“My reaction …was a mixture of pity and revulsion”

**Badly equipped.**

**“I’m surprised they used the R44……pushing it to the maximum”**

**“Trusty helicopter”**

**“Excellent flying conditions”**

*Using a quote from an expert on helicopters adds weight to the idea that the men did not have the right equipment. They also call their helicopter “trusty” on their website which suggests they weren’t entirely confident in its ability and therefore made light of it. The fact we know they had excellent flying conditions also tell us the cause was more than likely mechanical due to the unfit helicopter.*

**Language used:**

**comical words and phrases**

**“Farce”**

**“Bottoms kicked”**

**“Boys messing about with a helicopter”**

**“Q”**

*Some of the language used suggest that it was just a childish adventure that went wrong. The nickname ‘Q’ also implies slightly childish characteristics of one of the men as he sees himself as a James Bond character.*

**Well equipped**

**“Satellite phone”**

**“Emergency watch”**

**“Survival suit”**

*The article mentions some of the specialist equipment the two men had with them during the expedition. This suggests that the men were taking it seriously and understood the dangers ahead.*

**Previous Experience**

**“Expeditions to 70 countries”**

**“Twice flown around the globe”**

**“Experienced adventurers”**

**“Qualified mechanical engineer”**

*The article mentions some of the previous expeditions & qualifications the men had been on. This suggests the men were well prepared and ready for the challenge.*

**Writer’s bias.**

**“Either way, the taxpayer gets rescue bill”**

**“Highly unlikely it would recover the money”**

**“Emergency watch was a wedding present”**

**“Adventure”**

*Even though the writer appears to be impartial by posing the question of whether they were ‘explorers’ or ‘boys messing about’ for the reader to decide. She goes on to mention the cost to the taxpayer as well as suggesting the two men are wealthy. She is indirectly implying that they should foot the rescue bill. She also refers to them as ‘adventurers’ rather than ‘explorers’ which somewhat belittles their accomplishments and credentials. There is a subtle but definite bias in the way the article has been writer towards them being ‘boys messing around’.*

**Remoteness of area**

**“100 miles of Antarctica”**

**“Ice patrol ship”**

**“Surveying unchartered waters”**

*The article describes the surrounding area in a good amount of detail with some references to distance which gives perspective and understanding to the reader. This backs up the notion of them being in hostile and dangerous parts of the world.*

**Rescue difficulty**

**“Helicopter driven back by poor visibility”**

**“Royal Navy… Chilean naval vessel”**

**“Dispatched its two helicopters”**

**“Rescue coordination”**

*The article highlights the difficulty of the rescue mission and the number of countries and agencies involved in it. This adds more weight to the difficulties facing the two men and also makes it seem more like a real expedition which can often go wrong.*

**Wife’s quotes**

**“Boys messing about with a helicopter”**

**“…have their bottoms kicked and be sent home the long way”**

*Even one of their wives didn’t take them as serious explorers. She refers to them as boys. Given that she is close to them, she is in a good position to judge their overall approach to the adventure/expedition.*

**Unclear purpose of mission**

**“There was confusion about what the men were trying to achieve”**

*The writer suggests there wasn’t a clear goal or purpose to the mission. This makes it appear that the expedition was not planned properly and just a ‘day out’*

**Previous failures**

**“Forced to call a halt…”**

*The writer mentions previous expedition failures which suggests the men were not very good as serious explorers.*

**Language used: hyperbole, strong verbs, adjectives and phrases**

**“Tragedy”**

**“Plucked”**

**“Nothing short of a miracle”**

**“Hostile territory”**

*Some of the words/phrases and testimony used suggest the men were in great peril and lucky to be alive which makes the trip sound more like an expedition which is usually associated with danger.*