No. 47831 . 5689



SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO

The London Gazette

of Monday, 30th April 1979

Published by Authority

Registered as a Newspaper

TUESDAY, 1ST MAY 1979

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

HONOURS AND AWARDS

NAVY DEPARTMENT

Whitehall, London S.W.1
Tuesday, 1st May 1979.

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

Lieutenant John Anthony Capel MIERS, Royal Navy.
Chief Officer Martin MERCELL WILKINS, Royal Fleet Auxiliary Service.
Leading Seaman (M) Martin Charles NYMAN, D126354D.

For their skill, courage and leadership during a rescue and salvage operation following a collision between two merchant vessels off Gibraltar on 12th June 1978.

AIR FORCE DEPARTMENT

Whitehall,
London SW1A 2HB.
1st May 1979

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

Air Force Cross

Flight Lieutenant Adrian Downham MURRAY (4233420), Royal Air Force.

Flight Lieutenant Murray is a Wessex Search and Rescue pilot serving with 'B' Flight, No. 22 Squadron at Royal Air Force Leuchars. Shortly before midnight during the night of 24th-25th December 1978 his crew was scrambled to provide assistance to the coaster MV *Fendyke*, which was drifting on-shore having been swamped and suffering total electrical, steering and engine failure. The weather was atrocious, with low cloud, heavy rain and a wind gusting to severe gale force. MV *Fendyke* was eventually found lying cross-wind and cross-sea, rolling through 60 degrees and pitching through 30 feet. The crew was clearly in imminent danger, so despite the appalling conditions Flight Lieutenant Murray lowered his winchman onto the bridge deck, stood off while the injured ship's captain was prepared for winching and then returned to winch him to safety. Throughout this delicate operation Flight Lieutenant Murray had virtually no visual references and only managed to maintain his hover by occasional glimpses of the heaving vessel and the sea through his landing lamps. The captain's condition was so serious that Flight Lieutenant Murray immediately flew him to hospital and then returned for the remaining survivors. He successfully recovered a woman crew member before being forced to return to base through a failure of the inter-communication system. He changed aircraft, returned to the scene with a co-pilot and winchman and, despite the continuing lack of visual references, attempted to lower the winchman onto the ship. Unfortunately the rapid gyration of the MV *Fendyke* in the mountainous seas caused the winchman to strike the aerial mast and he was badly stunned. Again Flight Lieutenant Murray went back to Leuchars, returned to the scene with his original winchman and stood by while a recently arrived Sea King helicopter successfully rescued all other survivors. In rescuing two persons from the MV *Fendyke* in the most atrocious conditions imaginable and flying an aircraft not fully equipped for night operations Flight Lieutenant Murray displayed superlative skill, judgment and courage. Furthermore, by returning three times to the stricken vessel in weather that forced even the lifeboats to run for shelter he demonstrated leadership and determination in the finest traditions of the Royal Air Force.

Master Air Loadmaster Iain MacDonald BRUNTON (L4260279), Royal Air Force.

Master Air Loadmaster Brunton is a Search and Rescue helicopter winchman serving with 'B' Flight No. 22 Squadron at Royal Air Force Leuchars. He was on duty on the night of 24th-25th December 1978, when his crew

was scrambled to go to the assistance of MV *Fendyke,* drifting without steering gear some 8 nautical miles north-east of Leuchars. As the captain had been injured and the crew was in danger, the helicopter captain decided to attempt a rescue. Weather conditions were atrocious with heavy rain and severe gale force winds. Even though the MV *Fendyke* was rolling through 60 degrees and rising and falling over 30 feet in the seas, Master Air Loadmaster Brunton volunteered to be winched onto the ship to lift off the injured captain. In spite of the hazards, and at considerable personal risk, he successfully landed on the bridge deck. Having brought the injured man to the deck he attached him to the winch hook and saw him lifted safely into the helicopter. Master Air Loadmaster Brunton stayed on board the vessel while the helicopter took the injured man to hospital and on its return carried out a double lift with the chief engineer's wife, protecting her during the lift. As the aircraft had developed a fault in the inter-communication system, Master Air Loadmaster Brunton returned to base and, being thoroughly exhausted by his exertions on the first rescue, was replaced by another winchman. However, the aircraft again returned when the replacement winchman was injured and Master Air Loadmaster Brunton at once volunteered to continue with the task, although in the event his services were not required again because the remaining crew of the MV *Fendyke* were winched to safety by a Sea King helicopter. Master Air Loadmaster Brunton displayed outstanding courage and coolness in most hazardous conditions. His fearlessness and professional ability in the face of extreme difficulties put heart into the survivors and made the rescue of two of them possible.

Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air

Flight Lieutenant Brian James CANFER (4232873), Royal Air Force.

For his pertinacity, skill and judgment in the worst possible sea and weather conditions during the night of 24th-25th December 1978 when he was navigator and winch operator of a Search and Rescue helicopter from Royal Air Force Leuchars tasked with the rescue of the crew of the MV *Fendyke,* disabled and helpless in the North Sea.

C4276624 Flight Sergeant Larry EVANS, Royal Air Force.

For his courage and devotion to duty despite personal injury during the night of 24th-25th December 1978 when he was winchman of a Search and Rescue helicopter from Royal Air Force Leuchars tasked to attempt the rescue of the crew of the MV *Fendyke,* disabled and helpless in the North Sea in appalling sea and weather conditions.

AIR FORCE DEPARTMENT

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF
THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

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

1st May 1979

ERRATUM

Supplement to the London Gazette No. 47549 dated 3rd June 1978, page 6235:

For: Wing Commander Sydney Joseph PALMER, D.F.C. (153277), Royal Air Force (Retired).

Read: Wing Commander Sidney Joseph PALMER, D.F.C. (153277), Royal Air Force (Retired).

AIR FORCE DEPARTMENT

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF
THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

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

ERRATUM

Supplement to the London Gazette No. 47804 dated 27th March 1979, page 4058—AIR FORCE DEPARTMENT:

For: 20th March 1979.

Read: 27th March 1979.

LONDON
Printed and published by HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE: 1979
PRINTED IN ENGLAND Price 20p net ISBN 0 11 657831 9