



1956 Mountbatten Medal – Bernard Litwack

At 11.35am on Friday, 27th April 1956, a very cold day, a man was trapped on a sandbank on a rapidly rising tide. Mr Litwack saw the man and realising that he was trapped and in difficulties immediately undressed and swam three quarters of a mile against a strong tide. After swimming for 35 minutes Mr Litwack, who is a very powerful swimmer, arrived on the sandbank which was not yet completely covered.

In the meantime a Police Officer had arrived on the seafront in a police car and appreciating that in the prevailing conditions of cold and strong tide Mr Litwack would have extreme difficulty in getting himself and the trapped man back to the beach, he called Police Headquarters by wireless and asked that a D.U.K.W. should be sent to the beach. The D.U.K.W. entered the water at 12.30pm and reached the two men some ten minutes later, by which time both men were in water up to their chests. They were lifted into the D.U.K.W and brought ashore. Both men were taken to Southport Infirmary. After a short stay the man who had been trapped was returned to his home, but Mr Litwack, who was in a state of exhaustion, was detained for some hours during which oxygen was administered to him.