

*Admiralty, 16th March 1918.*

HONOURS FOR SERVICES IN ACTION ON THE OCCASION OF THE RAID INTO THE STRAITS OF DOVER BY ENEMY DESTROYERS ON THE NIGHT OF THE 14TH-15TH FEBRUARY 1918.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the award of the following decorations and medals to the undermentioned officers and men:—

*To receive the Distinguished Service Cross.*

Engr. Lieut. John Abraham Kirkham, R.N.R.

Displayed great courage and devotion to duty. His ship had been heavily shelled, was holed below water, and was settling down by the head. Engr. Lieut. Kirkham kept the pumps going as long as steam lasted, thus saving the vessel by keeping her afloat, until another vessel came to her assistance and towed her stern first into Dover Harbour.

Skpr. Henry Bennett, R.N.R., 1013S.A. (H.M. Trawler "James Pond").

Displayed the utmost courage and devotion to duty. Skpr. Bennett ably assisted Ch. Skpr. Berry in his efforts to save the vessel after she had been heavily shelled and set on fire. Attempts were made to put out the fire and to get up the ammunition from below, but both efforts failed, and finally the ship was abandoned. The boat was successfully launched in spite of the fact that the falls had been destroyed by the shelling. The crew got away in her, and succeeded in effecting a landing on the French coast, where they received every attention from the French authorities.

Skpr. Samuel Alger Head, R.N.R., 1908W.S.A., H.M. Drifter "Vera Creina."

Displayed gallantry and presence of mind in keeping his ship afloat, when badly holed by two 4-inch shells, by plugging the holes with beds and blankets.

Skpr. John Mair, R.N.R., 1323W.S.A., H.M. Drifter "W. Elliott."

Displayed great coolness and presence of mind when his ship was sunk with the loss of seven hands and he himself was injured.

Skpr. John Turrell, R.N.R., 1126W.S.A., H.M. Drifter "Golden Rule."

When his ship was severely damaged and ten of his crew had been killed and three badly injured, he displayed great courage and energy in giving orders to the remaining three hands although severely injured himself.

*To receive a Bar to the Distinguished Service Cross.*

Lieut. Alexander Duff Thomson, D.S.C., R.N.R.

Displayed the greatest courage, coolness, and devotion to duty. The vessel which he commanded was heavily shelled, and very considerable damage was done to her. The first salvo wrecked the bridge, the W.T. room, and Lieut. Thomson's cabin underneath the bridge, the Officer of the Watch being killed outright. Lieut. Thomson managed to get out of his cabin alive and made for the bridge. He maintained his coolness throughout, and after the action was over managed to get an S.O.S. signal through to Folkstone Pier, his W.T. having been put out of action. He then examined

his vessel, and found she had been holed below water, and was settling down by the head.

At 6.30 a.m. another vessel came to his assistance and towed his ship stern first into Dover Harbour.

Ch. Skpr. Alfred Edward Berry, D.S.C., R.N.R., 111S.A., H.M. Trawler "James Pond."

Displayed the utmost coolness and devotion to duty, and behaved in a most courageous manner.

His vessel was heavily shelled and set on fire. His cabin was pierced by a shell which exploded and wrecked it, wounding Ch. Skpr. Berry in the legs and setting fire to the whole of the wheelhouse. He remained cool and collected throughout, immediately giving orders to all hands to lie down until the firing was over. He then made every effort to get the fires out, and although the hose had been blown to pieces, it was replaced under his directions. Both the attempt to put out the fires and to bring up the ammunition failed, and then Ch. Skpr. Berry gave orders to abandon ship.

He refused to abandon his vessel, though offered assistance by a French T.B.D., until he was convinced she was doomed. It was found that the falls of the boat had been destroyed, but the boat was successfully manhandled and launched, and the crew got away in her, Chief Skipper Berry being the last to leave.

*To receive the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal.*

Engmn. James Ewing, R.N.R., O.N. 2637E.S., H.M. Drifter "Violet May."

Engmn. Alexander Noble, R.N.R., O.N. 2651E.S., H.M. Drifter "Violet May."

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty.

When their ship had been very severely handled by the enemy, and was on fire forward, and all the rest of the crew had been killed with two exceptions, and those so badly wounded that they could render little or no assistance, Engmn. Ewing and Noble cleared the wreckage of the boom from the small boat, got out the boat, put their wounded shipmates into it, and then took to the boat. Finding the ship did not sink, they returned to her, attacked the fire with buckets, and got it out, small arm ammunition in the wheelhouse exploding as they worked. They then got their injured shipmates on board again and made them comfortable, afterwards burning flares of old clothes soaked in paraffin until picked up and towed in at 7 a.m.

The Vice-Admiral, Dover Patrol, reports:—"The conduct of Noble and Ewing was altogether admirable. Their great gallantry and devotion to duty—and, I would add, their simple modesty—entitles them to very special consideration."

2nd Hnd. George Bertie Rivett, R.N.R., O.N. 5727D.A., H.M. Drifter "Kosmos."

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty.

He displayed great courage and presence of mind when, first, his own ship having sunk, he went overboard after the small boat which was adrift. Later, he put his lifebelt on a severely