



SUPPLEMENT TO

# The London Gazette

of Monday, 19th February 1973

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TUESDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY 1973

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Whitehall, London S.W.1.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the publication of the following name in recognition of Distinguished Service in Northern Ireland during the period 1st May 1972 to 31st July 1972.

*Mention in Despatches*

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (NAVY DEPARTMENT)

Lieutenant Michael Dennison BOOTH, Royal Navy.

Whitehall, London S.W.1.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the Air Force Cross for gallantry to the under-mentioned:

*Air Force Cross*

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (NAVY DEPARTMENT)

Lieutenant Richard Paul SEYMOUR, Royal Navy.

On the 12th July 1972, H.M.S. YARMOUTH proceeded to the assistance of the ORIENTAL FALCON aground on Pratas Reef 200 miles south-east of Hong Kong. Typhoon Susan had caused very heavy seas with a force 7 gale and poor visibility due to continuous heavy rain.

H.M.S. YARMOUTH's Wasp helicopter was launched at dusk 25 miles from Pratas and located the ORIENTAL FALCON hard and fast on the reef but upright and steady. A hatch cover provided a clear winching area but was bounded by the bridge super-structure and tiers of containers 24 feet high. The area was illuminated and torches were placed to outline the rigging after the first sortie. A total of four sorties, totalling 2½ hours (2¼ hours in total darkness) were flown in order to rescue thirteen survivors; the remainder of the crew wished to stay with their ship.

During these operations Lieutenant Seymour flew with great accuracy in spite of intermittent electrical failures and much rain entering the cockpit. Over the wreck he had to maintain accurate hover in spite of the periodic failure of his landing lights, and the shifting centre of gravity as survivors were loaded. His deck landings on H.M.S. YARMOUTH were excellent even though there was severely reduced visibility and a violently moving deck. H.M.S.

YARMOUTH then proceeded to Hong Kong for fuel and stores and return to the wreck on the 14th July in answer to a further distress call. On arrival at the reef and under similar weather conditions to those on the 12th July, the Wasp rescued the remaining twenty-nine members of the ORIENTAL FALCON's crew.

Throughout the whole operation Lieutenant Seymour consistently demonstrated a very high degree of flying skill and personal courage combined with excellent judgement. As the survivors could not have been rescued other than by this helicopter, they owe their safety entirely to Lieutenant Seymour's display of these qualities.

Lieutenant Seymour's outstanding performance and determination and devotion to duty were in the highest traditions of the service.

## NAVY DEPARTMENT

## ROYAL NAVY

Cdr. H. M. JOHNSON, M.B.E., M.I.Mech.E., placed on Retired List. 3rd Feb. 1973.

Cdrs. placed on Retired List on dates stated:

R. H. PINSON, D.S.C. 13th Feb. 1973.

M. K. FAULKNER. 16th Feb. 1973.

D. F. MILLS. 19th Feb. 1973.

Lt.-Cdr. F. W. BURGESS, placed on Retired List. 16th Feb. 1973.

Lt.-Cdr. L. R. HARVEY, to be placed on Retired List. 24th Feb. 1973.

Instr. Lt.-Cdr. J. ROLSTON, to be placed on Retired List. 28th Feb. 1973.

Lt. B. A. TAFT, M.B.E., placed on Retired List. 3rd Feb. 1973.

Lts. to be placed on Retired List on dates stated:

W. R. DANIELS. 23rd Feb. 1973.

A. M. FORD. 24th Feb. 1973.

R. S. WORTH. 27th Feb. 1973.

Lt. J. E. BOND, placed on Retired List. 7th Jan. 1973 and re-apptd.

Lts to be placed on Retired List (own request) on dates stated:

D. G. GLASGOW. 23rd Feb. 1973.

M. J. COWIN. 28th Feb. 1973.