

Hell at sea

1 At about 5pm on May 4, Mr John Low left Mersing for Tioman Island for a dive trip. His boat, which had stopped while awaiting refuelling, ran into bad weather and began filling with water, causing it to sink.

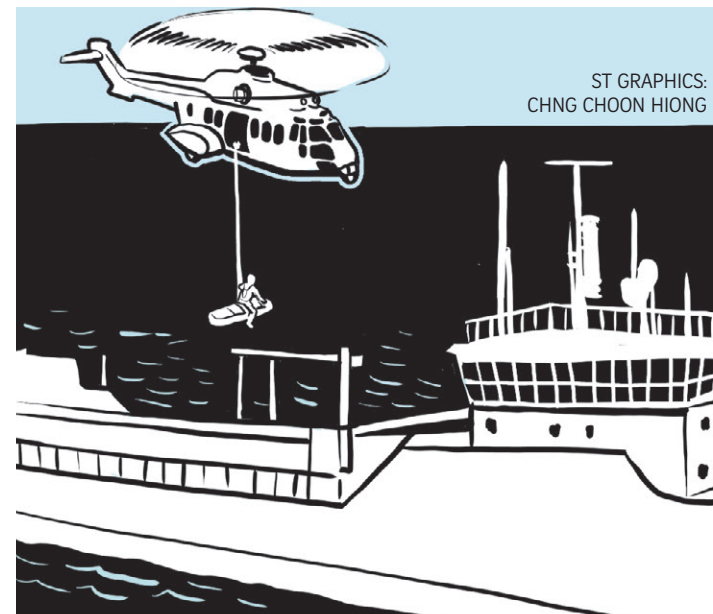


2 Mr Low drifted aimlessly in the South China Sea. Exposed to the scorching sun, his skin was burned and peeling, and stung whenever he put his head and arms underwater to cool down. He also stripped off his clothes as they were painfully rubbing against his sunburnt skin. He felt marine creatures swimming around him at night, but could not see them, nor did he have anywhere to run. By the third night, he began hallucinating. ❖



3 At 4.30pm on May 7, a passing ship, Diogo Cao, spotted him in the water and rescued him. ❖

4 The Republic of Singapore Air Force's search-and-rescue team, Rescue 10, was scrambled quickly to pick him up from the ship and get him to emergency treatment at Singapore General Hospital. ❖



ST GRAPHICS:
CHNG CHOON HIONG

