

C.S.

MISCELLANEOUS.

193 1

No. 167/31.

C. S. O.

SUBJECT.

193 1.

9th June

Previous Paper.

Rescue of Mr. J. G. Rowlands from drowning
by Mr. I. B. Steen.

MINUTES.

- 1-2. Report from Mr. I. B. Steen. 4th June, 1931.
3. Report from Mr. J. G. Rowlands. 4th June, 1931.
4. Letter to Mr. I. B. Steen. 9th June, 1931.
5. Report from Mr. D. Riddle 25th June, 1931.
6. Letter to Honorary Norwegian Consul. 1st July, 1931.
- 7-9. Despatch No. 124 to D. of D. of 1st July, 1931.

~~2/7/31~~
~~2/7/31~~
 of. 30/9/31.
 G. 22 2/7/31

10. Letter from Norwegian Consul. 6/7/31.

of. 30/9/31.
 G. 22 8/7/31.

Subsequent Paper.

4. 4. 32
18 2. 1. 32

31/12/34
1/10/34

S. of S. despatch, N^o. 138 of the 4 Dec. 1931

(11)

y. 2. Sch. y. 2 may visit

me to see Mr. Sten at

upon his personal of the work.

2. Later y. 2. may visit

also on some suitable public

occasion to make a formal

presentation of the medal at

Certificat to him.

How @. S.
yes: certainly
in both cases

16-2-32

16. 2. 32

16

("Penguin")

H. C. S.

Parliamentary

Publication Penguin

20. 2. 32. 15. 2. 32.

6. 31. 3. 32.
a. 8. 19. 2. 32.
V

6. 7. 15. 4. 32.
J. 31. 3. 32.

6. 7. 15. 5. 32.

J. 15. 4. 32.

Y. 2.

A fitting opportunity to present

the medal and certificate with

to the first night of the May

Ball on May 23rd. In the

Ordinary course I assume that Y. 2.

will receive an invitation to the

Ball and will attend it as an

official occasion.

2. On this assumption; at
subject to G.S.'s approval 1
will make the necessary arrangements.

Ind

9.5.32.

Hon C.S.

approved
J.O.G.
10.5.32

Spoke Chief Constable

b.f. 20.5.32

J.O.G. 11.5.32.

Letter to the Secretary, Royal Humane Society. 9.6.32. 12.

Respatch to S. of S. No. 110 of 9/6/32 13.

P.A. Ind
9.6.32

I James George Rowlands, declare that on Thursday the 28th of May 1931, I proceeded to Johnson's Harbour from Stanley as a member of the crew of the motor boat owned by Mr. Steen. We arrived at our destination at about 1.30 pm. on the same day and anchored from 5 to 6 Cables from the shore. I immediately went ashore in the pram in company with Mr. Steen and two passengers. The wind at the time was very strong. After landing Mr. Steen and the passengers I rowed back to the motor boat with Mr. C. Halkett and Mr. D. Kiddle returning shortly afterwards with Mr. Kiddle to the shore. I then left the beach alone with the intention of going on board the motor boat again. I was sitting down rowing. The wind was from the north off land, with a heavy sea running. When about 180 yards from the beach and just outside a kelp belt of some 20 yards in depth the pram gave a lurch and the ~~st~~ port oar was thrown out of the rowlock. I at the same moment being ^{head first} tossed into the sea. After entering the water I commenced to choke and remember nothing more until I gained consciousness and found myself lying on the beach.

J. George. Rowlands.

Stanley.

4th June 1931.

• I, Iver Ryane Steen, declare that on Thursday the 28th of May, 1931, I proceeded from Stanley in my motor boat for Johnson's Harbour, arriving there about 1.30 pm and anchoring some 5 to 6 cables from the shore. I went on shore shortly afterwards in the pinn with Mr. J. Rowlands, one of my crew, and two passengers, Mr. C. Hackett and Mr. D. Kiddle. I remained on the beach while Mr. Rowlands returned to the motor boat with Mr. C. Hackett and Mr. D. Kiddle. Mr. Rowlands then came back to the beach with Mr. Kiddle leaving again with the intention of bringing Mr. Hackett on shore. The wind at the time was blowing very hard from the north with a heavy sea running and the weather bitterly cold. When Mr. Rowlands was about 180 yards from the beach and just clear of a kelp patch about 20 yards wide I saw him thrown from the pinn head first into the water and disappear. He could not swim. I immediately plunged into the water fully dressed and wearing a pair of rubber waders, and swam to his rescue. I had some difficulty in getting through the kelp, which was very thick. Just before I reached him he came to the surface after having been under the water for the second time. He was lying on his back motionless and I thought he was dead. He suddenly commenced to struggle and almost as I was in reach of him he sank and was disappearing for the third time. I dived and grasped him by the collar. He struggled very hard when I caught hold of him. He appeared to be unconscious. I held him with one hand and swam back to the beach

which I reached with great difficulty owing to the thickness of the kelp. I could not use my feet to swim through the kelp as I would have got tangled up. I pulled myself with one hand pushing the kelp under me as best I could. When I got on shore I layed Rowlands on a rock on his back and applied artificial respiration after 5 minutes of which he regained consciousness.

I estimate the time from when I left the beach until I returned to be about fifteen minutes.

The water was very cold and chilled me but I could not say what the temperature was. There was a heavy frost the same evening. I could not get warm for two days.

Pressions

Stanley.
4th June 1931

167/31.

9th June,

31.

Sir,


I am directed by the Acting Governor to convey to you the expression of His Excellency's appreciation of the act of exceptional gallantry performed by you in rescuing Mr. J. G. Rowlands from drowning at Johnson's Harbour on the 28th of May, 1931.

2. I am to add that His Excellency has had much pleasure in reporting the circumstances of this act to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and to the Norwegian Consul at Stanley.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



for Colonial Secretary.

Mr. I. B. Steen,
STANLEY.

I, Donald John Kiddle, declare that I was at Johnson's Harbour on the 28th of May 1931, and that I had been on board Mr. Steen's motor boat with Mr. Rowlands. I returned to the shore in a frame with Rowlands and left the beach shortly afterwards to go on board the motor boat which was anchored some distance from the shore. There was a strong north-west off shore wind blowing at the time and when Rowlands was, as far as I can say, about 50 yards from the beach one of his oars came out of the rowlock and he was thrown head first into the sea. Mr. Steen who was also on the beach plunged into the water fully dressed and wearing a pair of rubber thigh boots, and swam to Rowlands through a belt of kelp about 15 yards wide, Mr. Rowlands could not swim and was going down for the third time when Mr. Steen reached him. Mr. Steen had to dive to grasp Rowlands. He then swam back to the beach with Rowlands after a struggle in the water. I walked out from the beach above my knees in water and assisted Mr. Steen in keeping Rowlands' head out of the water. He was unconscious when we got him on shore. He was laid on the beach and after working with him for about 5 or 10 minutes he came round.

If it had not been for Mr. Steen's bravery Rowlands would have drowned the water was very cold.

D. Kiddle.

Stanley,
25th June 1931

167/31.

1st July,

31

Sir,

I am directed to bring formally to your notice an act of exceptional gallantry performed by Mr. I. B. Steen of Stanley, a Norwegian subject, who rescued Mr. J. G. Rowlands also of Stanley from death by drowning at Johnson's Harbour, East Falkland, on the 26th of May, 1931.

2. I attach copies of statements made in this connection by Mr. Steen, Mr. Rowlands and Mr. D. Kiddle, who was an eye-witness of the occurrence.


3. I am to say that in particular you will observe that in order to rescue Mr. Rowlands Mr. Steen swam fully dressed and wearing thigh boots a distance in either direction variously estimated at from fifty to a hundred and eighty yards through a broad belt of thick kelp in water of a temperature but little above freezing point.

4. I am to add that His Excellency has been pleased to bring to the notice of the Secretary of State for the Colonies the circumstances of this case with the view, if considered proper, of the grant to Mr. Steen of some appropriate award by the Royal Humane Society.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,


Colonial Secretary.

The Consul for Norway,
STANLEY.

FAULKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 124.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

STANLEY.

1st July, 1931.

My Lord,

I have the honour to bring to Your Lordship's notice an act of exceptional gallantry on the part of Mr. Iver Bjarne Steen of Stanley who rescued Mr. James George Rowlands also of Stanley from drowning at Johnson's Harbour, East Falkland, on the 28th of May, 1931, in the following circumstances.

2. Mr. Steen, who owns and runs a motor vessel engaged locally in the coasting trade, was on the shore at Johnson's Harbour on the date mentioned when Mr. Rowlands, who is about twenty years of age and is a member of his crew, started to row out to the motor vessel in a small boat or pram. After covering a distance from the shore variously estimated at from fifty to a hundred and eighty yards Mr. Rowlands fell out of the pram and being unable to swim was in imminent peril of death by drowning. Mr. Steen, however, plunged straightway into the sea, fully dressed as he was and wearing thigh-boots, and swam to Mr. Rowlands whom he reached just in time and succeeded with supreme effort in bringing safe to land. Mr.

Rowlands/

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
LORD PASSFIELD OF PASSFIELD CORNER, P.C.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

Rowlands at the present moment is none the worse for his experience and owes his life solely to Mr. Steen's courage and endurance. I attach copies of detailed statements in regard to the occurrence made by Mr. Steen and Mr. Rowlands and also Mr. D. Kiddle, who was an eye-witness.

3. In relating these circumstances I have to emphasize particularly the facts that at this season of the year the temperature of the sea water off the coasts of the Colony is but little above freezing point and that at Johnson's Harbour between the shore and the place where Mr. Rowlands was immersed lies a broad belt of thick kelp, through which both going and returning Mr. Steen literally had to fight his way.

4. Mr. Steen is a Norwegian by birth and nationality who has been resident in the Colony since the year 1910. He is married to a Falkland Islands lady and until recently has been manager of the sheep-farming station on Weddell Island, West Falkland.

5. I consider that Mr. Steen's action is desiring of official recognition and, if Your Lordship thinks fit and his alien nationality constitutes no bar, I have to suggest that it may be brought to the notice of the Royal Humane Society with the view to his being granted an appropriate award.

6. I have caused the circumstances of the case to be/

ENCLOSURE NO. I.
ENCLOSURE NO. II.
ENCLOSURE NO. III.

be communicated formally to the Norwegian Consul
at Stanley.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient
humble servant,

(sgd)

J. O'Grady

THE NORWEGIAN CONSULATE.

STANLEY. FALKLAND ISLANDS.

6th July, 1931.



Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 167/31 dated the 1st instant (with enclosures) which I have perused with interest.

I note that His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to bring to the notice of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the circumstances of this case with the view, if considered proper, of the grant to Mr Steen of some appropriate award by the Royal Humane Society.

Copies of your letter and enclosures are being forwarded to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Oslo.

I am,

Sir,

your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "L. J. ...", written over a horizontal line.

Consul.

The Honourable

The Colonial Secretary.

Stanley.



FALKLAND ISLANDS

No. 139

DOWNING STREET,

4 December, 1931.

Sir,

Reds. 6-9.

I have the honour to refer to your despatch No. 124 of the 1st of July 1931 and to enclose a Bronze Medal and Certificate which have been awarded by the Royal Humane Society to Mr Iver Bjarne Steen for his act of gallantry in rescuing Mr J.G. Rowlands from the sea at Johnson's Harbour, East Falkland, on the 28th of May last.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble servant,

(Sgd.) P. CUNLIFFE-LISTER.

GOVERNOR

SIR JAMES O'GRADY, K.C.M.G.,

&c., &c., &c.

167/31.

9th June

32.

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor to inform you that the Bronze Medal and Certificate awarded by the Royal Humane Society to Mr. Iver Bjarne Steen was duly presented to him by His Excellency on a public occasion at the Town Hall, Stanley, on the 23rd of May, 1932.

2. I am to say that the recognition so accorded to Mr. Steen's act of gallantry has met with great appreciation in the Colony.

3. I am to return the enclosed note which was forwarded with the Bronze Medal and Certificate for Mr. Steen but which evidently refers to another case.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary,
The Royal Humane Society,
Watergate House,
York Buildings
Adelphi W.C.2.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
STANLEY.

9th June, 1932.

FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No. 110.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 138 of the 4th of December, 1931, and to inform you that the Bronze Medal and Certificate awarded by the Royal Humane Society to Mr. Iver Bjarne Steen were duly presented to him by me at a public dance held in the Town Hall, Stanley, on the 23rd of May, 1932.

2. I have to request that, if you think proper, an expression may be conveyed to the Royal Humane Society of the appreciation felt by this Government at the recognition so accorded to Mr. Steen's act of gallantry.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient
humble servant,

JAMES O'GRADY.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
SIR PHILIP CUNLIFFE-LISTER,
G.B.E., P.C., M.C., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.