

(01502) Wing Commander TDS Silvapulle (Posthumous)

On 17 December 1999, two MI 24 helicopters were detailed to engage the enemy boats which were attacking the Forward Defence Line of Sri Lanka Army in the general area of “Thamilamadam”, South East of Elephant Pass. Wing Commander TDS Silvapulle who was flying the MI 24 helicopter CH 618 led the formation.

Having promptly analyzing the threat of the enemy boats to Sri Lanka Army, the threat posed to his helicopter by the enemy’s capability to attack with surface to air missiles and adverse weather conditions, Wing Commander TDS Silvapulle, instructed the wingman to remain away from danger and proceeded to attack the enemy.

The daring attack against the enemy was successful and the eyewitness reports confirmed that the enemy boats were fleeing from the areas as they could not sustain the firepower of Wing Commander TDS Silvapulle’s attack.

However, the helicopter was hit with a projectile fired from one of the enemy boats, which may have been a surface to air missile causing the helicopter to crash.

The brave decision of Wing Commander TDS Silvapulle to attack the enemy knowing the threat posed by surface to air missiles and the risk to his own life is to be thus commended with the awarding of “Parama Weera Vibhushanaya” in his honour.