

21/3/42 - No. 2

Air Ministry News Service

Air Ministry Bulletin No. 6527

GALLANT EFFORT AT RESCUE

"I have never met such bravery."

In these simple words the Commanding Officer of a Czech fighter squadron paid tribute to the gallant efforts of a 56-year-old D.S.O. naval officer who swam for nearly an hour and an half in the icy waters of the Straits of Dover, trying to save a Czech fighter pilot who had crashed.

The Commanding Officer said:-

"Four of our boys were returning and one of them crashed on the beach. The rescue boat could not get near because of the shallow water, but the captain immediately jumped in and began to search for the pilot.

"This man of 56 swam and waded about in the bitterly cold water until, exhausted and almost frozen, he was forced to give up. He collapsed and was rushed to hospital.

"When he saw him he had nothing to say of the attempted rescue, but simply expressed sympathy with us on the loss of one of our best sergeant pilots

"One day, when we return to our own country, this naval officer's name will be honoured by the Czech squadron."

The captain spent two days in hospital and returned to duty immediately he was discharged.

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