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News

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AIR CRASH: Most people know it was captain Chesley Sullenberger and his crew that brought the crippled A320 down to a perfect landing on the Hudson River recently to save the lives of all passengers and crew.



Both ferries have cradles in operation - you can see the cradle hanging off the bow of the ferry on the right

What many people don't know is that a UK company by the name of Land and Marine Products in Bordon, Hampshire, also played a huge part in that rescue.

Land and Marine manufactures the Jason's Cradle man overboard recovery system. It's used in many commercial marine applications, as well as being fitted to RNLi Mersey, Tyne and Tamar boats.

And among the commercial craft fitted with the Jason's Cradle system are the Hudson River ferries that took part in the rescue. Here are just a few of the comments from TV and radio news reporters at the scene.

New York CBS

'Most of the responding crews used a rescue tool called Jason's Cradle, which the stranded passengers used to climb off the plane and onto the ferries.'

New York (CNN)

'Mike Starr, a ferry operations manager, credited a hammock-like maritime rescue tool called a Jason Cradle with helping save passengers from the water as quickly as possible.'

WNYC

'Also responding was 20 year-old Brittany Catanzaro, the company's first female captain. Some of the dozens of plane passengers her crew pulled to safety had no life jackets.'

Catanzaro: 'We used our Jason's cradle. It hangs off the bow of the boat and it drops into the water and we have the option of hoisting somebody up or they have the option of climbing.'

WPIX News

'Some passengers let out cheers when the ferry *Thomas Jefferson*, piloted by captain Vincent Lombardi, pulled up. It was the first of 14 vessels to render aid.

'We had to pull an elderly woman out of a raft in a sling. She was crying. People were panicking. They said, "hurry up, hurry up",' he said.

But the evacuation was orderly, he added. Lombardi's crew plucked 56 passengers from the jet's wing and liferafts, hoisting some aboard using a device - half sling, half ladder - called a Jason's Cradle. Wide-eyed ferry passengers, their evening commute disrupted, helped out, tossing lifejackets and ropes to the crash victims below. Catanzaro's boat picked up another 24.'

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