

GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Awardees comprise of several crew members from the 35 Water Transport Squadron attached to the Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition.

Kenneth Stanley BARRINGTON
Dudley Raymond CROWE
Timothy GAY
Gregory Dale KENNY
Alistair Andrew SCOTT

On the night of 3 December 1987, several crew members from the 35 Water Transport Squadron rescued passengers and crew from the *Nella Dan* and transported them to Macquarie Island.

On the day of the incident, the 75 metre polar vessel, *Nella Dan* had been moored off Macquarie Island for resupply operations also using a fuel line. Strengthening winds and rough seas developed in the early evening, causing the vessel to drag her anchor. The ship's hull ploughed in the rocky sea floor, opening up a hole in one of its fuel tanks. Within minutes of being alerted to the accident, members of the Squadron sailed three Light Amphibious Resupply Craft (LARC) into the huge seas to evacuate almost eighty Antarctic expeditioners and ship's crew. Although not suited to the dangerous conditions, the LARCs were manoeuvred alongside the *Nella Dan*. Howling winds hampered the rescue as fuel from the ruptured ship sprayed up on to the decks of the vessel and over the evacuation ladders and personnel, creating slippery and hazardous conditions. The stricken ship could be heard screeching as metal pounded against rock. In treacherous conditions the rescuers transferred people by Jacob's ladder and ropes to the LARCs which made one to two trips each back to shore. As a result of the skill and tenacity of the crew members, no one was seriously injured in the operation which was successfully completed in less than one hour.

For their actions, they are recognised by the award of the Group Citation for Bravery.

Kenneth Stanley BARRINGTON
Liverdale NSW 2752

Dudley Raymond CROWE
Keilor East Vic 3033

Timothy GAY
Hervey Bay Qld 4655

Gregory Dale KENNY
St Clair NSW 2759

Alistair Andrew SCOTT
Kirwan Qld 4817
Phone No: Not available