



SUPPLEMENT TO

The London Gazette

of Thursday, 26th October 1989

Published by Authority

Registered as a Newspaper at the Post Office

FRIDAY, 27TH OCTOBER 1989

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

HONOURS AND AWARDS

NAVY DEPARTMENT

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1
27th October 1989

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

(To be dated 26th September 1989)

Warrant Officer (Diver) Colin Anthony KIDMAN

Warrant Officer (Diver) Kidman planned and executed the removal and destruction of a complete outfit of Seadart missiles from the magazine in HMS SOUTHAMPTON, many of which had been severely damaged following a major collision in the Gulf area on 3rd September 1988.

The impact of the collision had badly distorted and buckled the missile handling arrangements and equipment inside the magazine causing a chaotic jumble of missiles, parts of missiles and their associated movement trolleys and rails. The missiles were in highly unsafe positions; one being split in half, one with its warhead buried in the deckhead and the remainder damaged, distorted and displaced to various degrees. In addition the whole magazine was under water.

Mr. Kidman provided a plan of action enabling each missile to be lifted and moved over the ship's side for deposit into a barge. The plan took three weeks to achieve and during the whole of this period he maintained a calm dignity and composure.

The highly dangerous and precarious phase of the removal of the missiles, some of which had to be dismantled underwater before they could be freed from their positions, took a further two weeks. Mr. Kidman then supervised the towing of the barge containing the missiles to a deep water disposal ground.

Despite the frightening enormity of the task and risk involved, Mr. Kidman generated enormous confidence in all those who worked for him or had involvement in the proceedings. In tackling the explosive demolitions phase, his selflessness and calculating skill and actions were an inspiration to all, in the knowledge that one small error of judgement or execution could have had catastrophic results. The success of the operation and the safety of the ship and its personnel can be directly attributed to the gallant actions of this humble and dedicated man who demonstrated bravery and leadership of the highest order.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1
27th October 1989

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

(To be dated 26th September 1989)

Leading Seaman (Diver) Ralph JOHNSON, D197652Q.

Leading Seaman (Diver) James LYNCH, D142576V.

For their exceptional courage and skill in assisting in the removal of seadart missiles from *HMS Southampton*, after a major collision in the Gulf area on 3rd September 1988.

LONDON

Printed and published by HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE: 1989

ISBN 0 11 661916 3

PRINTED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Price 60p net

ISSN 0374-3721

