





INVESTITURE
AT
BUCKINGHAM PALACE

IN CONFIDENCE



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Secretary for Appointments
W E Chapman

4 November 2003

Dear Mr. Murray

I have the honour to inform you that The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve the Prime Minister's recommendation that The Queen's Gallantry Medal be awarded to you. Your name will appear in a list of awards to be published in a Supplement to the London Gazette on the morning of Tuesday 25 November 2003.

I should be grateful if this letter could be treated as strictly confidential until then. You should bear in mind, however, that you might be approached by the press the day before the official announcement and if, at that point, you wish to respond to any enquiries, please feel free to do so.

Yours sincerely

William Chapman

WILLIAM CHAPMAN

C Murray Esq
28 New Sheilings
Marybank
Stornoway
Isle of Lewis
Western Isles HS2 0DD

IN CONFIDENCE



Scottish Executive

St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Telephone: 0131-556 8400
scottish.ministers@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk>

Mr Chris Murray
28 New Sheilings
Marybank
Stornoway
Isle of Lewis
Western Isles
HS2 0DD

28 November 2003

Dear Mr Murray,

Congratulations on The Queen's Gallantry Medal award to you in recognition of your actions on 5 March 2001 when you helped rescue nine people from a German fishing vessel in the Outer Hebrides.

I am glad that your courageous actions have been recognised in this way. Please accept my warmest congratulations.

Best wishes

JACK MCCONNELL



CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD
ST JAMES'S PALACE, SW1A 1BH
TELEPHONE 020 7930 4832
FAX 020 7839 2983

From: Lieutenant Colonel Robert Cartwright

8th January 2004

INVESTITURE MP

Sir,

I am commanded to inform you that an Investiture will be held at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday, 18th February 2004 at which your attendance is requested.

You are to arrive at the Palace between the hours of **10.00 and 10.30 a.m.** Late arrival may result in your missing the Investiture on this date. **This letter should be shown on entering the gates of the Palace**, and at the Grand Entrance, as no other card of admission is issued to recipients. Cars may be parked in the Quadrangle of the Palace under police direction. A Car Park Label is enclosed.

You are permitted to bring with you **THREE** guests to watch the Ceremony. In **NO** circumstances will this number be increased. Tickets for them may be obtained by making application on the form enclosed herewith which should be returned to me as soon as possible.

It is possible for Service Personnel who are serving overseas to receive their insignia from Her Majesty's Representative in the country where they are stationed. Those who would prefer this option should inform this office within seven days.

DRESS

(a) Serving and Retired Military Personnel should refer to the attached instructions regarding Dress.

(b) It is usual for civilians and guests to wear Day Dress, Morning Dress or Lounge Suit.

(c) Civilians may, if they so desire wear the uniform of the Civil Organisation or Service to which they belong; in this case they are reminded that the ribbon of the Order they are to receive should be worn from the date of publication and at their Investiture together with any other ribbons to which they are entitled; otherwise they should wear Morning Dress or Lounge Suit. Orders, Decorations and Medals should not be worn.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Robert Cartwright

Secretary

Chris Murray, Esq., QGM



CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD
ST JAMES'S PALACE, SW1A 1BH
TELEPHONE 020 7930 4832
FAX 020 7839 2983

THE QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the award of:-

The Queen's Gallantry Medal

Chris Murray. HM Coastguard, Helicopter Winchman.

On 5 March 2001, in the early hours of the morning, the Stornoway HM Coastguard search and rescue helicopter crew were alerted to a distress signal from a German fishing vessel. The weather conditions were appalling with gale force winds, heavy seas and poor visibility. A life raft had been sighted but it was not clear who was on it or in what state. With the prevailing conditions the crew estimated they only had 20 minutes to effect the rescue even utilising the long range fuel tank. The sea was so rough that the aircraft system could not cope and it continually un-coupled the auto-hover. Manual controls were instigated to keep the aircraft low enough to winch but not so low as to be hit by the sea. The dark conditions meant that the winchman had to be lowered onto the life raft accurately and quickly. Once on board the life raft the winchman, at times, had to use his own strength to keep it from being washed and blown away from the helicopter. Nine casualties were found, mostly non English speaking. They were winched quickly and efficiently, two at a time, into the aircraft from a wildly unstable platform. The winch operator injured his shoulder caused by the rapid movement of the winch cable but despite the pain carried on working. The crew returned to base with only five minutes of fuel remaining.

25th November 2003



From the Parliamentary
Under Secretary of State

Chris Murray Esq
28 New Sheilings
Marybank
STORNOWAY
Isle of Lewis
Western Isles
HS2 0DD

Department for
Transport

Great Minster House
76 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DR

Tel: 020 7944 3084
Fax: 020 7944 4521
E-Mail: david.jamieson@dft.gsi.gov.uk

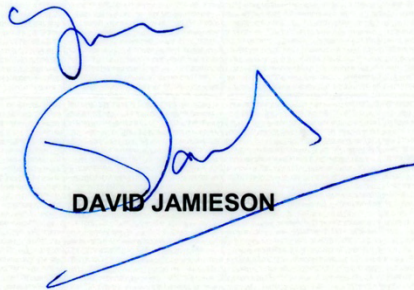
Web site: www.dft.gov.uk

- 3 DEC 2003

Dear Chris,

Congratulations on the Queen's Gallantry Medal award to you in recognition of your actions on 5 March 2001 when you helped rescue nine people from a German fishing vessel in the Outer Hebrides.

By your skill, courage and determination you were able to save others from a perilous situation. I am glad that your courageous actions have been recognised in this way. Please accept my warmest congratulations.



DAVID JAMIESON



Keith Chanter, Chief Executive

Bristow Helicopter Group Ltd
Redhill Aerodrome, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 5JZ
Tel: + 44 (0) 1737 822353
Fax: + 44 (0) 1737 822387

20th November 2003

Mr W.I. Murray
28 New Shelling
Marybank
Isle of Lewis
HS2 OBT

Dear *Chris,*

I read with great pride the account of "HANSA" S.A.R. mission carried out on 5th March 2001, and was pleased to see that your bravery and professionalism have been formally recognised. I know for many of you this is "just doing your job" but to my mind this understates your contribution to society and you should be rightly proud of your achievements.

Congratulations and well done.

Yours sincerely

Keith Chanter
Chief Executive

c.c. Willie Toner
Nick McDonald-Gibson



BRISTOW HELICOPTERS

INFORMATION FOR STAFF

COASTGUARD HELICOPTER CREW TO RECEIVE QUEEN'S AWARD

Tomorrow 18th February 2004, at Buckingham Palace, four of our colleagues from the SAR base in Stornoway, in the Outer Hebrides are to be honoured by the Queen for their rescue of 9 crewmen from the fishing vessel "HANSA", which sank 200 miles south west of the Outer Hebrides, on 5th March 2001.

Winchman Chris Murray is to receive the Queen's Gallantry Medal for remaining in the life raft, despite suffering a painful shoulder injury, and evacuating all nine survivors to the helicopter.

The other three members of the crew that night, Pilot Clark Broad, Co-Pilot Neil Stephenson and Winch Operator Julian "Smiler" Grinney will receive the Queen's Commendation for Bravery in the Air for keeping the helicopter in position, in gale force winds and heavy swells, to enable the safe evacuation of the fishing vessels crew.

When the Rescue Helicopter eventually landed at Benbecula, the nearest point of land to the scene, they only had 5 minutes fuel remaining on board the helicopter.

We are delighted that the crew have been honoured in this way. We congratulate them and hope tomorrow is a day to remember for them and their families.



W. TONER
Director European Operations

17th February 2004



**Church of Scotland
St Columba's Old Parish Church**

Minister: Rev Dr Angus Morrison
St Columba's Manse
Lewis Street
Stornoway
Isle of Lewis
HS1 2JF

Tel: 01851 703350

26 February 2004

Coastguard Rescue Helicopter Team
Stornoway Airport
Stornoway
Isle of Lewis

Dear Team Members

I write on behalf, and by instruction, of the Kirk Session of St Columba's Old Parish Church to express to you our warmest congratulations on the recent awards for bravery with which members of the Team were recently honoured by Her Majesty the Queen at Buckingham Palace. They were richly deserved. As a Kirk Session and congregation we greatly value the service which your Team, and others like it, provides so consistently for the saving of life. Your skill and courage command our boundless admiration, as it does that of many others.

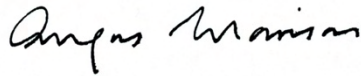
May I just add that you are remembered in our prayers at church services regularly. We assure you that this will continue.

Please accept our hearty congratulations on these marvellous achievements.

God bless and keep you all.

With every best wish to the whole Team

Yours sincerely



Rev Dr Angus Morrison

The East Guard Rescue
Helicopter Service.
Stornoway

Dear Sirs,

23. February

On reading 'The Times' on Friday last it was to see the photograph and report of the 'Hansa' rescue operation and their well deserved Honoures - their skill and courage was outstanding. I am full of admiration for these brave men.

I am an old man now but many years ago I was in the Royal Navy and following an action in the North Atlantic I was winched out of trouble by Helicopter, an experience I shall not forget. Would it be possible to obtain a more detailed account of the 'Hansa' rescue operation, from the ^{of TIME} 'May Day' call was received. I would be pleased to meet any cost involved

CHARLOTTE COTTAGE
MELROSE. SCOTLAND
T.D.6.9.G.S

Kind regards yours faithfully
John Partridge



Registered as a newspaper
Published by Authority
Established 1665

The London Gazette

of Monday 24 November 2003
Supplement No. 2

Honours and Awards

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF
THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD
St. James's Palace, London SW1
25th November 2003

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the following award of The Queen's Gallantry Medal and of the publication in *The London Gazette* of the names of those shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for Bravery or Bravery in the Air.

The Queen's Gallantry Medal

Chris MURRAY. HM Coastguard, Helicopter Winchman.

Queen's Commendation for Bravery in the Air

Julian GRINNEY. HM Coastguard, Helicopter Winch Operator.

Neill STEPHENSON. HM Coastguard, Helicopter Crew Pilot.

Clark BROAD. HM Coastguard, Helicopter Crew Pilot.

For their actions in rescuing nine people from a German fishing vessel in the Outer Hebrides.

On 5 March 2001, in the early hours of the morning, the Stornoway HM Coastguard search and rescue helicopter crew were alerted to a distress signal from a German fishing vessel. The weather conditions were appalling with gale force winds, heavy seas and poor visibility. A life raft had been sighted but it was not clear who was on it or in what state. With the prevailing conditions the crew

estimated they only had 20 minutes to effect the rescue even utilising the long range fuel tank. The sea was so rough that the aircraft system could not cope and it continually un-coupled the auto-hover. Manual controls were instigated to keep the aircraft low enough to winch but not so low as to be hit by the sea. The dark conditions meant that the winchman had to be lowered onto the life raft accurately and quickly. Once on board the life raft the winchman, at times, had to use his own strength to keep it from being washed and blown away from the helicopter. Nine casualties were found, mostly non English speaking. They were winched quickly and efficiently, two at a time, into the aircraft from a wildly unstable platform. The winch operator injured his shoulder caused by the rapid movement of the winch cable but despite the pain carried on working. The crew returned to base with only five minutes of fuel remaining.

Queen's Commendation for Bravery

Richard TESTA. Civilian.

John BALFE. Civilian.

For their actions in rescuing three disabled people from a private ambulance on fire.

On 6 July 2002 a private ambulance, carrying three severely disabled people with carers, was returning from Stockport to Leamington Spa on the M6 motorway. In North Staffordshire an acrid smell pervaded the vehicle and smoke began to pour through the ventilation grilles. The brakes failed but the driver managed to stop near an exit slip road. Attempts to extinguish the fire failed and it was discovered that the fire had burnt through the electrical harness and all systems were inoperable. Richard Testa and John Balfe, travelling South, saw the ambulance was on fire and stopped to assist. With the

217117

Helicopter Rescue,
Irish Coast Guard,
Shannon Airport,
Co. Clare.
Ireland.

08/03/01

Ph 00 353 61 474690/1

Maritime & Coastguard Agency,
Stornoway Coastguard,
Isle of Lewis,
Scotland.

Sinking of FV Hansa : 06/03/01

Dear sir/madam,

Another tragedy at sea and more lives lost. However 10 people owe their lives to the controllers in Scotland and Ireland, and to the many sea and air assets that were mobilised. Well done to all involved.

I was captain of the Irish Coast Guard S-61 from Shannon that participated in the search and rescue mission after the sinking of the FV Hansa. Our crew was dispatched from Shannon and after waiting in Blacksod, routed to the scene. We recovered one survivor from a Norwegian vessel and took him to Benbecula. Weather and strong winds prevented us from returning to Ireland. We overnighted in Stornoway.

I wish to pass on my congratulations to the crew of the Stornoway S-61 for their fantastic rescue earlier that morning. We encountered the same weather, winds and sea states as they did. We flew by day; their mission was by night. We fly an almost identical aircraft and understand fully the critical situation that crew found themselves in. The difference was that they recovered 9 survivors from liferafts in the most challenging conditions, at night and at the very limit of their range. They landed with very low fuel.

If there is a system of awards or citations in the UK, I would ask that my comments be passed on to the relevant committee or board. There is no doubt amongst my crew, that the actions and excellence of the Stornoway S-61 crew saved 9 lives that morning. Awards are rare in SAR but I have no hesitation as a fellow member of the SAR fraternity, in recommending them for an appropriate citation.

On behalf of the Irish Coast Guard and the Shannon SAR unit; thank you for looking after us, in the air and on the ground. We hope to be able to return the favour and share some Irish hospitality with you at some future date.

Yours sincerely



David Courtney

Capt
Chief Pilot

NO Josh enclosed!

Cc:

Capt Kirwan, Director Irish Coast Guard,
Capt Elphinstone, Chief Pilot Stornoway.

BRISTOW HELICOPTERS

LIMITED

ABERDEEN AIRPORT . DYCE . ABERDEEN . AB21 ONT

TELEPHONE: (01224) 723151

FAX: (01224) 770120

Ref: NO/as/1591.L

7th March 2001

Captain A. Elphinstone
Bristow Helicopters Limited
Stornoway Airport
STORNOWAY
Isle of Lewis
HS2 0BN

Dear Alan,

Having just read the report of the rescue of nine survivors from a life raft after abandoning a sinking German boat, I want to pass on the thanks of the rest of the Bristow team to the Stornoway Bristow Crew for representing yourselves, your country and your company in such an exemplary manner. The teamwork and professionalism that is required to accomplish such a mission without compromising the safety of the operation is evident in reading the report and is highly commendable.

Please offer our thanks and commendation to Mssrs. Broad, Stephenson, Grinney and Murray for a job well done.

Yours sincerely,
On behalf of **Bristow Helicopters Limited**



NEILL OSBORNE
Director, European Operations

CHRIS MURRAY

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

FROM: N C McDonald-Gibson

TO: Alan Elphinstone

DATE: 18 November 2000

SUBJECT: 'Elektron' rescue

Alan

I find it difficult to pick out one event and give any particular praise because I know that some of the events which do not make the papers can and do require the same levels of skill and courage as the more dramatic rescues which make the headlines. Likewise, it seems unfair to single out one person when invariably it is the whole crew who make a success of any rescue.

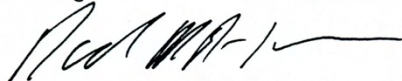
That said, having read the reports of Chris Murray's exploits with regard to the Elektron, this does sound to be one of those 'extra special' events in the life of a SAR winchman which he probably does not want to re-live too many times!

The conditions sounded truly horrendous and I am sure that it was an 'experience' for the whole crew but to be hanging on the end of the winch wire in such conditions must be one of the most frightening experiences that it is possible to imagine.

Would you please pass on to all the crew a very sincerely meant WELL DONE from me and the other directors here at Redhill. Keith Chanter is very aware of the activities which take place on the SAR units and regularly reads the SAR reports and asks for further explanation either from myself or Peter Barnes and he specifically wanted more details of this rescue, which I thank you for supplying.

I do hope Chris's aches and pains are well on their way to feeling better and again express from all of us here a hearty well done for this extraordinary fete.

Best regards



Nick McDonald-Gibson
Commercial Director



Maritime and Coastguard Agency

NEWS RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 00:01 25TH NOVEMBER 2003

Press Notice 341/03
2003

25 November

COASTGUARD HELICOPTER CREW TO RECEIVE QUEEN'S AWARD

The crew of the Coastguard Rescue Helicopter based in Stornoway, in the Outer Hebrides, are to be honoured by the Queen for their rescue of 9 crewmen from the fishing vessel "HANSA", which sank 200 miles south west of the Outer Hebrides, on 5th March 2001.

Winchman Chris Murray is to receive the Queen's Gallantry Medal for remaining in the liferaft, despite suffering a painful shoulder injury, and evacuating all nine survivors to the helicopter.

The other three members of the crew that night, Pilot Clark Broad, Co-Pilot Neil Stephenson and Winch Operator Julian "Smiler" Grinney will receive the Queen's Commendation for Bravery in the Air for keeping the helicopter in position, in gale force winds and heavy swells, to enable the safe evacuation of the fishing vessels crew.

When the Rescue Helicopter eventually landed at Benbecula, the nearest point of land to the scene, they only had 5 minutes fuel remaining on board the helicopter.

The Chief Coastguard John Astbury said:

"We are immensely proud that these Awards have been gained in the finest traditions of Search and Rescue, and show that these individuals did their up most to save the lives of those in danger. Our helicopter crew displayed great courage and initiative putting the lives of others before their own safety, and I am delighted and honoured that these Commendations have been announced today."

**For further information please contact
the Maritime and Coastguard Agency Press Office, on:
(023) 8032 9401**

Press Releases and further information about the MCA is available on the web at:

BRISTOW HELICOPTERS

INFORMATION FOR STAFF

AWARDS

During these difficult times it is particularly pleasing to be able to announce some good news. The Company has for many years been the leader in several areas within the Helicopter industry and the present is no exception.

At the recent British Helicopter Advisory Board Annual Dinner Captain Nick Norman was presented with the Eric Brown Award for 2003. This award is given to the individual who has contributed the most towards the Helicopter Industry during the past twelve months. Nick's success in managing the HOMP Project has quite rightly been recognised by the Industry and we would wish to join the BHAB in congratulating Nick on his well deserved award.

On the 5th March 2001 the crew of G-BIMU comprising Clark Broad, Neill Stephenson, Smiler Grinney and Chris Murray effected the rescue of nine survivors from the fishing vessel "Hansa" in extreme weather conditions. Their skill and courage has been recognised by the Queen and we are delighted that the crew has been honoured in such a prestigious way.

Citations for both awards are attached to this notice.

WELL DONE!

David Miller
Head of Flight Operations (Europe)

25th November 2003

