



SUPPLEMENT TO

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HONOURS AND AWARDS

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

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

3rd March 1989

THE QUEEN has been graciously pleased, to approve the award of the Bronze Medal for Gallantry in Saving Life at Sea to Mr. R. L. VEITCH.

Robert Lough VEITCH, Skipper, Motor Vessel
Valhalla III.

On 2nd March 1987 the MV "Valhalla III" was steaming in the area N.E. of Lerwick and had been steering N.N. West when crew member James Crombie was washed overboard from the after part of the vessel by a heavy sea in deteriorating weather, the wind being force five to six S.S. East. Mr Veitch acted quickly and with determination on hearing a shout about someone over the side. He turned the vessel

around some 180 degrees through heavy seas and headed toward the man in the water.

Without hesitation and with great courage Mr. Veitch threw off his outer clothing and jumped into the sea and swam toward Mr. Crombie, who he knew could not swim. Although he thought the man might be already dead with shock and cold, he nevertheless persisted in his efforts and kept Mr. Crombie's head above the water and got him alongside the vessel. Mr Veitch was exhausted himself by this time and was pulled out of the water. Another crew member jumped over the side and held onto Mr. Crombie, until he could be pulled on board. Unfortunately, despite the crews efforts in applying artificial respiration, Mr. Crombie did not recover.

Mr. Veitch displayed great determination and a disregard for his own safety in his attempt to rescue a member of his crew, despite the severe weather conditions and the possibility that the man may already have been dead.