others surrounded by mystery and culminating in tragedy. On October 12th, 1957, the team were called to the assistance of a man who had collapsed at 1,000 ft. boulder on Styhead Pass, only to find that he was suffering from an excess of alcohol consumed at Wasdale, and had apparently exhausted himself while attempting to reach Seathwaite.

In contrast, on Tuesday, 13th October, at midnight, the team were alerted to search for a missing 53 year old walker and though they covered a wide area between Styhead and Wasdale Head by night and intensified the search for several days in daylight assisted by bloodhounds, the man was not found, and so started a Lakeland mystery which remained unsolved for 16 months, when a young Keswickian mountaineer, while exploring a gully high above Taylor Gill Force, discovered a skeleton. The few remains were in an advanced state of decomposition and identification was only made possible by the maker's name on the remnants of a raincoat, boots and dentures. It was assumed that this man, having reached the head of Styhead Pass in darkness, had crossed the side of Green Gable in error and had probable missed his footing on the fellside high above Taylor Gill, or alternatively had been awaiting rescue and on seeing the lights of the team as they made their way along the track to Stockley Bridge had decided to move into a more favourable position in order to meet the rescuers, and had fallen to his death on the dark steep fellside.

In these early days the team were fortunate in having as a member Dr. John Lyth, a climber and semi-retired doctor who devoted a good deal of his time to instruction in first aid for the injuries associated with mountain accidents and in treatment for cases of exhaustion and exposure. Transport for members from Keswick Police Station in the event of a 'call out' ranged from Keswick Laundry van to hired taxis and older members will recall hair raising journeys up the 'valley' in the back of Keswick motor company's Ford Eight pick-up.

Since its inception and under expert leadership, the team has brought a great deal of sophistication into mountain rescue work by the development of new techniques and the designing and testing of new rescue equipment. The efficiency of the team is now considerably increased by Land Rover transport, tele-communications equipment and modern rescue aids, many of which have been imported specially for us by a mountain equipment specialist to whom we are greatly indebted; enabling us to deal expeditiously with the 25-30 calls for assistance received during the year.

For many years helicopters have been especially invaluable both at home and abroad in rescue and relief work, and there can be no doubt as to their importance and life saving potential in air-sea and mountain rescue.

INCIDENT REPORT 1972

Date	Time	Location or area of search	Cause of accident or incident	Persons involved	Nature of injury	Weather and other conditions	Action taken
17th Jan.	11 a.m.	Styhead	Sudden illness to expedition member	15 year old boy	Suspected appendicitis	Snowing	Conveyed to hospital
23rd Jan.	4-25 p.m.	Thirlspot Helvellyn	Returning group discovered party member missing on arrival at Wythburn	19 year old male university student	Slight - Person turned up before search was launched, having fallen into gully unnoticed	Heavy continuous rain	Conveyed by own transport
30th Jan.	5-10 p.m.	Styhead	Slip on ice	36 yr. old man	Fractured tib. & fib.	Treacherous ice covered by light snow layer	Conveyed to hospital
26th Feb.	2-30 p.m.	Gt. End S.E. Gully	Ice axe belay failed	25 yr. old man	Fractured tib. & fib.	Wet snow, low cloud, poor visibility	Conveyed to hospital
Two Calls	2-45 p.m.	Gt. End Central Gully	Slip on wet snow	36 yr. old man & two women aged 35 and 18	Fractured lumber spine & humerus, dislocated shoulder. Fractured skull base & severe lacerations and fractured arm.	---	Conveyed to hospital. Accident unit called to Seathwaite. Assisted by REME, Arborfield.
5th Mar.	12-50 p.m.	Shepherd's Crag - "Eve"	Leader fell 70'	19 yr. old man	Fractured ribs	Good. Slimy rock.	Conveyed to hospital
9th Mar.	2-30 p.m.	Ashness	Fall following a 'black-out'	79 year old lone walker	Fractured wrist and lacerations	Good	Conveyed to hospital
22nd Mar.	9-30 p.m.	Styhead Gt. End Taylor Gill	Missing climber	23 year old lone climber	Nil	Fair	Search carried out till 2 a.m. Found in Greta Gill by Wasdale, 4 a.m.
30th Mar.	6-45 p.m.	Styhead	Inexperience and ignorance of local weather conditions	17 yr. old girl, two men 27 & 22 years old	Exhaustion and slight exposure	Continuous heavy rain & extensive flooding	Escorted down to Seathwaite
31st Mar.	3-15 p.m.	Castle Crag	Rock fell on climber's leg during rest period	22 yr. old man	Suspected leg fracture	Continuous drizzle (wet rock)	
2nd Apr.	2-30 p.m.	Greenup Wythburn Far Easedale	Boy lost from school party - no waterproofs (had no breakfast before expedition)	14 year old schoolboy	---	Heavy continuous rain - high winds Extensive flooding	Established during search that boy had turned up at Youth Hostel with a member of staff

2nd and 3rd	2-30 p.m.	Styhead Grains Ghyll Glaramara	On route from Old Dun- geon to Borrowdale, camped Styhead. Lost April 1st, one boy arrived Seathwaite and notified companion lost. Casualty out for 2 nights & 3 days; Informant out 1 night.	Two boys poorly clad	---	Area searched with negative results	heavy continuous rain, high winds. Extensive flooding.	Don't know. Sta- ford, Cockermouth, Penrith, Ullswater, Kendal. Boy found by RAF, conveyed to hospital by helicopter.
3rd Apr.	4-15 p.m.	Nitting How Goat Crag	False alarm with good intent	Climbers (shouting, we're stuck)	---	Fair		
7th Apr.	1-0 p.m.	Styhead	Slip on wet rock while fastening a gate	Man on walking holiday	Fractured tib. & fib.	Wet and slimy	Conveyed to hospital	
8th Apr.	6-50 p.m.	Sourmilk Ghyll	Slip on wet grass while descending	Man	Fractured ankle	Rain - wet and slippery underfoot	Conveyed to hospital	
14th Apr.	7-25 p.m.	Seathwaite	Walker overdue on walk from Wasdale to Seathwaite	Man and 3 children	---	Warm sunny day deteriorating to cold wet & windy afternoon and evening	Party turned up in Langstrath before search was initiated	
17th Apr.	7-45	Lining Crag Greenup	Apparent lack of pre- expedition training for D. of E. Gold Award	17 yr. old boy	Exhaustion	Warm, light mist on tops during day	Boy examined, left in camp with two instructors, left unaided next day	
29th May	3-0 p.m.	Styhead	Boy fell into pool of water	6 yr. old boy	As a result of immersion and cold wind suffered exposure	Cold, wet and windy	Brought down to Seathwaite by rel- atives before team reached location	
11th June	11-30 p.m.	Scafell Pike Styhead Grains	Inexperience	29 yr. old man	---	Fine warm day and night - dark only from 11 p.m. to 2-30 a.m.	At Styhead man an- swered team's shouts and was located in Greta Ghyll at 2-5 a.m. and escorted to Seathwaite	
25th July	11-30 a.m.	Borrowdale	Missing person		Turned up safely			
10th Aug.	12-5 p.m.	High Force Crag Mine	Rotten timbers gave way as man crossed disused shaft	47 yr. old miner	Lacerated arm and abrasions	Disused mine work- ing in dangerous condition	Raised casualty 60' from shaft in Neil Robertson. Carried to Force Crag Mine and conveyed to hospital.	

12th Aug.	5-10 p.m.	Watendlath	Walker stumbled in bog	Woman	Fractured left arm	---	Conveyed to hospital
17th Aug.	2-0 p.m.	Gillercombe	Rock climber soloing, fell 200'	30 yr. old man	Fatal multiple head injuries	Wind squalls	Body recovered
8th Sept.	2-30 a.m.	Rothwaite Fell	Walkers benighted - off course, slipped on wet rock	Man and wife	Leg injury	Extremely difficult - loose rocks, bracken covered, wet & slimy	Conveyed to own caravan
24th Sept.	9-05 p.m.	Raven Crag Thirlmere	Two climbers failed to rendezvous with friends (carried no torches)	Two 20 year old men	---	Fine	Team searched crag & scree with negative results. Missing persons discovered in Keswick.
15th Oct.	3-0 p.m.	Miner's Crag Newlands	Climber dislodged hold and fell 30' to ledge	44 yr. old man	Fractured oscalis and chipped fibula	Very dry conditions, overnight frost	Conveyed to hospital later transferred home town
26th Oct.	2-30 p.m.	Rakefoot Walla Crag	Walker suffered seizure	45 yr. old man	---	---	Conveyed to hospital
26th Oct.	8-0 p.m.	Langstrath Stake Pass	2 walkers to Seatoller-Langdale via Stake Pass failed to rendezvous with waiting car	Two women aged 55 & 20 yrs. old	---	Rain and mist but mild	Searched Langstrath and Stake Pass areas
27th Dec.	7-0 p.m.	Shepherd's Crag 'Ardus'	Climber cragfast and benighted (no torch)	20 yr. old man	---	Wet slimy rock, raining heavily	Climber hauled to safety

1971 - 27 incidents, including 3 fatalities.

1972 - 29 incidents, including one fatality.

Accident unit alerted once.

Helicopters used for a casualty evacuation from mountain site and transfer of a patient from hospital to specialist centre.

In R.A.F. operations concerned with large scale searches for crashed aircraft, or the recovery of bodies, especially in bad weather and in mountain areas where landings were impossible due to the nature of the terrain, helicopters have been used to drop aerial photographs of wreckage to teams searching the area and so expedite recovery operations; and in large scale searches in Scotland in areas of difficult communication helicopters have ferried rescuers between roads and high plateaus or ridges or have recovered personnel from ridges or summits when searches have been terminated or suspended due to inclement weather. 'Whirlwinds' have given invaluable service in casualty evacuation in mountain country and have assisted local teams in large scale searches on many occasions during recent years, but at times they have had to return to base owing to difficult local weather conditions or lack of communication with civilian teams.

In spite of the distances involved in directing a helicopter into the Lake District for a casualty evacuation, there can be little doubt that in some cases they prove more effective than normal land transport and more especially when a climber is so badly injured in a very inaccessible place where undue movement or evacuation using normal techniques would further aggravate his condition or endanger his life. Most modern hospitals have helicopter pads close to their accident departments. Other advantages of helicopters in an evacuation would be speed and flexibility in that once the patient was on board a decision could then be taken as to which specialist centre should be used, e.g. paraplegic cases could be taken to Sheffield and chest or head injuries directly to Newcastle. Owing to the distance involved in flying into the Lake District, re-fuelling invariably presents problems, but this can be overcome.

It should, however, be emphasised that R.A.F. helicopters are established primarily for search and rescue operations involving aircraft incidents, and for this purpose a helicopter crew is at standby 24 hours a day throughout the year at each of the helicopter bases, the nearest base to the Lakes being at Acklinton. These helicopters are occasionally used in other types of incidents involving casualty evacuation where life is in danger, providing that it can be done without prejudice to the primary task. These type of incidents may be divided into two classes.

(a) Flights where the use of the helicopter is requested by local health authorities to transfer a patient between hospitals. Financial charges are made for these flights.

(b) Casualty evacuation flights, when the helicopter transports a badly injured patient from the scene of an accident on the road or in the lakes. Such flights are of an emergency nature and are usually requested by local police headquarters by alerting the Northern Rescue Co-ordination Centre, and no financial charges are levied against local health authorities. On flights a R.A.F. medical officer is usually carried provided sufficient notice can be given. However, it is not unusual to carry a civilian doctor who is conversant with the patient's history. On some flights a R.A.F. doctor or nursing attendant could be carried if available and if time permitted; or alternatively an accident surgeon could be picked up at a local hospital. Helicopter crewmen are trained in first aid and the medical equipment consists of normal first aid kit and a brook airway to assist oral resuscitation. In some cases, if requested, a Blease-Ottoman Resuscitator fitted with a 72 gallon oxygen bottle may be carried. There have of course been mountain accident cases where patients have required urgent transfusions and the portable equipment carried by our local accident unit surgeon is designed to deal with these conditions.

For casualty evacuation flights a helicopter can usually be airborne within 15 minutes of receipt of a call for assistance by day and an hour by night, though night flying presents some problems in that a helicopter would not be permitted to land on an unsurveyed or unfamiliar site after dark. Helicopter use in casualty evacuation is somewhat affected by weather conditions, especially in mountain country where strong winds over the hills produce turbulence which does affect the helicopter and the comfort of the patient, and there have been cases where although the recovery by normal overland rescue techniques would have taken many hours before an ambulance was reached, owing to

KESWICK MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM BALANCE SHEET as at 30th November 1972

LIABILITIES		ASSETS	
£	£		£
ACCUMULATED FUND:		STRETCHER EQUIPMENT	
As at 30th November 1971	4563.60	As at 30th November 1971	440.00
Add:		Less: Depreciation	44.00
Balance Carried from Income & Expenditure Account	447.25		396.00
	5010.85	RADIO EQUIPMENT	
		As at 30th November 1971	854.00
		Purchases this year	635.00
			1509.00
		Less: Depreciation	151.00
			1358.00
		GENERAL EQUIPMENT	
		As at 30th November 1971	743.00
		Purchase this year	36.25
			779.25
		Less: Depreciation	78.25
			701.00
		LAND ROVER AMBULANCES	
		As at 30th November 1971	1000.00
		Less: Depreciation	200.00
			800.00
		CONSUMABLE STORES	
		As per Valuation	80.00
		BALANCE AT BANKERS:	
		Current Account	788.68
		Deposit Account	849.52
			1638.20
		CASH IN HAND	
			0.20
		PREPAYMENT	
			3.80
		INCOME TAX REPAYMENT DUE	
			33.65
			£5010.85

We have compared the Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account with the relative Books and Vouchers and find same to be in agreement.

WARD & PRIDMORE,
Chartered Accountants,
Hon. Auditors.

Keswick.
7th February 1973.

£5010.85

for year ended 30th November 1972

15.

RESCUE BOX SPONSORS 1972

Barclays Bank.
 Beckstones G.H.
 Black Lion Inn.
 Borrowdale Gates Hotel.
 Borrowdale Hotel.
 Brierholme G.H.
 Burleigh Mead G.H.
 Central Hotel.
 Chaucer House Hotel.
 Coledale Hotel.
 County Hotel.
 Crosthwaite Garage.
 Dalehead P.O.
 Denton House.
 Derwent Bank C.H.A.
 Derwent Hill.
 Derwentwater Caravan Site.
 Derwentwater Hotel.
 Edgehill G.H.
 G. Fisher, Mountain Equipment.
 Farmers Arms.
 George Hotel.
 Grange Cafe.
 Grange Hotel (Grange).
 Grange Hotel (Keswick).
 Golden Lion Hotel.
 Glaramara C.H.A.
 Greystones G.H.
 Miss Hall (Lingholm).
 Harney Peak Hotel.
 Hawse End.
 Hazeldene Hotel
 The Heights.
 Keswick Hotel.
 Keswick Y.H.A.
 Kings Arms Hotel.
 Kings Head Hotel.
 Lake Hotel.
 Lake Road Vaults.

Lakeland Rock Shop.
 Keswick Travelodge.
 Lakeland Sheepskin Centre.
 Lakeside House.
 Ladstock G.H.
 Langstrath Hotel.
 Laurel Bank G.H.
 Manesty Caravan Park.
 National Trust Info. Centre.
 Orchard House G.H.
 Pack Horse Inn.
 Papes Stores.
 Parkfield G.H.
 Pheasant Hotel.
 Portinscale P.O.
 Rickerby Grange.
 Rosthwaite P.O.
 Royal Oak Hotel (Braithwaite).
 Salutation Hotel.
 Scafell Hotel.
 Seatoller Farm.
 Seatoller House.
 Silverdale Hotel.
 Skiddaw Hotel.
 R. Stallwood, Hardware Shop.
 Strathmore G.H.
 Sun Inn.
 Swan Hotel.
 Swinside Inn.
 Thornleigh G.H.
 The Towers Hotel.
 Townleys, Chemists.
 Treeby & Boltons.
 Troutbeck Hotel.
 Twa Dogs Inn.
 Underscar W.T.A.
 Watendlath Cafe.
 Whitehorse Inn.
 Yew Tree Cafe.

DONATIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS, CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS 1972

Mrs. Bancroft.
 Blind, Deaf and Dumb Association
 Blencathra Foxhounds.
 Braithwaite Police Dance.
 Mr. and Mrs. Brunton.
 Carlisle H.F. and C.H.A. Association.
 Castleford Parish Church Scout Group.
 Cockermouth Rural District Council.
 C. Cook.
 Cumberland County Council
 Deaf Mountaineering Club.
 Derwent Bank H.F.
 Durham County Council.
 Fell and Rock Climbing Club.
 Force Crag Mines.
 Mr. and Mrs. Green.
 M. T. Hackl.
 R. Hackl.
 R. E. Hinds.
 Mr. and Mrs. Hinds.
 W. Howarth.
 H. S. Hunter.
 Geo. Johnston.
 Mr. and Mrs. Jones.
 Keswick & District Licensed Victuallers
 Association.
 Keswick Business and Professional
 Women's Club.

Keswick Inner Wheel.
 Keswick Mountaineering Club.
 Keswick Police Dance.
 Keswick Rambling Club.
 Keswick Townswomen's Guild.
 Keswick Urban District Council.
 Lairthwaite School P.T.A.
 Lake District Mountain Accident Assoc.
 D. Lambert.
 J. G. Lidstone.
 London Mountaineering Club.
 Lodore Hotel.
 Manchester Corporation.
 Manchester Corporation Water Works.
 Manchester High School for Girls.
 F. Midgley.
 Miss T. Percival.
 Quicksilver & Quince.
 H. Robinson.
 Scafell Hotel.
 J. J. Stanton.
 Tricouni Club
 K. Walmsley.
 Wayfarers Club.
 Westward W.I.
 E. H. Williamson.

to camp at 9 p.m. through heavy rain and 'wet brush' he was enjoying an evening meal and the comfort of dry clothes when he heard that a man had been injured above the timberline. Before midnight back in wet climbing gear Rusty had joined the rescue party led by Oliver Wheeler, son of the club President, and after a four hour trek by compass they reached a clearing, where by the light of a small fire the badly injured man was being tended by Dr. Fred Bell. The casualty had been leading a party of twenty and had accidentally tripped and fell some 50 ft. on steep rocky ground, sustaining severe injuries. At dawn, saplings, a climbing rope and blankets were used to fashion a stretcher, the injured man roped on and two men sent ahead down a steep 2,000 ft. wooded slope to clear brushwood where necessary. The stretcher party reached camp at nine o'clock after a rather long day of twenty-eight hours.

Owing to the severity of his injuries it was several weeks before the casualty was well enough to be moved from the camp in Vermillion Pass. His evacuation was possibly effected by two pack ponies supporting a make shift pole stretcher in tandem fashion. This was Rusty Westmorland's first experience of mountain rescue, and although there had been little mountain feature about it, no crags, crevasses or snow, but only what a Canadian terms 'bushwhacking', it left its impression upon him.

Many years later, on 24th April, 1946, a cold and blustery day in the Cumbrian hills, Rusty was to experience his second all-night rescue, when he should have been celebrating his sixtieth birthday with a good dinner and a bottle of wine. His companion on this occasion was a young friend of Dr. Wakefield's and as they walked up to the Gable Traverse and paused for lunch below Arrowhead Ridge they decided that because of inclement weather honour would be satisfied by climbing the moderate ordinary route. After the climb as they neared Hell Gate on the homeward journey in drizzle and low mist they were informed by two youths who had been sent to summon help that a man had fallen and broken his leg, and they mentioned Shark's Fin and Tophet Bastion. Rusty climbed a gully which runs to the left of Hell Gate, to the top of Needle Ridge, then down the two top pitches of Tophet Bastion and looked down the Shark's Fin, where on a ledge providing little shelter from a bitter wind he saw the injured climber, Wilfred Noyce, secured by a rope belayed to a spike nearly forty feet above. He climbed down, did what he could for him, and established that the injured man was leading Shark's Fin when a sudden gust of wind blew him off a sloping hold and that he had sustained a fractured femur in the fall. His companion, also an experienced mountaineer, had with assistance gone for the Styhead stretcher, and arrangements had been made with the police for a follow-up party to assist in the evacuation of the casualty and to provide food, blankets, torches and other necessary equipment.

When the stretcher arrived a party of six were assembled, a leader appointed, and they made their way onto the crag and down to the injured man. By 7 p.m. the leg was Thomas-splinted and the patient wrapped in a down bag and blankets and roped to the stretcher. The rescuers did not have enough rope to 'barrow boy' 200 ft. down the climb, so it was decided to haul the stretcher to the top of the crag about 120 ft. above. Two ropes were fastened to the stretcher head and one man to each rope climbed 20 or 30 ft., found a suitable belay, took in the slack rope and snubbed the stretcher so as to prevent it from slipping back. The remaining four men held on to the stretcher side bars, gained footholds and when given the word, heaved the stretcher up a few inches, slack was taken in and the procedure was repeated. The stretcher was literally inched up the crag by this slow process and when a man lost his footing he just had to hold onto the stretcher because no-one was roped. Altogether, at a rate of 34 vertical feet an hour, it took 3½ hours to reach the top, and this was accomplished only with immense effort. During the operation, about 9 o'clock, voices were heard sweeping up the crags with the mist and heavy rain interspersed with wet snow, and it was assumed that the relief party was on its way. The rescuers expected that once the crag had been scaled and the casualty lowered down the gully into Hell Gate, there would be a party of fresh men to