

36th ARRS Responds To SOS

TACHIKAWA AB — Members of the 36th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron here responded to an emergency Monday night that occurred aboard the SS Empire State, 125 miles east of Tokyo.

A boiler explosion in the 8,363-ton American merchant vessel caused the death of one of the crew members.

After notification from the Fifth Air Force Joint Rescue Coordinating Center at Fuchu AS, three 36th ARRS pararescuemen and flight surgeon Capt. Steven G. Chandler were flown to the scene at 11:20 p.m.

TSgt. Robert E. Bennett, TSgt. Lawrence Willington and Sgt. Curtis W. Phythian parachuted from an HC-130 rescue aircraft to the vessel at 12:40 a.m. The pararescuemen administered first aid while consulting Captain Chandler, who radioed directions from the aircraft.

At 2 a.m. the critically-burned victim was picked up by a HC-3 helicopter of the HC-7 Detachment at Atsugi Naval Air Station. A doctor and two medics aboard the helicopter administered to the patient while he was taken to Yokosuka. The patient was then moved by military ambulance to Kishine Barracks near Yokohama where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

None of the other personnel aboard the vessel were injured.

The three TAB pararescuemen remained aboard the SS Empire State and later returned to TAB in the HC-3 helicopter.

20330

24 Jan 1969

AFDAS

Commendation

MAC

1. The Chief of Staff was pleased to receive the attached letter from the Vice President, States Marine Lines. He adds his appreciation to that expressed by Mr. Dempsey and commends the following individuals of your command, for their outstanding performance following an explosion aboard the SS EMPIRE STATE, while near Yokohama, Japan:

TSGT Robert Earl Bennett, AF19390659
54th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron

✓ TSGT Lawrence Wellington, AF16604378, and
SGT Curt W. Phythian, AF13804620
36th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron

2. This is a Category "A" document (AFM 900-3).

SIGNED

JOHN F. BASH, Colonel, USAF
Director of Administration

1 Atch
Ltr fr Mr. Dempsey, w/3
atch

COPY FOR UNIT RECORDS (36th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Sq, APO, San Francisco 96323) OF
TSGT LAWRENCE WELLINGTON, AF16604378



CABLE ADDRESS: STATMARINE

HANOVER 2-2000

States Marine Lines

90 BROAD STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10004

December 3, 1968

General J.P. McConnell, USAF
Chief of Staff
United States Air Force
The Pentagon
Arlington, Virginia

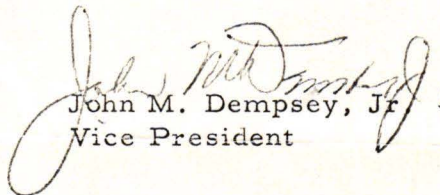
Dear General McConnell:

I am pleased to attach photostatic copies of letters addressed to the Commander, 36th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron and individual members of the squadron from our Tokyo office.

We would like to add our appreciation and compliments to Lieutenant Colonel Sherry and those persons of his command who so promptly and efficiently responded to our emergency call.

Very truly yours,

STATES MARINE LINES, INC.


John M. Dempsey, Jr.
Vice President

JMD/lm
Enclosures



CABLE ADDRESS: STATMARINE TOKYO

States Marine Lines

OHEMACHI BUILDING NO. 4, 1-CHOME
OHEMACHI, CHIYODA-KU
TOKYO, JAPAN

November 27, 1968
CRS/ts-585

T/Sgt. L. Wellington
36th Aerospace Rescue and
Recovery Squadron
Tachikawa Air Base
APO 96323

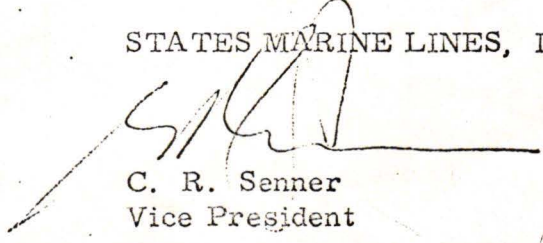
Re: SS EMPIRE STATE
November 4-5, 1968

Dear Sergeant Wellington:

The Master, officers and the crew of the SS EMPIRE STATE, Global Bulk Transport, Inc., owners, and States Marine Lines, operators, of the SS EMPIRE STATE desire to express their appreciation and gratitude to you for the exceptionally meritorious service rendered by you in connection with the above vessel while it was about 250 miles from Yokohama on November 4-5, 1968. The prompt and efficient medical aid rendered by you after the heroic and hazardous parachute jump by you from 1200 feet on a dark night, into rough seas, and making your own way to the vessel by inflating your individual life rafts and boarding the vessel with medical equipment and the subsequent successful evacuation of Third Assistant Engineer Eugene Green by helicopter was all in keeping with the finest tradition of the U. S. Air Force and above and beyond the call of duty. We are indeed extremely grateful and thankful for your efficient efforts and successful accomplishment.

Very truly yours,

STATES MARINE LINES, INC.


C. R. Senner
Vice President