

William James CLARKSON, Constable, Liverpool City Police. 29th June 1965

Leslie Wyn EDWARDS, Constable, Liverpool City Police.

Brian FELTON, Constable, Liverpool City Police.

Harold William LEWIS, Constable, Liverpool City Police.

(Robert DICK, Driver, Liverpool Corporation Passenger Transport (Huyton.)also awarded same incident)

A woman who had been suffering from a nervous disorder, and had been drinking heavily during the evening, was seen to climb over the railings of a river wall and jump into the river.

She was wearing a heavy fur coat. Constables Felton and Clarkson who were on duty nearby, ran along the river wall and saw the woman floating in the water about 10 yards away. Both Constables took off their uniform caps, jackets and boots, and jumped into the water, the surface of which was then about 20 feet from the top of the wall. The water and the side of the river wall are heavily contaminated at this point with mud, slime and waste oil. The officers swam to the woman and supported her in the water. They were then joined by Mr. Dick, who had jumped into the water shortly after the officers. He assisted in supporting the woman who commenced to scream and struggle violently. They swam with her to the wall and eventually found a ringbolt attached to the wall about 4 feet from the surface of the water, which they grasped, and supported the woman between them. A crowd of persons, many of whom were of the hooligan element, gathered at the top of the wall. Some of them shouted and jeered at the rescuers, threw cups and other missiles and poured hot tea on them, which had been obtained from a nearby coffee stall. Constable Clarkson was struck by a cup, but fortunately was not injured. Constable Edwards, saw his colleagues struggling with the woman in the water. He removed his jacket and boots and then jumped into the water to help support the struggling woman. Constable Lewis, hearing shouts and screams, went to the south side of the river removed his jacket and boots and dived in from the landing stage. He swam to the river wall and assisted in supporting the woman. There is little doubt that but for the action of Constables Felton, Clarkson, Edwards, Lewis, and Mr. Dick, this unfortunate woman would have drowned. They entered a tidal river on a cold night and risked their lives by continuing to retain their hold on her, despite her maniacal efforts at self destruction, and in the face of the shameful conduct of a number of hooligans, whose actions could well have prevented her rescue. In spite of the fierce struggles of the drowning woman and the considerable obstruction caused by the actions of hooligans, they persisted in their rescue efforts and with great courage and tenacity retained their hold upon her.