

To be a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order.

Cdr. Oliver Maurice FitzGerald Stokes, R.N.

To receive a Bar to the Distinguished Service Order.

Cdr. Andrew Browne Cunningham, D.S.O., R.N.

To receive the Distinguished Service Medal.

C.P.O. Harry Paul Bicker, O.N. 158671 (Po.).

Actg. C.P.O. Michael Brown, O.N. 193916 (Dev.).

Actg. C.P.O. George Henry Cadby, O.N. 206558 (Ch.).

A. B. Charles George Foot, O.N. 229716 (Ch.).

Serjt. Bertram William Hatcher, R.M.L.I., No. Po./12550.

C.P.O. William John Rathmell, O.N. 170911 (Po.).

P.O. Ernest John Russell, O.N. 210885 (Ch.).

C.E.R.A. Henry Neville Walker, R.N.R., O.N. 1433E.A.

C.E.R.A., 2nd Cl., Sydney Warwick, O.N. 272373 (Ch.).

The following Officers and Men have been mentioned in despatches:—

Lieut.-Cdr. Hubert Stanley Braddyll, R.N.

Lieut. Claude Denzil Bury, R.N.

Lieut. Wilford Joe Williams, R.N.

Sto. P.O. George Arklay, O.N. 311164 (Po.).

Ldg. Sea. William Edward Avery, O.N. J20414 (Ch.).

E.R.A., 2nd Cl., Allan Francis Berry, O.N. M436 (Ch.).

Yeo. Sigs. Benjamin Flook, O.N. 213103 (Dev.).

Yeo. Sigs. Alfred Henry Hobson, O.N. J9804 (Ch.).

C.E.R.A., 2nd Cl., Wallace M'Kenzie Midlane, O.N. 271266 (Po.).

Yeo. Sigs. Albert Victor Smith, O.N. 225294 (Po.).

Ldg. Sig. Charles Henry Soper, O.N. J9709 (Ch.).

HONOURS FOR PALESTINE OPERATIONS (Oct.—Dec. 1917).

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the award of the following honours, decorations, and medals to the undermentioned Officers and Men, in recognition of their services during Naval operations carried out in conjunction with Military operations in Palestine from October to December 1917:—

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Cdr. John Dodd Nares, R.N., H.M.S. Enterprise.

Did most useful service prior to the operations in fixing positions north of Gaza, thus enabling a map to be drawn up. Rendered every assistance to R.A. Egypt from the 6th to 12th November 1917, when the Rear-Admiral's flag was flown in Enterprise.

Cdr. Cecil James Crocker, R.N., H.M. Monitor M.31.

Was senior officer of the M. class Monitors. After the capture of the Sheikh Hassan position, in the early morning of the 2nd November

1917, the monitors and destroyers operated to cover this position whilst it was being consolidated. When the enemy made a strong and determined counter-attack, lasting from about 3 to 4.30 p.m., Cdr. Crocker closed his squadron inshore and maintained a heavy fire upon the enemy, which went far to break up the attack. He displayed great tact and resource, and maintained close relations with the military on the sea flank of the Expeditionary Force, and it was largely due to his personality that the naval co-operation was so successful.

Cdr. Edmond Alan Berners Stanley, M.V.O., R.N., H.M.S. Staunch.

Senior officer of destroyers employed guarding the flank of the Army during the Gaza operations, and rendered valuable service during the enemy's counter-attacks upon Sheikh Hassan.

Lieut.-Cdr. (now Cdr.) Francis Edmund Blechyn-den Haselfoot, R.N., H.M.S. Grafton.

This officer's previous experience, coupled with his energy and originality, was of the greatest value. He prepared observation posts and arranged communications from them to the signal stations, designed and constructed spotting clocks, placed landmarks and fixed them by triangulation, produced special squared maps for naval bombarding purposes, and assisted in the survey north of Gaza. During the operations he was attached to the XXIst Corps as Liaison Officer, in which capacity he did excellent work.

Maj. and Bt. Lieut.-Col. (tempy. Lieut.-Col.) Trant Bramston Luard, R.M.L.I., H.M.S. Hannibal.

Was employed with Lieut.-Cdr. Haselfoot to establish observation posts before Gaza for naval use. He was in charge of the spotting officers and men, and rendered valuable services in authorising fire. The accuracy and success of the sea bombardment was largely due to Major Luard's organisation.

Cdr. George Gregory, O.B.E., R.D., R.N.R.

Was Naval Transport Officer in charge of the landing of stores and ammunition on the coast. The victualling of the Army and the supply of ammunition was largely dependent on the landing of stores upon an open coast under unfavourable conditions; it reflected great credit on Cdr. Gregory and his staff that this work was so well performed, and that such excellent results were obtained from the Egyptian labourers employed on it.

Lieut.-Cdr. (act. Cdr.) Vaughan Alexander Edward Hanning-Lee, R.N., H.M.S. Ladybird.

Senior officer of river gunboats. These vessels replaced the destroyers on flank guard when the latter were absent fuelling, and were also employed cutting wire defences before the attack upon Sheikh Hassan, and in firing on trenches and observation posts. The Ladybird's fire upon Askelon, about 3.30 p.m. on the 8th November 1917, disorganised the enemy's spotting arrangements and reduced the casualties of our troops.

To receive the Distinguished Service Cross.

Lieut. (now Lieut.-Cdr.) Melvill Willis Ward, R.N., H.M. Monitor Raglan.