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TUESDAY, 21ST DECEMBER 1965

**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF
THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD**

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.
21st December 1965.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the British Empire Medal for Gallantry (Military Division) to the undermentioned:

18093360 Senior Aircraftman LEE, Nai-liang, Hong Kong Auxiliary Air Force.

Senior Aircraftman Lee was the crewman on board the helicopter which went to help a stricken cargo ship, s.s. Nam An, off the east coast of Hong Kong on 5th April 1965. Senior Aircraftman Lee was lowered on to the deck of the ship to assist the ship's crew to fit the rescue strop. In rough seas, which were breaking over the deck, and amid strong gusting winds and driving rain he ensured that all 43 members of the crew and the ship's dog were lifted safely from the vessel. During the operation Senior Aircraftman Lee was left on board the wrecked ship whilst the helicopter returned to base for fuel and to have a winch fault rectified. Throughout the entire rescue which lasted six and three quarter hours, he displayed exceptional courage and devotion to duty. His conduct on board the stricken vessel in most hazardous conditions and in the knowledge that the ship could break up at any time was a shining example, particularly as he is not employed as a winchman by the Hong Kong Auxiliary Air Force and has not received any official training in this role.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Whitehall, London S.W.1.
21st December 1965.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards:

Air Force Cross

Flight Lieutenant Danny CHEUNG Kwong (18095805), Hong Kong Auxiliary Air Force.

At 0636 hours on 5th April 1965 the Hong Kong Auxiliary Air Force at Kai Tak was alerted to send helicopter assistance to the crew of a 5,500 ton Panamanian Freighter, S.S. Nam An, which had run aground on the eastern coast of the Colony. Flight Lieutenant Cheung immediately elected to fly his helicopter in an attempt to rescue the 43 people on board the freighter which was in danger of sinking. The wind at the time was easterly 21 knots gusting to 30 knots, visibility about 1 mile, cloud base 500 feet, with light rain and drizzle. After take off the weather

deteriorated quickly, cloud base lowering to 300 feet and the rain becoming heavier. Despite severe turbulence, poor visibility and low cloud Flight Lieutenant Cheung reached the stricken vessel which had been driven against the rocks at the base of a cliff in a most exposed location. The ship was only 20-30 feet from the cliff face which towered above it and the turbulence above the deck was severe. No rescue was possible from land or sea and the vessel was in danger of breaking up. Despite these hazards Flight Lieutenant Cheung hovered over the vessel and first lowered a crewman to assist the survivors to fit a strop, and then in 3 trips lifted 6 of the seamen to safety. During the next attempt the winch developed a fault and, since he was also short of fuel, he returned to base. The helicopter was refuelled and the winch fault rectified in 15 minutes. Flight Lieutenant Cheung then returned to the ship to rescue a further 19 survivors before the winch again developed a fault. The weather had further deteriorated and with a jammed winch, he was forced to lower the 26th survivor back on board and return to base. Apart from a 15 minutes stop Flight Lieutenant Cheung had been airborne for 3 hours in the most appalling weather. Whilst the actual winching of the survivors was taking place, he operated in hazardous conditions. Severe turbulence, poor visibility and low cloud, together with a towering cliff face less than 30 feet away, did not deter him, and he was instrumental in rescuing 25 seamen from what had developed into a perilous situation. Throughout the operation he displayed skill, courage and determination of the very highest order.

Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air

Squadron Leader Ronald Percy SMITH, M.B.E. (18093056), Hong Kong Auxiliary Air Force.
L0568567 Flight Sergeant Thomas Douglas LEWIS, Royal Air Force.
18097251 Senior Aircraftman Argo CHOW Chong-Yan, Hong Kong Auxiliary Air Force.

Squadron Leader Smith, Flight Sergeant Lewis and Senior Aircraftman Chow were pilot and winchmen respectively who assisted in the operation which resulted in the rescue of all 43 persons and the ship's dog from the stricken freighter S.S. Nam An off the coast of Hong Kong on 5th April 1965.

21st December 1965.

ROYAL AIR FORCE

Air Commodore H. B. MARTIN, D.S.O., D.F.C., A.F.C., A.D.C., is appointed Senior Air Staff Officer, Near East Air Force, with the Acting Rank of Air Vice-Marshal, in succession to Air Vice-Marshal W. V. CRAWFORD-COMPTON, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., D.F.C., 18th Dec. 1965.