



1985 Mountbatten Medal – Holly Phillips

On the evening of 3 August, 1985 in good weather with calm seas, Holly Jacqueline Phillips (aged 15) was taking part in the Regatta festivities at Swanage Bay, Dorset when the 10 foot dinghy carrying her and Stephen Munday (aged 18) capsized just off the stone quay.

The boat was swept away on a very strong outgoing tide. Stephen swam after it but at approximately 100 yards distance from the quay he became exhausted. Noticing his difficulties, Holly swam quickly to the rescue and upon reaching the casualty she found him to be semi-conscious and struggling feebly to grasp the mooring line of the boat. He was wearing overalls and heavy boots which the rescuer desperately tried to remove. Unable to accomplish this she immediately began a tow back to the shore reassuring the casualty in an attempt to make him relax. Halfway to the shore the casualty lost consciousness but did not stop breathing; a boat came to assist but it proved impossible to lift Stephen's heavy and stiff body aboard and Holly continued with the tow checking at regular intervals that the casualty was breathing.

A lifeboatman and fisherman assisted in lifting Stephen's body to the beach and he was placed in the recovery position until an ambulance took him to hospital where he was detained until 6 August 1985.

Miss Phillips, a pupil at Saint Paul's Girls' School, London, holds the Award of Merit of The Royal Life Saving Society United Kingdom. For her swift action, determination and courage in effecting a successful rescue in very difficult circumstances, the Mountbatten Medal of The Royal Life Saving Society for 1985 is awarded to Holly Jacqueline Phillips.