

# MEDALS FOR PARITUTU RESCUE

Bronze medals were awarded yesterday to two New Plymouth men by the court of directors of the Royal Humane Society of New Zealand for the part they played in the night rescue of a young English seaman from the seaward face of Paritutu.

The award was made to Police Constable Ray Petrowski of Moturoa, and to Mr Victor S. Rhodes, of 11 Dawson Street, a member of the Taranaki Alpine Club, and the civilian instructor of the New Plymouth Search and Rescue organisation. The rescue was Constable Petrowski's seventh on Paritutu, and his third by night.

The rescue, which lasted for more than five hours, took place on July 18, when a young seaman climbing on the seaward face of the rock with a companion sprained an ankle and became stranded on a narrow ledge. His companion went for help, but it was already twilight before a full search and rescue operation could get under way.

## SPOTLIGHT

Guided by a spotlight fixed on the trapped climber by the New Plymouth Fire Brigade, Constable Petrowski and Mr Rhodes made their precarious descent down the seaward face of Paritutu using ropes and the light of torches to grope their way to the aid of the climber.

Constable Petrowski has already received the British Empire Medal for his rescue work on the rock. After his fourth rescue he was named in the 1964 New Year's honours.

## OTHER AWARDS

Bronze medals were also awarded to three members of a rescue party searching for four lost mountaineers on the Otira side of Mount Rolleston on June 23.

The recipients are: Messrs Hans Bohny, of Arthur's Pass; Ian Gardiner, 433 St Asaph Street, Christchurch and Peter L. Squires, Montreal Street, Christchurch.

Another bronze medal was awarded to Joseph Mokarka, 44 Hirpla Street, Wellington, for going to the assistance of



Constable R. Petrowski



Mr V. S. Rhodes

a ship's greaser who fell into the Wellington harbour at the inter-island ferry berth on October 30 last year.

An Akaroa girl, Carolyn Le Lievre, aged 14, of Williams Street, was awarded a certificate of merit for going to the rescue of an eight-year-old girl who fell into the sea on September 1.

Two Auckland men, Christopher J. Poland, of Birkenhead, and Ross Markwick, of 14 Pupuke Road, Takapuna, were each awarded a certificate of merit for courage and determination in effecting the rescue of swimmers in distress.

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