

STAR OF COURAGE

Mr Denis Patrick MURPHY

(Posthumous Award)

Next-of-Kin (Mother)

Mrs Carmel MURPHY
134 Yundah Street
SHORNCLIFF QLD 4017

The fishing vessel "New Venture" capsized on Broadhurst Reef at about 10.20 p.m. on Sunday 24 July 1983. Mr Murphy, the deck-hand, was on board with two others. When the vessel sank some two hours later the crew members were unable to release the dinghy as it was underneath the vessel which had then turned upside down. They accordingly tied together with fishing line, a surf board, a life ring and some foam material.

During that night and the next day they endeavoured by paddling and drifting to reach an area where other trawlers were working but they were not seen. At 6 p.m. on the Monday evening when some 14 nautical miles south-east of Loadstone Reef, Mr Murphy spotted a shark. It swam around them for 1½ hours and then began to bump into the debris on which they were being supported.

As the result of a two metre swell, they were all washed off the debris. The shark then seized Mr Murphy by the left leg, severing it at the knee. He and one of the crew members managed to struggle on to the board but after talking the matter over, Mr Murphy, realising the likelihood of a further attack persuaded the others to leave him to his fate and then proceeded to paddle the board away from his comrades. After some two minutes the shark attacked for a second time and he was not seen again.

In his desperate situation Mr Murphy displayed conspicuous courage in attempting to save the lives of his companions.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Claude William CHASE
139 Towers Street
CHARTERS TOWERS QLD 4820

On 16 August 1983 Ambulance Bearer Chase with two members of the Queensland Police Force were directed to a panel van parked off the road at Macrossan. A sign attached to the window read "wired for bomb" and "do not touch" and between the front seats of the van was a device resembling a bomb. Wires led from it to all windows and a heavy chain was fastened to the front doors to prevent them from being opened. The motor was running and two plastic hoses connected to the exhaust pipes led to the interior. A man, still alive, was lying in the rear. One of the wires had fallen off a side window. After one of the policemen removed the glass from a window and moved the man towards it Ambulance Bearer Chase placed a synthetic air-way in his mouth and commenced to operate an Oxy-Viva machine. He then assisted in lifting the man out through the window.

By his actions in attempting to save the man's life Ambulance Bearer Chase displayed considerable bravery.

Leonard Edward CORLETT
Walton Street,
WILUNA WA 6646

On 20 July 1983 at approximately 4 p.m. a Cessna 182 aircraft took off from the Wiluna Airstrip and shortly after crashed in an open area of the town. The pilot was trapped strapped to his seat in the cockpit; the aircraft was badly damaged, aviation fuel was leaking into the cockpit and the damaged electrical system was short circuiting. Sparks and smoke were present inside the plane. Five men working nearby rushed to the scene. Mr Leonard Edward Corlett and First Class Constable Marshall endeavoured to extricate the pilot from the right hand side of the plane but failed in the attempt. The other three men then tilted the wing and Mr Corlett and Constable Marshall got under the other wing and rescued the unconscious pilot from that side. His clothes were saturated with aviation fuel and in the rescue attempt their clothes were also saturated.

By his actions in rescuing the pilot Mr Corlett displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

First Class Constable Ross Victor MARSHALL
Western Australia Police Force

On 20 July 1983 at approximately 4 p.m. a Cessna 182 aircraft took off from the Wiluna Airstrip and shortly after crashed in an open area of the town. The pilot was trapped strapped to his seat in the cockpit; the aircraft was badly damaged, aviation fuel was leaking into the cockpit and the damaged electrical system was short circuiting. Sparks and smoke were present inside the plane. Five men working nearby rushed to the scene. First Class Constable Marshall and Mr Leonard Corlett endeavoured to extricate the pilot from the right hand side of the plane but failed in the attempt. The other three men then tilted the wing and Constable Marshall and Mr Corlett got under the other wing and rescued the unconscious pilot from that side. His clothes were saturated with aviation fuel and in the rescue attempt their clothes were also saturated.

By his actions in rescuing the pilot
Constable Marshall displayed considerable bravery.

Senior Constable Gary Edwin RICHARDS
Queensland Police Force

On 16 August 1983 First Class Constable Richards and two others were directed to a panel van parked off the road at Macrossan. A sign attached to the windscreen read "wired for bomb" and "do not touch" and between the front seats of the van was a device resembling a bomb. Wires led from it to all windows and a heavy chain was fastened to the front doors to prevent them from being opened. The motor was running and two plastic hoses connected to the exhaust pipes led to the interior. A man, still alive, was lying in the rear. One of the wires had fallen off a side window. Constable Richards removed the rubber surrounding the window, took out the glass and taped the bare end of the wire. Leaning through the window he grasped the man's shoulders and moved him to the window. While still partly in the van, Constable Richards then assisted in the giving of First Aid by holding an oxygen mask over his face and then with the ambulance bearer lifted him out through the small window.

By his actions in attempting to save the man's
life Constable Richards displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Alan George RICHARDSON
139 Greenmeadows Road
MOUNT GRAVATT QLD 4122

On 29 July 1983 at about 6.30 p.m. Mr Richardson was driving north along the Bruce Highway and after being stopped by another motorist he approached a burning vehicle. He saw a young boy sitting crying by the roadside and also heard crying coming from the rear section of the car which had overturned. Mr Richardson crawled underneath, removed the rear window and dragged a small girl from inside the car to safety. While under the vehicle petrol was constantly dripping on him from the petrol tank. Mr Richardson returned to the car and called out in an attempt to find anyone else who may have been in the car but received no answer. Together with a bystander Mr Richardson approached the car again and then found the driver trapped but apparently dead. Shortly after there were a number of explosions and the car caught fire.

By his actions in rescuing the child from the overturned car Mr Richardson displayed considerable bravery.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

The Reverend Kenneth John BOX
Church of England Rectory
1 Anne Street
GEORGE TOWN TAS 7253

On 9 March 1984 at about 8.50 a.m. two cars collided on the East Tamar Highway. Shortly after the collision one of the cars caught fire and the driver who was unconscious was trapped inside.

The Reverend Box was one of three persons who assisted in the removal of the driver from the burning car. Mr Box then with assistance disconnected the trailer from the car which subsequently exploded. Mr Box called to some by-standers to help him disconnect the trailer from his car. The driver was then placed on the trailer and moved out of danger to await the arrival of the ambulance.

By his actions the Reverend Box displayed commendable courage.

Mr Brett Neville ELLIOTT-SHIRCORE
172 Birkett Street
DIANELLA WA 6062

On 21 January 1984 at about 1.00 a.m. fire broke out on the upper floor of a two-story house at Mt Lawley. A woman who occupied a unit on this floor was standing at the window screaming.

Mr Elliott-Shirecore a passenger in a vehicle driving past got the driver to stop. He then rushed up the stairs but was prevented by the flames from entering the woman's unit. He jumped through the window of another unit on to a sloping awning and then persuaded and assisted the woman to join him. Under their weight the awning collapsed and they fell eight feet to the ground. In the fall Mr Elliott-Shirecore received minor injuries to his back and legs but he remained with the woman and comforted her until she was taken to hospital.

By his actions Mr Elliott-Shircore displayed commendable courage.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr John Cyril HATCHETT
41 Elizabeth Street
EVANDALE SA 5069

On Thursday 5 January 1984 at about 2.30 p.m. a tent was on fire in the Port Victoria Caravan Park. Mr Hatchett came from a tent nearby and heard bystanders say that there was a child inside. The tent was engulfed in flames eight or nine feet high and he could hear a child screaming. Mr Hatchett walked onto the burning tent and went over the material with his bare hands until feeling the child's leg he dragged him to safety. In the rescue attempt he sustained burns to the right hand and foot.

By his actions Mr Hatchett undoubtedly saved the child's life.

Mr Harold James HOGAN
11 Brabham Street
GOSNELLS WA 6110

On 18 March 1984 Mr Hogan was travelling on the Kojonup Highway when the car in front of him left the road and rolled over. While running to assist he saw smoke and flames coming from the rear of the car. When the driver was unable to open the door Mr Hogan did so, released the driver's seatbelt and helped her out before the car was engulfed in flames.

By his actions he undoubtedly saved the woman's life.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Gregory Charles MELHUIISH
Gittoes Lane
O'Possum Creek NSW 2479

On Saturday 21 May 1983 in the Margaret River area a competitor in the Australian Amateur Surfriders Association Annual Championships became stranded without his surfboard in treacherous seas. With no real knowledge of local conditions Mr Melhuish and another competitor went to his assistance. On their boards they managed to get the stranded surfboard rider out of the rip.

By his actions Mr Melhuish displayed commendable courage.

Mr Percy Henry MYERS
9/11 Gilham Avenue
GEORGE TOWN TAS 7253

On 9 March 1984 at about 8.50 a.m. two cars collided on the East Tamar Highway. Shortly after the collision one of the cars caught fire and the driver who was unconscious was trapped inside. Mr Myers was one of three persons who attempted to remove the driver from the smoke-filled car which subsequently exploded. As the driver was lifted from the car Mr Myers used his cap to beat out the flames from the side of the driver's body. He then helped to bring the trailer to the car and place the driver on it and assist in moving the trailer away from the fire.

By his actions Mr Myers displayed commendable courage.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

First Class Constable Joseph Alexander RYAN
Queensland Police Force

On 16 August 1983 First Class Constable Ryan and two others were directed to a panel van parked off the road at Macrossan. A sign attached to the window read "wired for bomb" and "do not touch" and between the front seats of the van was a device resembling a bomb. Wires led from it to all windows and a heavy chain was fastened to the front doors to prevent them from being opened. The motor was running and two plastic hoses connected to the exhaust pipes led to the interior. A man, still alive, was lying in the rear. Notwithstanding the dangerous situation Constable Ryan stood by ready to render assistance if necessary as his fellow constable removed the glass from one of the windows and eventually with assistance got the man out.

By his actions Constable Ryan displayed commendable courage.

Mr Jeff SALES
2/253 Boundary Street
COOLANGATTA QLD 4225

On Saturday 21 May 1983 in the Margaret River area a competitor in the Australian Amateur Surfriders Association Annual Championships lost his surfboard in treacherous seas and was caught in a rip. With no real knowledge of local conditions Mr Sales and another competitor went to his assistance. On their boards they managed to get the stranded surfboard rider out of the rip. On the advice of the organisers of the Championships he, avoiding the risk of being washed across on to a rocky cliff face, managed to paddle the stranded rider straight in through heavy surf.

By his actions Mr Sales displayed commendable courage.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Otto Alfred TIMM
59 Knightsbridge Avenue
VALLEY VIEW S.A. 5093

On 30 January 1983 Mr Timm was body-surfing at Goolwa Beach. The waves were one to two metres high and there was a strong undertow. He was 40 to 50 metres from the shore and was about to leave the water when hearing cries for help he saw a woman trying to wave her arm. She was 10 metres further out but as the undertow was moving in her direction Mr Timm reached her in 10 seconds. The woman by then was distressed and weak. Mr Timm floated her on her back and swimming sidestroke managed to bring her to safety.

By his actions Mr Timm undoubtedly saved the woman's life.

Mr David Craig TOYNE
18 Bluegum Road
YOUNGTOWN TAS 7250.

On 9 March 1984 at about 8.50 a.m. two cars collided on the East Tamar Highway. Shortly after the collision one of the cars caught fire and the driver who was unconscious was trapped inside.

Mr Toyne was one of three persons who attempted to remove the driver from the smoke-filled car which subsequently exploded. He released the seat belt, burning his left hand as he did so. Mr Toyne lent into the car and then managed to lift the driver out. The driver was then placed on the trailer and moved to safety.

By his actions Mr Toyne displayed commendable courage.