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Sommario/riassunto	"When the Second World War began in 1939 it was thought that it would be fought along the same lines as the First World War, with the Allied air forces operating from Britain and France. With the fall of Britain's Northern European allies in May 1940, all that changed. From then onwards, RAF aircraft operating over enemy and enemy-held territory necessitated flights across both the North Sea and the English Channel. This meant that aircrew in difficulties would be forced to come down in both of these bodies of water. Therefore it was essential that some form of rescue service be made available to fish these airmen out of the water. ..."--Back cover.