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TUESDAY, 8TH MARCH 1966

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Whitehall, London S.W.1.

8th March 1966.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards:

Air Force Medal

G 4230939 Sergeant Hugh Anthony Ian JONES, Royal Air Force.

During the forenoon of the 8th September 1965, the 12 metre yawl, "Monsun II", was in passage in the Channel to the east of the Isle of Wight, with a sick man aboard and in heavy seas and gale force winds. Her steering mechanism was out of order and she commenced firing distress rockets. Although other vessels were in the area, none appeared to notice her plight until a Dutch coaster, "Admiral", arrived on the scene and broadcast a radio message to Niton Radio giving the yacht's condition. This message was intercepted at 1620 hours by the Shoreham Coastguard who immediately telephoned No. 22 Squadron at Thorney Island, giving the position of the yacht as reported by the "Admiral". The Coastguard also reported the possible launching of the Selsey lifeboat. It was quickly confirmed by No. 22 Squadron that the lifeboat had been launched at 1630 hours and that she would take at least 2 hours to reach the yawl. The decision was therefore taken to scramble the standby helicopter with Sergeant Jones as Winchman. The weather at the time was not thought to be suitable for winching since the Rescue Co-ordination Centre at Plymouth was reporting 30 foot seas with wind gusts up to 58 knots. However, it was hoped that the helicopter could assess the situation and guide the lifeboat to the yawl. Further messages from the Master of the "Admiral", relayed by the Coastguard, indicated that the weather was so bad that he could not manoeuvre without hazarding his ship, but was remaining in position, hove-to, in order to mark the position for the helicopter. When the aircraft arrived on the scene at 1650 hours, another vessel had reached the area and was attempting to position to windward of the yawl. The pilot decided that any attempt to winch off the deck of the "Monsun II" would be courting disaster and he therefore hovered as close as he dared, down sea and down wind of the yawl. Sergeant Jones was then lowered on maximum cable whilst indicating to the four survivors on the deck of the yawl that they should jump into the sea, one by one, as this was obviously their only hope of being rescued. Four times, in mountainous seas, Sergeant Jones went down on the winch to carry out the rescues. At one moment he would be in

the sea and the next, 30 feet above the surface, his contact with the survivors being achieved by the Winch Operator talking the pilot into position. All the rescues were completed in the record time of five minutes and the helicopter then returned to Thorney Island, radioing ahead for a doctor and an ambulance to be available. Sergeant Jones displayed gallantry of the highest order by choosing to expose himself to great danger. In addition, in ordering the yacht's crew to jump into the sea, he accepted irrevocable responsibility for their ultimate rescue.

Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air

Flight Lieutenant John Malcolm HAMILTON (59601), Royal Air Force.

Master Navigator Walter Jack Hubert BURGESS (B 1339854), Royal Air Force.

For their action as pilot and navigator respectively of the helicopter which went to the rescue of the crew of the yacht "Monsun II" on 8th September 1965. Flight Lieutenant Hamilton displayed the utmost skill as a pilot and his courage and determination were an inspiration to his crew. Master Navigator Burgess, by his split second timing, superlative judgment and calmness in extremely difficult conditions, talked the pilot into position for each of the four rescues.

8th March 1966.

ROYAL AIR FORCE

Air Vice-Marshal F. E. ROSIER, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., is appointed Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Fighter Command, with the Acting Rank of Air Marshal, in succession to Air Marshal Sir Douglas MORRIS, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., D.F.C. 3rd Mar. 1966.

GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH

Appointment to Commission (Permanent) (D.E.C.(A))

As Flying Officer (Supplementary List):

Cadet Pilot Howard Ivor GOSLYN (1936663). 21st Jan. 1966. (*Seniority 26th Nov. 1964.*)

As Acting Pilot Officers (Supplementary List):

Cadet Pilots

21st Jan. 1966

Keith ALDRIDGE (4232850).
Peter Charles BINGHAM (4232840).
Robert David CALVERT (4232833).
Antony James CASSIDY (4232868).
Duncan Douglas DONALDSON (4232853).