

Despite this, he crawled back to the helicopter and attempted to rescue the pilot, who was trapped by his legs and struggling.

Mr James Inchley and his mother, Mrs Mary Inchley, had witnessed the crash and ran to where the wreckage lay. They could see Lt Col Whiteside trying to free the pilot, who was engulfed in flames and screaming for help, and ran to help him. Lt Col Whiteside then became overwhelmed by his injuries, and they pulled him away to a safe distance. Whilst Mrs Inchley stayed with him and tried to comfort him, Mr Inchley ran back and continued his attempt to free the pilot.

Mr Victor Partridge, a neighbour who had also witnessed the crash, then arrived and immediately ran to help Mr Inchley. Because of the heat of the blaze, they could only spend moments near the cockpit before moving away. Despite this, they persisted in their efforts to rescue the pilot, who was now unconscious, and after several attempts (during which they were again assisted by Mrs Inchley), they managed to free him from the wreckage. They moved the pilot to safety, but by this time he had died of his injuries. Mr Partridge, Mr Inchley and Mrs Inchley stayed with Lt Col Whiteside until the arrival of the emergency services. He later made a full recovery.

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