

THE NEW ZEALAND BRAVERY MEDAL (N.Z.B.M.)

Stephen Robert GIBB

Date of action: 27 June 1992

Date of award: 23 October 1999

Citation

On the morning of 27 June 1992 Mr Gibb was the pilot of a helicopter taking six teenage Australian tourists on a scenic flight over the Fox Glacier. While flying up the Glacier, at about 2,500 feet, his helicopter faced an oncoming fixed wing aircraft. The wing of the aircraft embedded itself in the nose cone of the helicopter and made the anti-torque pedals, which control the helicopter, inoperable, tore the doors off the pilot's side and damaged the directional controls. As a result of the impact Mr Gibb's right foot was shattered. Mr Gibb, despite his injuries and the damage to the helicopter, managed an emergency landing without any loss of life or injuries to his passengers. The pilot of the aeroplane was killed when his aircraft crashed after the impact with the helicopter.