

1986 New Zealand - Phillip Ward - Glenn Hughes - Boat Accident

Police Remembrance Day to recognise fallen as well as slain officers

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/news/72140352/Police-remembrance-day-to-recognise-fallen-as-well-as-slain-officers>

September 17 2015 TALIA SHADWELL



Pilot Peter Button hovers his helicopter just 3 metres above 10m waves to pluck two men from Wellington Harbour after their police launch capsized. Two further officers perished in the seas

Photo Supplied

Police will for the first time honour fallen comrades who died in accidents in the line of duty.

Photographs of three officers who died in two separate tragedies still hang in the Wellington Police maritime unit's barracks.

Yet their names are not read aloud in the annual police remembrance day roll-call.

On September 29, Constable Greg Rowe's family, including younger brother Wellington Senior Constable Stu Rowe will finally hear his name called at the capital's remembrance day ceremony.

Rowe died when he fell off the Lady Elizabeth II into the sea and the police launch reversed over him in a 1978 accident on Wellington Harbour.

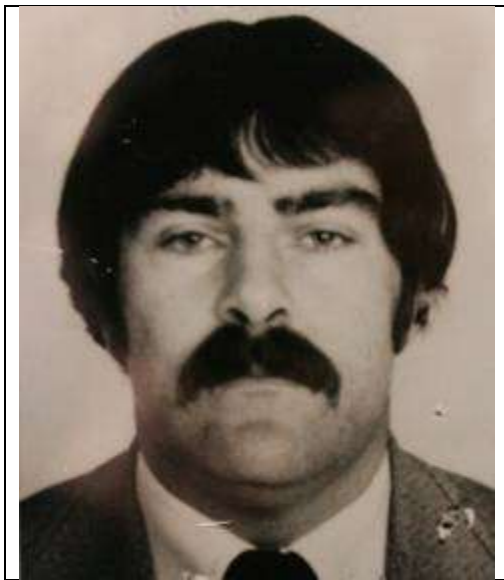
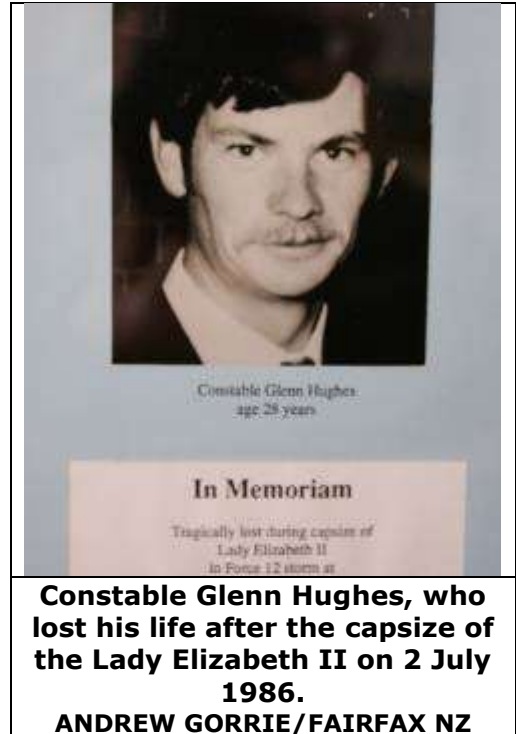
In 1986, another tragedy aboard the "Lady Liz" claimed the lives of Sergeant Phillip Ward and Constable Glenn Hughes when it capsized amid a southerly storm during a training exercise.

A dramatic photograph captured Wellington's rescue helicopter service pioneer Peter Button flying his chopper daringly close to the giant swells in a successful effort to rescue two other crewman, but Ward and Hughes drowned.

Now their names are listed next to 35 other officers on *Ten One's* website, with Commissioner Mike Bush telling the police magazine it had been his wish for some time to see them honoured.

The research was led by Police Museum director Rowan Carroll, former police Inspector Mike Hill, Sergeant Braydon Lenihan and historian Dr Elizabeth Plumridge.

Finally recognising the officers seemed right for their memories and their families, Hill said.



Senior Sergeant Phil Ward, who lost his life after the capsizing of the Lady Elizabeth II on 2 July 1986.
ANDREW GORRIE/FAIRFAX NZ

"It was the realisation that there are a number of staff that have died in the course of their duties but were not recognised because they weren't slain in a sort of criminal act. It was about trying to commemorate these people that died while on duty."

Carroll said the project was close to her heart and she expected to continue expanding the list.

Some families of those who had died had wanted the remembrance project a long time, and it had taken a couple of years to carry out.

Among the 38 remembered are those who drowned saving others, were struck by cars, and those who perished rescuing others from fires.

Other officers' hearts failed chasing criminals, and one fell from a helicopter.

Yet another died from typhus, caused by the unsanitary conditions in New Zealand's police stations in the late-19th century, another from an infection picked up while clearing hundreds of bodies from the SS Wairarapa shipwreck in 1894.

The researchers sleuthed through about 130 years of police gazettes and researched 700 officers, to determine who was killed while carrying out their duties, Carroll said.

It also appeared likely there were more officers killed than previously thought – some in the mid-20th century killed by drink drivers, and others who were assaulted and died a long time afterwards who may have been "overlooked," she added.



Constable Greg Rowe, who lost his life while serving with the police maritime unit in Wellington in April 1, 1978. ANDREW GORRIE/FAIRFAX NZ (Separate PSDiver.com File exists for Greg Rowe.)