

gyrations of the raft. However, the aircraft captain finally succeeded in establishing a hover on voice directions and Flight Sergeant Yarwood was lowered to the raft. Several attempts were made to place him onto the raft but these were frustrated by its rapid movement and Flight Sergeant Yarwood sustained severe bruising of his legs from being smashed against its side by the heavy seas. Undeterred, he volunteered to be placed in the water near the raft and then, with complete disregard for his own safety, detached himself from the hook, swam to the raft and climbed aboard. With the hi-line still connecting him with the aircraft he was able to recover the winch cable and assist the ten survivors to safety before himself being recovered to the aircraft. Having landed the survivors on a nearby oil rig the helicopter was returned to the search area and a further 26 men in a lifeboat were located. Although suffering from exhaustion and pain from the battering he had received Flight Sergeant Yarwood volunteered again to be winched down to attempt a rescue. After having satisfied himself that all in the lifeboat were uninjured he allowed himself to be winched back aboard the helicopter and the survivors were taken aboard a surface vessel. Flight Sergeant Yarwood was undeterred by the inherent

personal danger of winching in such hazardous conditions and displayed outstanding courage, professional skill and pertinacity in the course of a well-directed and successful air-sea rescue operation.

Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air

Flight Lieutenant Michael Julian LAKEY (4232923),
Royal Air Force.

For his cool courage and outstanding professionalism shown when navigator of a Sea King helicopter engaged on search and rescue operations following the capsizing of the oil rig accommodation platform "Alexander Kielland" in the North Sea during the evening of 27th March 1980.

L0689177 Flight Sergeant John Kenneth MOODY,
Royal Air Force.

For his great pertinacity, skill and courage demonstrated when winch operator of a Sea King helicopter during the successful rescue of survivors following the capsizing of the oil rig accommodation platform "Alexander Kielland" in the North Sea in the evening of 27th March 1980.

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