

FLASHES

*a gallant*

At the Home Office U.S. airman Reis Leming received the  
George ~~Gross~~ <sup>Medal</sup> awarded by the Queen for rescuing 27  
people trapped near Hunstanton in the great flood.

*2 h unit  
y stations*

This brave young airman looks just what he is - a first  
rate chap.

~~From the high land of Matapos - site of his tomb - Cecil Rhodes~~

From the high land of Matapos - site of his tomb - Cecil Rhodes  
might have been looking down on Bulawayo ~~not far distant~~,  
where stands his statue; for the land he colonised, Southern  
Rhodesia, faced a far reaching choice - to federate with  
that  
Nyassaland and Northern Rhodesia, or wreck/~~the~~ plan for a  
Central African state. The referendum to decide the matter  
drew nearly 83% of the electorate. Of  
40,600 voters over 62% ensured victory  
for federation. An influential and prosperous  
new Dominion may eventually be the outcome.

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AIRMAN LEEMING RECEIVES

GEO MEDAL

FYFFE

"... who without stint and without thought of reward came forward to help those of my countrymen who suffered in that flood disaster on that dreadful night. And I hope that in the future you may think of this signal honour which has been conferred by Her Majesty the Queen as the outward visible sign of the gratitude of all the people of this country. To you and to all of those in the service of the United States of America who gave that help and assistance doing that wonderful work, and took these risks in order to help my fellow citizens in this country who were so sore pressed at that time by the floods...

With this medal I give with it my best wishes for your success in the United States Airforce and also in your future life. And I congratulate you on a good job well done."

Fyffe medals Leeming and says - "Once again I congratulate you."

"Airman Rees Leeming, Gen..... Colonel.... Her Majesty the Queen has not been able personally to present the Gee Medal awarded to Airman Leeming, and has asked me to make the presentation on her behalf. I therefore ask for the citation to be read;

"The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the Gee M. to Airman Rees Leeming of the United States Airforce in recognition of his extreme gallantry on several occasions in rescuing people who had been trapped in their houses at Hunstanton after attempts to get trapped people

contd

by motor launch..... Airmen Leeming who is unable to swim seized a rubber launch and waded on his own into the..... to isolated homes, and in all brought 27 people to safety. He was in the water for 4 hours with his protective clothing damaged, and suffering from the effects of cold and exhaustion.....third trip he collapsed and was removed to hospital suffering from exhaustion.

Airmen Leeming, it ~~gives~~ is with the greatest pleasure therefore that, in the name of Her Majesty the Queen I present you with the G. M. which Her Majesty has awarded to you in recognition of your outstanding gallantry in saving life during the disastrous floods which occurred in E. Anglia on the night of 21 Jan. of this year. We all admire the courage of the men who fully equipped goes into danger without counting the cost. Our highest admiration is reserved for the man who like you, Airmen Rees Leeming, unable to swim, fully aware of the serious dangers which you face, nevertheless without counting the cost ~~manages~~ risks his own life to save the lives of others."

Leeming:

"I am very happy and most pleased to receive this reward. I should like to say that I am receiving it on behalf of <sup>312 Rescue Squadron</sup>..... of which I am only part.

About 135 men were out ~~that night~~ with me that night - we should all be down here, actually. Thank you very much."