

Graham David PRIEST, Cadet, Liverpool City Police.

William John SASS, Cadet, Liverpool City Police 18th August 1964.

Cadets Priest and Sass were on duty at a Pier Head when they were told that a woman was drowning in the river. They ran to the top of a bridge and saw the woman in the water between the river wall and a floating Landing Stage, being swept by the strong current towards a second bridge. Priest immediately discarded his police raincoat, tunic and boots, and dived into the river while Sass ran down the bridge to the Landing Stage, where he threw off his greatcoat, seized a lifebelt, and dived into the river. Both Cadets swam towards the woman. Priest reached her first and, turning her on to her back, supported her in the water. The woman commenced to struggle and Priest had a great deal of difficulty in retaining his hold until the arrival of Cadet Sass, who had released the lifebelt because of its impeding action. The Cadets and the woman were then carried by the strong flood tide towards the second bridge. A boat was rowed out towards them but they had drifted down-river past the bridge for a distance of approximately 90 yards before it reached them. The woman was then lifted into the boat and the Cadets held on to the sides while it was rowed to the steps near a third bridge. This part of the river is notorious for its treacherous and dangerous currents, and water flowing behind the Landing Stage is turbulent and heavily contaminated by slime and waste oil.