



1965 Mountbatten Medal – Terrence H. Scorer

On 23rd August, 1965, at the Blowhole Rocks, north of Carnarvon, Western Australia, William Ammon and his 12 year old son were looking for a place from which to fish. The sea was rough with a heavy swell. They were standing on the rocks about 15 feet above sea level, when a large wave washed Mr. Ammon down a blowhole, under the reef and out to sea. Ammon remained calm and knew that he could not reach the shore unaided against the strong current which was sweeping him further out to sea. He shouted to his son to get away from the blowholes.

Terrance Harold Scorer was on the beach with his father and another man and, hearing a cry, ran to investigate. When he sighted Ammon, the latter was about 600 yards from the shore. Scorer put on his flippers and waited for a wave which would carry him over the reef, knowing that it would be impossible to get back over the reef without help from others who had gathered. At this point the waves dash into an overhanging shelf of rock with great force. Scorer swam out to Ammon and after a long struggle with the current brought him back to the reef. The area is known to be patrolled by large sharks and six had been reported during the previous week: during rescue the two men were circled several times by a large shark. Scorer now supported Ammon at the edge of the reef, waiting for a group of men to improviser a rope. After many attempts the men got the rope out to Scorer and he secured it round Ammon, who was brought up onto the reef with difficulty. Well Ammon was being taken back to the shore, Scorer swam away from the reef as he was in constant danger of being dashed against it. Throughout this part of the rescue the rope team were in constant danger of being swept into the sea by the surging waves. In all Scorer was in the water for over an hour.