



1989 Mountbatten Medal – Philip Cassidy

On 21 July, 1989 at 1.15 PM Philip John Cassidy was on the beach at Dunure, Ayrshire with his wife and grandchild. He noticed Niceleno Mastrangioli enter the water wearing seemingly new sub-aqua equipment and suspected that he could be an inexperienced diver.

Philip was concerned that the diver was unaccompanied in the water and became increasingly worried about the frequency with which was submerging and resurfacing.

The diver became distressed and shouted for help. Philip quickly prevented Mr Mastrangioli's girlfriend from entering the water and instructed her to summon the emergency services. He then waded into the water, swam to 200 metres to the casualty and, after giving advice and reassurance, supported the casualty by holding the collar of his wetsuit. Attempts to discard the casualty's weighted belt failed and the rescuer began the long tow to shore. Despite the pain and discomfort from a recently broken collarbone and hampered by the weight of the casualty wearing full diving equipment, the tow was successfully completed.

Coinciding with the arrival of the emergency services the casualty's distress increased and he appeared to be suffering from severe shock. A helicopter was summoned from RAF Bulmar and the casualty was conveyed to the naval base at Faslane, placed in a decompression chamber for thirty-six hours and subsequently made a complete recovery.

The rescue fully maintains the high standard demanded by the Mountbatten Medal. Particularly outstanding is the adherence to Society teaching and the way the whole rescue was professionally and efficiently conducted.