

**Edward Gordon SMITH, Constable, Liverpool and Bootle Constabulary.  
21<sup>st</sup> July 1970**

At about midnight a Constable heard shouting and splashing coming from between a river wall and a floating landing stage and saw a man in the water being carried along on an ebbing tide. Throwing a lifebelt, which the man ignored, the Constable blew his whistle for assistance and was joined by Constable Smith. In spite of the low temperature and the dangerous currents, Constable Smith discarded his tunic and shoes, dived into the river and swam towards the man., Taking hold of him Constable Smith then began an arduous swim from beneath a boom to an unmanned launch. The Constable tried to haul the man aboard the launch, but on account of the man's condition, the turbulence of the water and his own exhausted state the unconscious man slipped from his grasp and disappeared below the surface. Constable Smith immediately submerged to try and locate the drowning man. When the tide is ebbing in this part of the river, the suction and the current between the pontoons of the floating landing stage are extreme and there are additional hazards such as underwater chains. Unfortunately the Constable's efforts were in vain ; weakened by the cold and exhaustion, he was forced to abandon his search after twice facing the dangers of an intensively cold ebbing tide in a particularly dangerous area.