

# This is

Amateur radio is always ready to lend a helping hand.

By Cyril Young G8KHH

# RAYNET



Norfolk Raynet operator G3PYN (inset) net controller working a temporary station located in a railway building.

Exercise Fox a simulated train crash on a Norfolk railway where Raynet worked in conjunction with the combined emergency services.

It is said that out of every disaster comes some good. That can most certainly be said of the 1953 East Coast floods; a disaster when three hundred people died with thousands more made homeless and the safety of ships at sea was put in jeopardy when Humber radio went off the air!

One such ship was the SS Levenwood, a coaster battling with enormous seas, too close to the shore for comfort. She was in contact with Humber radio who was giving her captain instructions not to attempt to enter port. Before further information could be passed, the Humber coastal radio station, itself hit by the storm, went off the air!

The SS Levenwood radio operator called in vain... Humber radio was unable to reply. Instead the

voice of a radio ham crackled in the radio officer's headphones. "SS Levenwood, this is G3AXS, an amateur radio station. How do you read me?" "G3AXS, this is SS Levenwood...". The seed of an idea was sown. Reg Collins G3AXS, risked having his licence revoked, in an attempt to help the ship in distress!

Despite vigorous attempts by the RSGB, two years earlier, to offer the Government a complete emergency network consisting of dedicated hams, the proposal was refused in the House of Commons by the Postmaster General on the advice of his office, stating that they were completely capable of handling any foreseeable disaster and