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HONOURS AND AWARDS

NAVY DEPARTMENT

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1. 29th July 1975.

The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the Queen's Gallantry Medal to the undermentioned:

Marine Engineering Mechanic I David James Allan, D135875X.

H.M.S. Olympus was berthed alongside H.M.S. Grampus in Lisbon on Sunday, 9th February 1975. There was a strong tide running and considerable movement and bumping between the two submarines. A rating from H.M.C.S. Algonqun was crossing from H.M.S. Grampus to H.M.S. Olympus when his attention was distracted, he missed his footing, fell, striking his head on the Grampus hull, and disappeared into the water between the two submarines.

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Marine Engineering Mechanic I. D. J. Allan had just completed some work on the outer casing of H.M.S. Olympus, saw the Canadian rating fall, and his immediate reaction was to jump into the water after him. He recovered the dazed and shocked rating and brought him to the surface between the two submarines whereupon H.M.S. Olympus duty watch lifted both men out of the water.

Marine Engineering Mechanic I Allan knew the dangers of being swept away by the tide or crushed between the two submarines yet he gave no thought for his own personal safety. His display of courage of a very high order undoubtedly saved the man's life.