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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

HONOURS AND AWARDS

NAVY DEPARTMENT

Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

23rd March 1993

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

Air Force Medal

Leading Aircrewman Ian CHAMBERS, D191429X.

Leading Aircrewman CHAMBERS was the Diver of the 771 Squadron Duty SAR crew which was scrambled shortly after 1 a.m. on 30th August 1992 to respond to a Mayday transmitted by the SINE SEORRA, a 52 foot yacht in difficulties in a Force 9 gale, 20 miles off the coast of Guernsey.

On arrival at the scene the priority for the helicopter crew was to evacuate the two lifeboatmen who were injured when the mizzen mast collapsed on top of the yacht's wheelhouse. Despite the severity of lifeboat motion and obvious personal risk, Leading Aircrewman CHAMBERS volunteered to be lowered to the corkscrewing deck. He quickly assessed the situation, asked for the stretcher to be lowered and then attended to the securing of the casualty. Due to difficulties in moving the second casualty from below deck it was over an hour later that Leading Aircrewman CHAMBERS was recovered to the helicopter — having personally supervised the transfers in extremely violent and dangerous conditions.

On return to the yacht having delivered the casualties to hospital in Guernsey and despite obvious fatigue, Leading Aircrewman CHAMBERS produced stoic reserves of physical and mental energy to be lowered three times into the tumultous seas and be trawled through the water to rescue the remaining crew members.

Throughout this exhausting five hour night rescue, Leading Aircrewman CHAMBERS placed his own life at risk, displaying exceptional courage, great stamina and the highest standards of professionalism to rescue casualties in atrocious conditions. This outstanding performance was in the highest traditions of the Service.

Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

23rd March 1993

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air to the undermentioned:

Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air

Lieutenant Commander Paul CRUDGINGTON, A.F.C., Royal Navy.

Lieutenant Philip Edward SMITH, Royal Navy.

For their valuable service in the air on 30th August 1992 in the Search and Rescue operation of the crew members from the yacht SINE SEORRA.

Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

23rd March 1993

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air to the undermentioned:

Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air

Lieutenant Commander Nicholas John CLARKE, Royal Navy.

For his valuable service in the air during a firefighting and rescue operation involving the distressed oil tanker WORLD HITACHI ZOSEN on 18th April 1992, undoubtedly saving a major ecological disaster.