

place where the suspect was throwing large stones at a van. The suspect caught sight of the police van and started to move towards it; with a large stone in one hand and a loaded crossbow in the other. As he approached the police van he stopped and threw the large stone at the windscreen, which shattered. Constable Owen and his colleague jumped from the van and Constable Owen took temporary cover behind the vehicle's open door. The suspect then moved towards the door until he was able to aim the crossbow directly at Constable Owen. Constable Owen, who had remained alert to the need to disarm the disturbed man, rushed and rugby tackled the suspect. There then followed a violent struggle, until with the help of other officers the suspect was arrested.

Robert James CRAMMOND, Civilian  
Stephen HUGHES, Civilian  
Neil RACE, Civilian

*For rescuing four children and one adult from a house fire.*

In the early hours of the morning Mr. Race, Mr. Crammond and Mr. Hughes were woken by a neighbour screaming for help, saying that her house was on fire and her husband and four children were inside. The three men went to the rear of the house where Mr. Race attempted to enter through a partially open upstairs window, and Mr. Hughes managed to force open the back door. All three men entered the house and went upstairs, Mr. Crammond having put a damp cloth over his mouth. Mr. Race was first up and found the body of an adult on the landing which he managed to drag to the top of the stairs where Mr. Hughes took over and carried the adult downstairs, placing him in one of the downstairs rooms.

Mr. Race then crawled on hands and knees, trying to stay under the dense smoke, and found a child on the landing. He passed the child to Mr. Hughes, who had returned. Again Mr. Hughes carried the child downstairs to safety while Mr. Race followed downstairs to get his breath before returning to the bedroom area. Meanwhile Mr. Crammond had crawled on hands and knees, staying under the dense smoke, into a bedroom where he found two children on the bed. He took one child and passed it to Mr. Race on the landing, who in turn passed the child to Mr. Hughes at the top of the stairs. Mr. Hughes took the child downstairs, but on returning upstairs was overcome by smoke and had to leave the house through the back door. On regaining his breath he tried to gain access through an upstairs window, but this was too hot to touch.

Mr. Crammond had, in the meantime, re-entered the bedroom to get the second child who had become trapped between the bed and the wall, but was overcome by smoke before he reached it and was forced to retreat downstairs to regain his breath. He returned to the bedroom after a few minutes and managed to free the child whom he

carried downstairs and out of the house. At the same time Mr. Race had entered another bedroom and found the last child, whom he took and carried downstairs and out of the house.

Thomas MILLAR, formerly Reserve Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary

*For bravery in Northern Ireland.*

QUEEN'S COMMENDATION FOR BRAVERY IN THE AIR

CHANG Yao-teng (Raymond), Aircrewman, Hong Kong Government Flying Service

*For saving life at sea in hazardous conditions.*

On 25th December 1995 a helicopter of the Government Flying Service was scrambled for an urgent medical evacuation of a crewmember of a Chinese fishing boat 125 miles off Hong Kong. At the time the weather was atrocious, with a 6 metre swell and wind speeds of 30-35 knots. As the helicopter approached, the rough seas and lack of clear deck space on the boat precluded an attempt to winch a trained ambulancewoman to the boat.

Mr. Chang, the helicopter winchman, elected to make a descent. After the fishing boat had positioned itself in the most stable position possible, the helicopter approached from astern, on a course parallel to the boat. This resulted in Mr. Chang being plunged into the cold and rough sea, and the attempt was abandoned.

The marginal flying conditions worried the pilots, but in the face of urgent pleas from the fishing boat (the injured crewman's foot was almost severed) Mr. Chang insisted on making a second attempt to reach the fishing boat. On this second occasion Mr. Chang landed heavily on the pitching and rolling deck. He then went to the boat's engine room where, in difficult and unstable conditions, he gave first aid and strapped the casualty to a stretcher, working against the clock due to the deteriorating condition of the casualty and of the weather as well as the helicopter's limited endurance. The casualty was then transferred to the deck for the lift to the helicopter.

To accomplish this, Mr. Chang placed the stretcher in front of him, and steadied himself against the boat's cabin. As the lift from the deck began, the fishing boat pitched violently, causing Mr. Chang to collide heavily with the roof of the cabin and the stretcher to strike him across the chest. The impact was cushioned by his protective helmet and life jacket, although he received facial injuries and badly bruised ribs. Despite these injuries Mr. Chang continued with the lift, and gave encouragement to the casualty until the fisherman could be taken to hospital where his injuries were successfully treated.

HMSO

Printed in the United Kingdom and Published by HMSO

Price £1.20

ISSN 0374-3721

ISBN 0-11-664412-5



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