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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

HONOURS AND AWARDS

NAVY DEPARTMENT

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Place, London S.W.1.

13th November 1984.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the Queen's Gallantry Medal to the under-mentioned:

Lieutenant Stephen William MARLOW, Royal Navy.

Lieutenant Stephen William Marlow, Royal Navy was the Observer of the nominated Search and Rescue crew despatched to the assistance of a yacht in distress 70 miles south of Plymouth on the night of 23rd January 1984. The weather conditions throughout the sortie consisted of mean wind speeds of 60 knots with gusts up to 70 knots, sea state 9 and frequent cumulonimbus clouds with hail.

With the aid of H.M.S. *Orkney* the Search and Rescue crew located the yacht, which was found to be dismasted and beam on to the sea. It was decided to lower Marlow on a double lift to recover the two yachtsmen. During the first attempt to put him aboard he was caught by a 60 foot wave and hit the side of the yacht. Marlow was recovered to the Sea King helicopter and though winded and severely shaken decided to make a further attempt. This time he was able to board the yacht despite its violent motion and elected to recover the crewman survivor first, who was looking very ill and frightened.

Marlow managed to get the crewman into the harness but in clearing the yacht he became entangled in some of the rigging which covered the deck. Once in the water the survivor panicked violently which greatly hampered Marlow's attempts to clear the snag. When finally cleared, the wire was wrapped round Marlow and the survivor's leg and they had to be recovered to the aircraft inverted. Despite badly injuring his back and leg and being in a state of shock, Marlow successfully navigated the aircraft back to base, enabling the back up crew to rescue the other survivor.

Throughout this hazardous operation Marlow conducted himself in a totally dedicated and professional manner with a complete disregard for his own safety, reflecting the highest traditions of the Service.

Ministry of Defence,
Whitehall, London S.W.1.

13th November 1984.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air to the undermentioned:

Lieutenant Ian Philip GALWAY, Royal Navy.

Lieutenant Frederick William ROBERTSON, Royal Navy.

Lieutenant John Emlyn WARD, Royal Navy.

For their courage, support and resourcefulness in assisting in the rescue of survivors on a yacht in distress on the night of 23rd January 1984 in extremely adverse weather conditions.

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