



1982 Mountbatten Medal – Kenneth Raynor

On the afternoon of 6 June 1982, a water spectacular was taking place at Colwick Country Park. Members of the RLSS Lifeguard Club at the Park were engaged in ensuring the safety of the many participants; swimming in a portion of the West Lake normally set aside for this purpose, should not have been taking place because the lifeguard patrol flags were not being flown. Despite this, some 50 people were in the water. Three of them swam over to the booms which cordon off this area and one, Declan Quigley, who was a weak swimmer, lost his hold on the boom as he made his way along them with his companions. Within seconds, he disappeared from sight under the water. Members of the public summoned the Colwick Park Life Guard Club patrol boat, "ERRILL P", and other land-based lifeguards from the Club to the scene

At once, a regular pattern of diving and searching was commenced by the lifeguards in the very murky waters around the boom from which Quigley had slipped. This was complemented by a line and anchor drag search, coordinated from the patrol boat. Kenneth Raynor completed 10 free dives after swimming some 60 yards to the scene, as a part of this search procedure. When the anchor caught on a submerged object, he then swam down the line to recover other casualty from a muddy bottom at a depth of some 20 feet. With the assistance of lifeguard David Morton, resuscitation was applied in the water until the casualty could be transferred to the boat. Raynor continued resuscitation in the boat during the short trip to the bank. Despite all efforts of cardiopulmonary resuscitation by the lifeguards and by the ambulance crew, Declan Quigley was pronounced dead on arrival at hospital. HM coroner for Nottinghamshire, in recording a verdict of misadventure on the deceased, praised the efforts of the life guard club and especially those of Kenneth Raynor

For his determination and skill in recovering the casualty at a considerable depth and in conditions of almost zero visibility, the Mountbatten Medal for 1982 is awarded to Kenneth John Raynor.