

guns' crews, and the engine-room staff remained at their posts.

The submarine then came to the surface ahead of the ship half a mile distant, and remained there a quarter of an hour, apparently watching the ship for any doubtful movement.

The "panic party" in the boat accordingly commenced to row back towards the ship in an endeavour to decoy the submarine within range of the hidden guns. The submarine followed, coming slowly down the port side of the "Stock Force," about three hundred yards away. Lieutenant Auten, however, withheld his fire until she was abeam, when both of his guns could bear. Fire was opened at 5.40 p.m.; the first shot carried away one of the periscopes, the second round hit the conning tower, blowing it away and throwing the occupant high into the air. The next round struck the submarine on the water-line, tearing her open and blowing out a number of the crew.

The enemy then subsided several feet into the water and her bows rose. She thus presented a large and immobile target into which the "Stock Force" poured shell after shell until the submarine sank by the stern, leaving a quantity of debris on the water. During the whole of the action one man (Officer's Steward, 2nd Class, R. J. Starling) remained pinned down under the foremost gun after the explosion of the torpedo, and remained there cheerfully and without complaint, although the ship was apparently sinking, until the end of the action.

The "Stock Force" was a vessel of 360 tons, and despite the severity of the shock sustained by the officers and men when she was torpedoed, and the fact that her bows were almost obliterated, she was kept afloat by the exertions of her ship's company until 9.25 p.m. She then sank with colours flying, and the officers and men were taken off by two torpedo boats and a trawler.

The action was cited as one of the finest examples of coolness, discipline, and good organisation in the history of "Q" ships.

(The award of the Victoria Cross to Lieutenant Harold Auten, D.S.C., R.N.R., was announced in London Gazette No. 30900, dated the 14th September 1918.)

NOTICE OF INTENDED DISTRIBUTION OF NAVAL SALVAGE MONEY.

Department of the Accountant-General of the Navy, Admiralty, S.W. 1,
19th November 1918.

Notice is hereby given to the Officers, Seamen, and Marines, and to all Persons interested therein, that the distribution of the under-mentioned Awards of Salvage Money will commence on Wednesday, the 20th instant, in the Prize Branch of the Department of the Accountant-General of the Navy, Admiralty, S.W.

All applications from persons entitled to share, who are not now serving, should be addressed "On Prize Business:—To the Accountant-General of the Navy, Admiralty, London, S.W. 1." Such applications (except in the case of Commissioned Officers) should be accompanied by Certificates of Service.

Salvage of s.s. "Kintuck" by H.M. Tug

"Security" on 17th and 18th November 1917.
Salvage of the schooner "Pandora" by H.M. Drifter "Blossom" on 6th May 1918.
Salvage of s.s. "Bengali" by H.M. Trawlers "Raetia" and "Riparvo" between 13th and 21st September 1917.

War Office,

15th November 1918.

ARMY COUNCIL ORDER.

THE WOMEN'S BOOTS (UPPERS) AMENDMENT ORDER, 1918.

Whereas by the Women's Boots (Uppers) Order, 1917, the Army Council regulated upon certain conditions in the manufacture of certain uppers and boots for women:

And whereas it is expedient that the said Order should be amended:

And whereas by Regulation 2J of the Defence of the Realm Regulations it is provided that the Board of Trade shall have the like powers as are given to the Food Controller under Regulations 2B, 2F to 2J inclusive (including 2ac), and 7, as respects any article of commerce not being an article of food where it appears to the Board necessary or expedient to exercise any of those powers for the purpose of encouraging, maintaining or regulating the supply of any such article which is required by the public or by any section of the public:

And whereas such powers include the power to make arrangements with any Government Department for the exercise by that Department of the powers of the Board of Trade:

And whereas it appears to the Board of Trade necessary and expedient for the purpose of encouraging, maintaining and regulating the supply of boots which may be required by the public or any section of the public that the sale of certain uppers and boots for women should be regulated upon certain conditions:

And whereas the Board of Trade have made arrangements with the Army Council for the exercise by the Council on behalf of the Board of Trade of the powers of the Board of Trade under the said Regulation with respect to boots for women:

Now, therefore, in pursuance of the powers conferred upon them by the Defence of the Realm Regulations, and of every other Power enabling them in that behalf, the Army Council hereby order as follows:—

1. The words "manufactured by the vendor thereof" shall be inserted after the words "boots for women" in Clause 2 of the Women's Boots (Uppers) Order, 1917.

2. The following new clause shall be inserted next following after Clause 2 of the Women's Boots (Uppers) Order, 1917:—

"No person shall without a permit issued by or on behalf of the Director of Raw Materials put or cause to be put into any process of manufacture any uppers or boots of the description referred to in Clause 1 hereof."

This Order may be cited as the Women's Boots (Uppers) Amendment Order, 1918.

By Order of the Army Council,

R. H. BRADE.