



GALLANTRY AWARD

BRONZE

Presented to

Reece Sheldon

For his courage and determination during an Operation that started on the evening of 20 October 2023 and continued into the morning of 21st, when Reece served as crew of Station 2 Bakoven aboard their Rescue Craft Gemini Legend, supported by Shore Control staff, went to the aid of 11 fishermen whose craft was disabled and sinking off Green Point Lighthouse in Force 10 storm conditions.

The 8m RIB fishing vessel carrying 11 crew on board had been swamped by the prevailing conditions and was now at risk of capsizing and sinking. At this stage, they had water-contaminated fuel tanks and complete electrical failure. Their presumed location at this stage was 1nm West of Robben Island (RI) and drifting rapidly out to sea due to the intense South Easterly winds which at this point were gusting in the region of 55 knots.

NSRI Station 2 launched their rescue vessel Gemini Legend 6.5m RIB just after midnight and in dark moonless conditions, after several hours of navigating steadily towards the casualty in treacherous sea conditions initially using the coast as a lee and illuminating flares to locate the casualty, they eventually stumbled upon a low-lying blue and grey RIB at 01:16 with her sponsons below the water line, and 11 crew on board, in a fragile but stable condition.

The final location was now 3nm West of RI and 9nm off Green Point lighthouse.

Station 3 in the V&A Waterfront had since launched their Class 1 14m Rescue Craft DHL Deliverer and proceeded to join Rescue 2 at the casualty position, arriving at 01:40 on the morning of 21 October 2023. With the assistance of Rescue 2 crew, all casualty survivors were transferred to Rescue 3 by 01:55 and, accompanied by Rescue 2, a tow was established from Rescue 3 to tow the casualty slowly to Table Bay Harbour, where she sank at her mooring later that morning.

The time then was 04:00 and with the worsening sea conditions, it was decided to leave Rescue 2 also moored in the safety of port to be recovered again a few hours later once it was daylight and the weather had eased somewhat.

Reece Sheldon's gallantry that evening together with the skill, determination, valour and bravery displayed by his Coxswain, crew and shore control staff, going to the aid of persons in trouble, in known dangerous conditions, without concern for his safety, was in the very finest traditions of the National Sea Rescue Institute, which we are pleased to recognise with this Gallantry Award Bronze.

Jonathan Velloza
Chairman: Board of Directors



19 July 2024

Date