



The Edinburgh Gazette

Published by Authority.

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1937.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1,
12th November 1937.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the Award of the Medal of the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, to the undermentioned for gallant and distinguished services rendered when H.M.S. "Hunter" was mined off Almeria on the coast of Spain on the 13th May 1937:—

For Gallantry.

Lieutenant Patrick Noel Humphreys, R.N.
James Smail, Petty Officer, O.N. D/J 85547.

For Meritorious Service.

James Frank Collings, Able Seaman, O.N.
D/JX. 136346.

Ernest Thomas, Able Seaman, O.N. D/SSX.
15572.

Herbert Abrahams, Able Seaman, O.N.
D/JX. 135969.

An explosion caused by the mining occurred underneath the Stoker Petty Officers' and Torpedomen's Mess Decks. To reach the ratings on these mess decks, this party had to jump down 8 feet, the ladder being blown away, into 3 feet of oil fuel and on to a deck which might not have been intact. During this period they remained in imminent risk of

falling through the shattered deck into the water and oil fuel. Moreover, they were under the impression that the ship was about to founder. Their exertions to save life consisted in dragging living and dead men from under wreckage and out of the oil fuel and passing them up on deck. This operation lasted from 5 to 10 minutes. The rescued were in very severe danger from having swallowed oil fuel and had they been left would undoubtedly have died. Others were severely burnt and immersion of their wounds in oil fuel, if prolonged, would undoubtedly have caused death.

For Meritorious Service.

Peter Thomas, Coyte Perring, Stoker Petty Officer, O.N. D/K. 65530.

This man closed the fore magazine and shell room hatches, breaking in with a hacksaw the wire covers which were locked on as the keys could not be found at once. The display of initiative which he showed in assisting the wounded and doing various duties without orders was most noticeable.

Sidney Bevington, Acting Leading Seaman, O.N. D/J. 103378.

When the explosion occurred there was a general exodus from the Seamen's Mess deck up the ammunition hatch and into the galley flat. Keeping two ratings with him, Bevington closed all the scuttles and deadlights before leaving the mess deck. His conduct afterwards was also most worthy of notice.