

McClellan Rescuers Help Seaman

Two Sacramento-based Air Force pararescue specialists parachuted into choppy waters 525 miles west of San Francisco early Monday morning to reach a sick British seaman.

Staff Sgt. Patrick Lite and Sr. Airman Carl Lawrence, both members of the 41st Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron based at McClellan Air Force Base, were flown by one of the squadron's HC-130 planes to the S.S.

Sea Train Bennington, an 18,500-ton British freighter.

The two were dropped from 1,000 feet through a hole in the heavy cloud cover into seas of 6- to 12-foot swells. The two wore more than 300 pounds of equipment, including scuba gear and medical equipment.

They were picked up by a launch from the freighter and taken to examine Dennis Crossley, 29, who is be-

lieved to be suffering from a collapsed lung. The HC-130 relayed the medical information to a flight surgeon at McClellan who decided the seaman did not need immediate evacuation by the 41st's long-range helicopters.

The ship, which had left Oakland Saturday morning bound for Kobe, Japan, has reversed course and is scheduled to unload the seaman and the two paramedics this morning.

The 41st squadron has flown 28 rescue missions to the Pacific and Sierra Nevada this year and is credited with saving three lives. Last year it flew 44 missions, saving 21 lives. The squadron's wing, the 41st Rescue and Weather Reconnaissance Wing, was awarded an Air Force Outstanding Unit citation in May for its worldwide reconnaissance and rescue work.

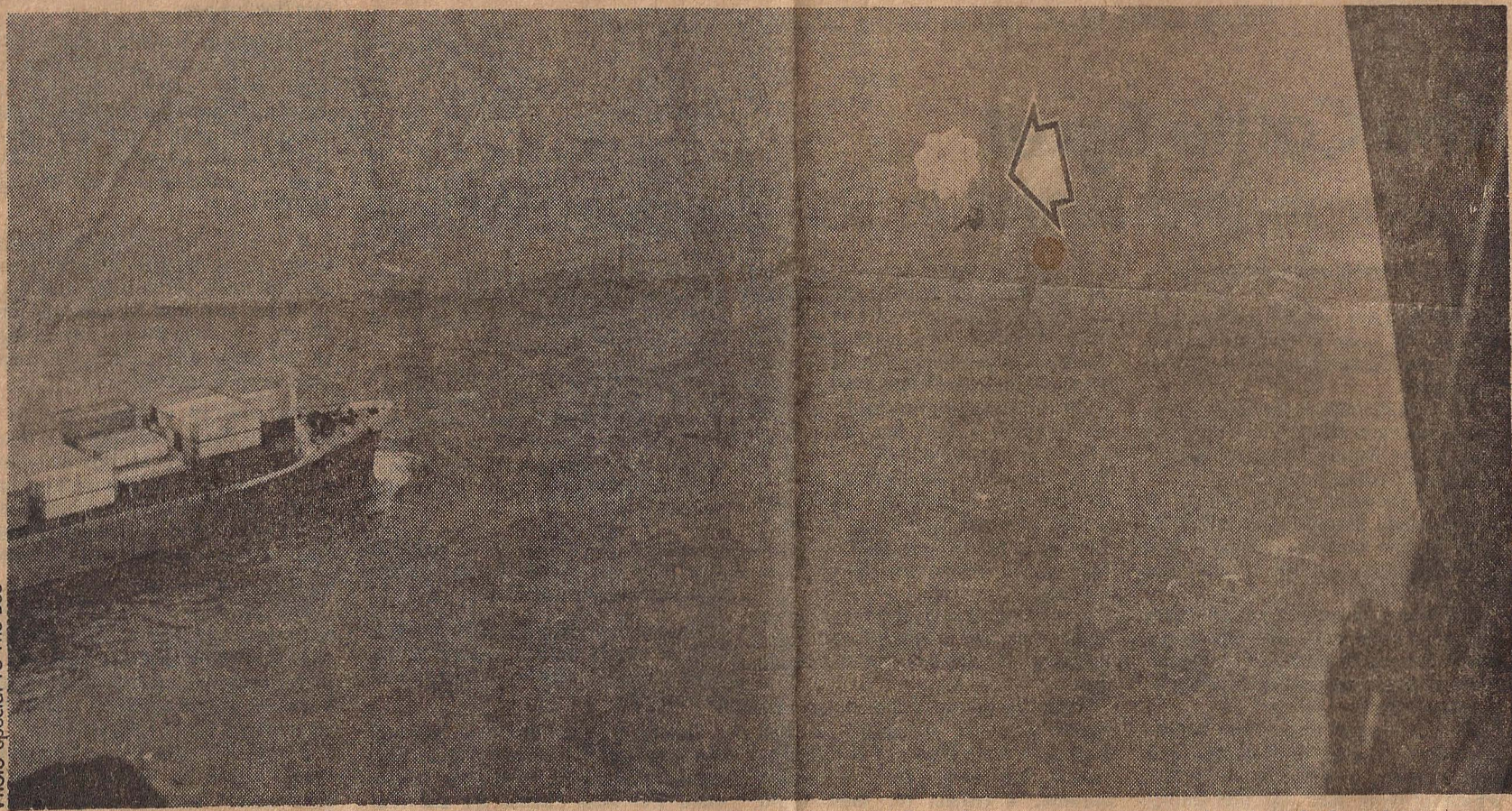


Photo Special To The Bee

An Air Force pararescue specialist, arrow, falls 1,000 feet toward the choppy water near the British freighter.