

CLEARING THE WRECKAGE

The wreckage of a plane which crashed into a hillside on Foula over 30 years ago was finally disposed of by a team of officers and men from R.A.F. Saxa Vord recently.

The party flew to Foula in a chartered Loganair aircraft following a message from an islander, Mr Gear, that pieces of wreckage had become exposed, and were being blown about the island in high winds.

Mr Gear considered there was a hazard to life and property from the wind-blown fragments of the wreck, and asked if the R.A.F. could help.

Accordingly, after an officer from Saxa Vord had been to survey the wreck, a party of five volunteers

went over and worked for ten hours to cut up the wreck, haul the pieces to a cliff edge, and dump them into the sea. Transport and assistance were provided by Mr Gear and other islanders.

The R.A.F. "rescue" party, led by Pilot Officer Phil Gilbody, were Sgt. Bob McGarva, Sgt. Pedro Davies, Cpl. Tug Wilson and S.A.C. Bob Gidney.

It was on 29th July, 1944, that a Royal Canadian Air Force Catalina aircraft, bound for Canada from Shetland, crashed near the top of a 1,300 ft. hill on Foula.

The crash killed all but one of the crew, and the wreckage was buried in a peat bog.



The volunteers from Saxa Vord work on the wreckage of the Catalina which crashed on Foula in 1944.