



1972 Mountbatten Medal – David Rowe

On 14th August, 1972 David John Rowe was a member of a two canoe patrol paddling down the Simalkameen River, when a truck ran off the highway and came to rest in 9 feet of water. David Rowe beached his canoe and will and with the aid of the others in his patrol righted the vehicle. David Rowe then commenced diving for the people trapped in the truck. He had to break the window of the truck with a stone to gain entry. After two minutes of diving, he brought Mrs. Byrne to the surface and handed her over to the others to get to the shore. He then brought up a two year old girl. The truck driver was trapped between the steering wheel and the door and David Rowe had to dive four or five times before he was able to free the driver and bring him to the surface

Mrs. Byrne and the child survived; the driver could not be revived.

The river is fast running and very cold as it is fed from mountain streams.