

Part transcript of Admiral Chan Chak Radio Broadcast to the Chinese Nation 7 PM 20th March 1942 Chungking

1) The story of my escape.

The situation became very critical on December 24th, when the enemy troops had penetrated the line of Uchinwen and Huangniyung and had come to Wantze. It was then very difficult for the British troops to launch an offensive as they were both exhausted and cut off from external assistance. On the morning of December 25th, the Governor and the Commander of the Army and Navy informed me of their determination to declare a truce. Based on my initial determination of "either victory or death", I started to discuss with the Governor, asking him for a final decision. I asked him if he still had a fleet left to hand over to me direct. Thereupon, the Governor decided to offer me the only five torpedo boats remaining, their numbers being 7, 9, 10, 11, and 27, for a desperate thrust through the enemy blockading line with party consisting of the high officers of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. They were Major Goring, Commander Montague, Wing Commander Oxford, Mr Worthfort, staff member of the Air Force, Mr MacDougall, Hong Kong representative of the British Ministry of Information, Mr Robinson, Inspector-General of the Police and twenty other able lieutenants. For this, I am very grateful to the Governor and the Commander of the Land and Navy forces, for they, as well as their rank and file, had been most co-operative in spirit, even in times of utter difficulties, in the common war effort. It was 4.30 pm that we sailed to Tzehaiping from Hong Kong. The weather was clear. Enemy forces in speed boats immediately fired on us with machine guns and trench mortars when we were sighted. For ten minutes, they concentrated firing on us. At last the boat in which I was hit and damaged and the captain of the boat was killed. So the boat could not move further. It was then that my left wrist was struck with a bullet and a number of British officers were either killed or wounded. We abandoned the boat and swam towards an Island one li distant. With only one leg and a wounded wrist, I succeeded in reaching the shore under the fire of the enemy, only by the Divine assistance of our National Father (i.e. Dr Sun Yat-sen) in the Heaven and the inspiration of the spirit of our leader (Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek). At night, the torpedo boat which went ahead of us came back to take us aboard. Under dim moonlight, we penetrated through the enemy blockading line. Only an enemy cruiser discovered us on the way by directing its searchlight upon us. Four shots were fired by the cruiser, but fortunately none of them hit us. Before dawn, our boats arrived in our fatherland. Mr Liang Yung-yuan, a guerrilla leader and his men were already there to meet us. After having a rest, I ordered Liang and his men to be our vanguard, escorting us through the Japanese line and occupied areas. I took the opportunity to comfort the people on our way and convey them on behalf of the Government the concern that the Central Government had for them. The journey was a safe one. Finally we got to Shaokwan. There I had the bullet in my wrist extracted and had a short stay for recuperation. Afterwards I left for Chungking to make my report to the Government.

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