

thirteen survivors on board the Taiwanese Trawler "Tung King". The vessel was fast aground on a coral reef, on the southern lee shore of the almost deserted French island "Europa", near Malagasy.

Lieutenant Commander Hotchkiss, the ship's First Lieutenant, was in charge of the rescue party and shortly after the commencement of the rescue when Lieutenant Commander Hotchkiss was directing operations from a liferaft in the vicinity of the wreck, an exceptionally large breaker caused the liferaft to capsize and cartwheel several times before settling upside down just below the surface. It was then found that Lieutenant Commander Hotchkiss' legs had become entangled with some rope which had been stowed in the liferaft. There was initially a sizeable air pocket trapped in the capsized liferaft but this was considerably reduced when the liferaft, while still upside down, was pounded by a second large breaker. The other occupant of the liferaft, Petty Officer Hudson, tried to free Lieutenant Commander Hotchkiss, but the latter, realising the increasing danger, ordered Hudson to get clear whilst he could. He gave this order in the knowledge that it meant that he would almost certainly be drowned.

However, Hudson managed to free Lieutenant Commander Hotchkiss and both men escaped from the liferaft before a third large breaker engulfed it completely. Both men reached the shore where, after an interval for recovery, Lieutenant Commander Hotchkiss again assumed command of the shoreward part of the rescue. All communications had been lost so he had to communicate with the officer on the wreck by means of semaphore. Eventually seven Chinese crew members from the wreck reached the shore before worsening conditions made it impossible for any more to come ashore. It was then decided that the shore party should walk to the western side of the island, where conditions were better and more sheltered. Accordingly, Lieutenant Commander Hotchkiss, although still shaken by his previous experience, took charge of the seven-mile walk through loose sand and swarms of mosquitoes. The Chinese needed constant encouragement, and after an exhausting trek, the party reached the beach head where all were transferred by liferaft to H.M.S. LYNX's whaler and the rescue was complete.

Throughout the operation Lieutenant Commander Hotchkiss showed courage and tenacity far beyond the normal call of duty, his determination and strength in adversity largely contributed to the overall success of the operation and was in the best traditions of the Service.

Lieutenant Gordan James LOWREY, Royal Navy.

On the 20th October 1972 a rescue operation was mounted from H.M.S. LYNX to rescue the survivors of the Taiwanese Trawler "Tung King". The ship's gemini dinghy, whaler and cutter were sent in to help, together with the liferaft from the Taiwanese Trawler. Lieutenant Lowrey was one of the crew of the gemini when it was capsized and settled upside down, trapping him and the other crew member. After a struggle they both managed to escape and swam towards the trawler. However, Lieutenant Lowrey noticed that there was no sign of the two crew members of the liferaft that had capsized at the same time as the gemini and he set off back towards the liferaft but before he arrived the two missing crew members surfaced. Lieutenant Lowrey then returned to the wreck through heavy surf. He boarded the wreck and took charge. At this stage the surf was increasing and breaking just astern of the trawler with the result that the stern itself was being physically lifted and then ground down on the sharp coral. Lieutenant Lowrey kept the Chinese crew occupied, and as all radio communications had been lost he had to use semaphore to keep in touch with the ship and the shore party. He floated a line ashore on oil drums, but conditions had deteriorated and it was considered too dangerous to attempt to send the crew shorewards. Lieutenant Lowrey then took part in several attempts to pass a line between the whaler and the wreck, on one of which he himself swam through heavy surf. The wreck was now lifting and pounding alarmingly and had developed a pronounced list.

The crew were very reluctant to take to the water in such conditions, and were understandably frightened of the many sharks that could be seen close in. However, Lieutenant Lowrey managed to persuade them all to leave and assisted them in the water until they could grasp the line and haul themselves out to the waiting boats.

Lieutenant Lowrey had spent ten hours aboard the wreck and the fact that the remaining thirteen left on board the trawler were saved was due largely to his courage and leadership in extremely difficult circumstances.

Lieutenant Lowrey's courage, selfless example and fine leadership were in the best traditions of the Service.

NAVY DEPARTMENT

ROYAL NAVY

Capt. F. BRUEN, M.V.O., D.S.C., placed on Retired List. 15th Sep. 1973.

Surgn. Capt. A. J. GASKELL, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., to be placed on Retired List. 26th Sep. 1973.

Grant of 4 year Short Service Commission to the Reverend P. H. W. CHAPMAN, A.K.C., as Chapl'n on 22nd June 1973 with seny. 22nd June 1973 confirmed on completion of training. 13th Sep. 1973.

Cdr. J. A. BARRETT, placed on Retired List (own request). 20th Aug. 1973.

Lt.-Cdr. (Ret'd) R. F. STEVENS reverts to Retired List. 29th Aug. 1973.

Lt.-Cdr. I. M. HUTSON, placed on Retired List. 13th Sep. 1973.

Lt.-Cdrs. placed on Retired List (own request) on dates stated:

C. T. JOWETT. 8th Sep. 1973.

B. G. PURSER. 14th Sep. 1973.

Lt.-Cdr. W. D. HUGHES, placed on Retired List 14th Sep. 1973 and re-apptd.

Instr. Lt.-Cdr. A. E. SIMMONDS, M.B.E., to be placed on Retired List. 23rd Sep. 1973.

Instr. Lt.-Cdr. M. STEPHENS, B.Sc., placed on Emerg'y List on completion of Short Service Commission for period of 4 years. 18th Sep. 1973.

Instr. Lt.-Cdrs. to be placed on Emerg'y List on completion of Short Service Commissions for period of 4 years. 23rd Sep. 1973:

J. T. BARNETT, B.Sc., P. E. HAY, B.Sc., W. S. HYSLOP, B.Sc., N. P. T. STAUNTON, B.A.

Surgn. Lt.-Cdr. J. J. NICHOLAS, M.B., Ch.B., R.N.R., transferred to R.N., and granted 3 year Short Service Commission 30th Jul. 1973 in rank of Surgn. Lt.-Cdr. with seny. 10th Jan. 1968.

Lt. M. MURPHY, placed on Retired List (own request). 10th Sep. 1973.

Lts. placed on Retired List (own request):

N. P. MCLEAN

Amend date to read—30th Jul. 1973.

(Amendment to London Gazette (Supplement) dated 31st July 1973)

Lts. promoted Lt.-Cdrs. on dates and with seny stated:

F. A. I. PARKINSON. 12th Sep. 1973 (12th Sep. 1973).

K. G. HUMPHRIES. 16th Sep. 1973 (16th Sep. 1973).

Actg. Lts. promoted Lts. on dates and with seny stated:

A. R. HEWITT. 6th Aug. 1973 (16th Jan. 1973).

S. B. P. ANDERSON. 7th Aug. 1973 (1st Mar. 1973).

B. H. D. CUMING. 10th Aug. 1973 (16th Mar. 1973).

Lt. (Supplementary List) T. L. SCOTT, to be placed on Retired List on completion of 16-year Pensionable Commission. 25th Sep. 1973.

Lts. (Supplementary List) placed on Emerg'y List on completion of Short Service Commissions for period of 4 years on dates stated:

R. M. W. ASTON, R. N. BROCK, R. J. S. CLARK, A. A. GILL, R. J. JEPSON. 15th Sep. 1973.

R. V. NEWMAN, R. G. PEARSON, A. T. POTTER, J. M. POWELL, R. H. PURCHASE, S. A. J. RICHARDSON, M. J. H. THURSTAN. 17th Sep. 1973.

Lts. (Supplementary List) to be placed on Emerg'y List on completion of Short Service Commissions for period of 4 years. 19th Sep. 1973:

S. K. BARR, P. A. H. BLAKISTON, A. E. CROW, R. W. DENTITH, M. R. H. JENKINS, P. V. LLOYD, K. C. SHARMAN, J. N. WHALEY.

Lts. (Supplementary List) promoted Lt.-Cdrs. 1st Sep. 1973 with seny. 1st Sep. 1973:

B. F. WEEKS, B.Sc., M.I.E.E., R. WILSON.