



1962 Mountbatten Medal – Hilary Westerman

Miss Hilary Westerman, a 14 year old pupil of Ackworth School, rescued a 32 year old woman from the Waterloo Lake in Roundhay Park, Leeds, on the afternoon of 15th August, 1962.

The lake was formerly a quarry, the depth of water is some 30 feet and at the point at which the rescue was made the bank is sheer. Because of the depth and dirtiness of the water bathing in the lake is forbidden. Hilary Westerman's attention was drawn to the woman by the screams of three girls, aged about 18. The woman was unconscious and floating face downwards in the water about 10 yards from the bank. Hilary Westerman sent her 10-year-old sister to call an ambulance before removing her shoes and coat and entering the water. She was frightened by the screams of the girls and became very afraid when the woman's body turned over in the water and she saw her face which was by then completely blue. She brought the woman to the bank where a man from a boat helped to land her. Although very exhausted Hilary Westerman applied the Holger Nielson method of artificial respiration for some 10 minutes until relieved by a Park Ranger.

Hilary Westerman gained the Society's Bronze Medallion at Acworth School in July, 1960 and one month before the rescue had successfully passed the examination for the Bronze Cross at the same school.