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TUESDAY, 20TH APRIL 1971

## State Intelligence

### HONOURS AND AWARDS

#### CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.  
20th April 1971.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased, on the advice of Her Majesty's Sierra Leone Ministers, to give orders for the following appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:

*To be Additional Members of the Civil Division of the said Most Excellent Order for Gallantry:*

(To be dated 3rd April 1971)

Captain Malcolm CONNOLLY, Helicopter Pilot,  
Eastern Province, Sierra Leone.

Nine people, including a pregnant woman and one year old child, were saved from certain death in the deep foaming Sewa River, in the Eastern Province of Sierra Leone, on Tuesday, 8th September 1970, by the brave actions of helicopter pilot Malcolm Connolly and Police Chief Inspector Jaba.

The people had been travelling by launch late on Monday evening bound for Kono Kando, when suddenly the engine faltered. The frail craft soon went out of control in the swiftly flowing river and smashed into a rock 50 yards from the nearest land. Luckily, the launch did not break up immediately and the passengers were able to climb onto the small precipitous rock, where they hung on grimly.

All efforts at rescue throughout the night failed whilst heavy waves threatened to remove them from their perilous perch at any moment and doom them to a watery grave. One man in fact succumbed to the conditions and was swept away and drowned.

Realising the seriousness of the matter, early the next morning Chief Police Officer Coker asked Sierra Leone Selection Trust for assistance. The Company were eager to give aid and quickly provided a helicopter piloted by Capt. Malcolm Connolly.

A 15 yard length of rope with a loop at one end was tied to the helicopter and Connolly positioned his craft about 20 yards from the people whilst

Chief Inspector Jaba, who had accompanied him, demonstrated to them that they were to put the loop of the rope under their arms (around their chests) and tighten it.

The helicopter was manoeuvred into position to enable the loop end of the rope to be thrown to one of the stranded people. Connolly then had to perform the most hazardous part of the operation by skilfully lowering the helicopter to a position just above the rock where one slip would have doomed them all. Jaba was then able, at great personal risk, to help the man into the helicopter and he was then whisked off to Dogboy, the nearest landing point, and safety.

For two hours this operation was carried out time and again until eventually the last of the nine survivors was safely taken off. Only then could everyone concerned breathe a sigh of relief.

The persons saved were Alhaji Abu, Bockarie Saidu, Alhaji Alusaine Jalloe, Demba Njai, Sulaiman Sesay, Santigie Jawarar, Amadu Kamara, Yeabu Kamara, Kaliatu Njai and one year old child Sow Musa Sankoh.

Chief Inspector Sahr Ansumana JABA, Sierra Leone Police Force.

Following a report made at Motema Police Station late on the evening of Monday, 7th September 1970, about the wrecking of a launch in the Sewa River near Dogboy in Jaiama Sewafe Chiefdom, Kono District, Chief Inspector S. A. Jaba was detailed by the Chief Police Officer to proceed to the scene to render whatever help could be given.

Jaba returned late in the night and reported that the lives of all the people, two women, one of whom was pregnant, a one year old child and seven men were in very grave danger since all efforts made to reach them were unsuccessful as the launch was wrecked and partly perched on a small rock about 50 yards from the nearest land with swiftly flowing water foaming around. The 10 people had to spend the whole night in the launch and in danger of being swept off at any time.

Very early the next day, 8th September, the Chief Police Officer, Kono, Eastern Province, requested