

*Ministry of Transport,
Berkeley Square, S.W.1.*

25th June, 1946.

The KING has been graciously pleased, on the recommendation of the Minister of Transport, to make the following award.

The Silver Medal for Gallantry in Saving Life at Sea:—

John Robert HARLAND, Lifeboatman, Whitby No. 1 Lifeboat, The Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

On 23rd February, 1946, the Whitby No. 1 Lifeboat was escorting into harbour, fishing boats which had been overtaken by a strong gale. On the lifeboats fourth trip to sea, her crew noticed that, when the fishing boat "Easter Morn" was crossing the harbour bar, spectators on the pier suddenly began to gesticulate. The crew realised that a man was overboard and the Lifeboat went full speed ahead to his assistance. As

the Lifeboat approached the man, engines were stopped and a lifebuoy was thrown to him, but he made no attempt to get hold of it. He drifted astern and it was seen that he was unconscious. Without hesitation Lifeboatman Harland jumped overboard, wearing oilskins and a lifebelt, and swam to the man. A lifebuoy with line attached was thrown to him which he managed to grasp. He then supported the unconscious man until the Lifeboat was manoeuvred into position to haul the two men on board.

The rescue took place in heavy breaking seas between the stone walls of two piers only eighty yards apart, and there was considerable risk of Harland being dashed against the piers or the lifeboat.

Lifeboatman Harland displayed great courage in plunging overboard, heavily clad, into a rough sea, and it was due to his gallant action that the man who was washed overboard was saved.

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