

Admiralty, 21st January 1916.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the grant of the Victoria Cross to Lieutenant-Commander Edgar Christopher Cookson, D.S.O., R.N., in recognition of the following act of most conspicuous gallantry during the advance on Kut-el-Amara :—

On the 28th September 1915, the river gunboat "Comet" had been ordered with other gunboats to examine and, if possible, destroy an obstruction placed across the river by the Turks. When the gunboats were approaching the obstruction a very heavy rifle and machine gun fire was opened on them from both banks. An attempt to sink the centre dhow of the obstruction by gunfire having failed, Lieutenant-Commander Cookson ordered the "Comet" to be placed alongside, and himself jumped on to the dhow with an axe and tried to cut the wire hawsers connecting it with the two other craft forming the obstruction. He was immediately shot in several places and died within a very few minutes.

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the award of the Distinguished Service Cross to the undermentioned Officers in recognition of their services during the advance on Kut-el-Amara on the 27th and 28th September 1915 :—

Flight-Lieutenant Vivian Gaskall Blackburn, R.N.

Flight-Lieutenant Blackburn did excellent air reconnaissance work, and came under heavy fire on the afternoon of the 28th September whilst carrying despatches between the General Officer Commanding and the "Comet."

Surgeon Dermot Loughlin, M.B., R.N.

Surgeon Loughlin attended the wounded on board the "Comet" under a heavy fire at close quarters on the night of the 28th September.

Engineer Thomas Kerr, R.I.M.

Engineer Kerr not only kept the Lascar engine-room complement of the "Comet" in excellent order during action, but assisted in carrying down the wounded under fire.

Sub-Lieutenant Lionel Charles Paul Tudway, R.N.

Sub-Lieutenant Tudway was in command of the armed launch "Sumana," and showed remarkable ability and coolness in manoeuvring his vessel under heavy fire on the night of the 28th September, and on several other occasions under fire.

The following awards have also been approved :—

To receive the Distinguished Service Medal.

Leading Seaman Ernest Sparks, O.N.J. 2627.
Leading Signaller Gilbert Thomas George Wallis, O.N. 221461.
Leading Seaman William Norman Slade, O.N. 204053 (R.F.R. Dev/B. 1717).
Petty Officer John Oliver Traill, O.N. 213051.

Able Seaman Allan Burrows, O.N. 219730.
Leading Seaman Thomas Henry Thompson, O.N. 183642.
Leading Seaman Phillip Leonard Gunn, O.N.J. 10901.
Leading Seaman George Whitfield, O.N. 182706.
Private Arthur George May, R.M.L.I., No. Chat./13289.
Petty Officer Sidney Herbert Silvester, O.N. 180563.
Sergeant Charles Arthur Pearce, R.M.A., No. 9294.
Corporal Albion Henry Turner, R.M.A., No. 11046.
Petty Officer Ernest Albert Grinstead, O.N. 236735.
Petty Officer Frederick Harrison, O.N. 201726.
Ship's Corporal, 1st Class, William Cecil Hatherly, O.N. 196082.
Petty Officer William Bright, O.N. 207510.

The following Officers are mentioned for their services during the advance on Kut-el-Amara :—

Lieutenant Mark Singleton, D.S.O., R.N.
Lieutenant William Vesey Hamilton Harris, D.S.O., R.N.
Sub-Lieutenant James Hardy Brown, R.N.V.R.
Gunner John Mackay, R.N.

The following Officers and men are mentioned for their services with the British Naval Mission in Serbia :—

Captain (temporary Major) Bertram Nowell Elliot, D.S.O., R.M.L.I.
Lieutenant-Commander Charles Lester Kerr, D.S.O., R.N.
Temporary Lieutenant George Bullock, R.M.
Temporary Surgeon Edward Rowland Alworth Merewether, R.N.
Gunner Samuel Eber Davies, R.M.A., No. 12733.
Gunner Daniel Wass, R.M.A., No. 11800.
Gunner Harry James Carter, R.M.A., No. 8885.
Gunner Alfred Thomas Herbert Fish, R.M.A., No. 10383.
Petty Officer Lewis Silvers, O.N. 217783.
Private Charles Edward Bird, R.M.L.I., No. Ply. 15582.
Private Fred Turner, R.M.L.I., No. Ply. 14095.
Gunner Paul Herbert Oates, R.M.A., No. 12972.
Gunner James Robert Ransom, R.M.A., No. 13160.
Able Seaman Albert Robinson, O.N. 194683.

Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.

To be temporary Sub-Lieutenant—

James Hardy Brown. Dated 27th September 1915.

BRITISH NATIONALITY AND STATUS OF ALIENS (INDIA).

REGULATIONS.

In the exercise of the powers conferred on me by the British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act, 1914 (hereinafter referred to as "the Act"), I, the Right Honourable Austen Chamberlain, one of His Majesty's Principal