



2002 MOUNTBATTEN MEDAL

LEE WARRENER - UNITED KINGDOM

At 10.30 pm on Sunday, 23 June 2002 Lee Warrener, aged 19 years, a holder of the Royal Life Saving Society United Kingdom's National Pool Lifeguard Qualification was driving his car beside the River Nene on the Peterborough to Whittlesey Road towards Peterborough City Centre, when he noticed the lights of an oncoming Ford Mondeo car go off the road on its offside and into the river. He immediately got out of his car and rang 999 on his mobile phone requesting assistance. He realised that the assistance would take some time to reach the scene and he could hear groaning coming from within the car as it was sinking into the river. It is right to add that the river is 15 feet deep at this point. Lee immediately pulled off his clothes and in the darkness entered the water and swam alongside the sinking car feeling for a door handle. He managed to open the rear door and swam inside, whilst the car was continuing to sink. He noticed that there was a single occupant who was sprawled across the steering wheel. To use Lee's words, "All I was thinking was to get him out because he wasn't breathing". Lee managed to grab the driver by his arm and pulled him from the vehicle via the front passenger door and up onto the bank. He cleared the man's airway and proceeded to give him mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. The man subsequently regained consciousness before the emergency services arrived.

The victim Colin Strickland aged 38 years from Peterborough was then taken to hospital where he made a good recovery. The whole rescue took about 10 minutes. The Cambridgeshire Police has since said that the accident would undoubtedly have had a tragic result had it not been for Lee's courage and they submitted his name for a Royal Humane Society Award. This Award has now been presented to Lee.

The Northeast Cambridgeshire MP, Malcolm Moss has commented, "Lee is a shining example of how lifesaving skills, when applied effectively, really do make the difference between life and death. Research shows that people have an 80% chance of survival when someone is on hand who knows how to rescue and resuscitate".

Lee has subsequently said, "I don't think I'm a hero, I did what I was trained to do".

For the above heroic rescue Lee Warrener is awarded the 2002 Mountbatten Medal.