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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

HONOURS AND AWARDS

NAVY DEPARTMENT

Whitehall, London S.W.1.

Tuesday, 3rd August 1976.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct to the undermentioned:

Electrical Mechanician (A)1 Peter Graham HYDE, D099612N.

Naval Airman 1(AH3) Peter WHITE, D144723L.

On the 12th March 1976, H.M.S. JUNO was involved in a number of close quarter encounters with the Icelandic Coastguard Vessel TYR whilst protecting a group of British trawlers off the East coast of Iceland.

In the course of the action TYR rammed H.M.S. JUNO on two separate occasions inflicting superficial damage to

both ships. In the second collision, just after mid-day, TYR rammed H.M.S. JUNO on the port quarter causing extensive damage to fittings, splitting the upper deck petrol stowage and igniting the flare attached to a lifebuoy.

The flare had ignited in the midst of petrol spilling from the ruptured stowage and as such, presented a very grave fire hazard. Seeing this Chief Petty Officer HYDE, accompanied by Naval Airman WHITE, left the security of the hangar, and with total disregard for their own safety, raced aft to tackle the burning flare. Using both Carbon Dioxide and Foam extinguishers they attempted to smother the fire but to no avail: while the alarm was being raised HYDE and WHITE removed the burning flare from its buckled stowage and ditched it over the side.

By their swift action Chief Petty Officer HYDE and Naval Airman WHITE undoubtedly prevented the occurrence of a potentially catastrophic fire. Their complete disregard for their own safety in securing the safety of their ship was in the true tradition of the Royal Navy.

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