



SIXTH SUPPLEMENT

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FRIDAY, 19 FEBRUARY, 1915

*Admiralty, 19th February, 1915*

The following Memorandum has been furnished by the Admiral Commanding the East Coast Mine sweepers, detailing the recent mine-sweeping operations off Scarborough

From the 19th to the 31st December sweeping operations were conducted by the East Coast Mine sweepers with the object of clearing the minefield which had been laid by the enemy off Scarborough

At the beginning there was no indication of the position of the mines, although owing to losses of passing merchant ships it was known that a minefield had been laid

In order to ascertain how the mines lay it was necessary to work at all times of tide with a consequent large increase in the element of danger

The following officers are specially noticed for their services during the operations —

*Commander Richard H Walters, R N*, A M S Staff, was in charge of the whole of the mine sweeping operations from 19th to 31st December. During this period a large number of mines were swept up and destroyed. By

the 25th December, a channel had been cleared, and traffic was able to pass through by daylight

*Commander (now Captain) Lionel G Preston, R N*, H M S "Skipjack," on the 19th December, proceeded at once into the middle of the area where the mines had exploded to give assistance to the damaged trawlers. He anchored between the trawlers and the mines which had been brought to the surface, and proceeded to sink them

*Lieutenant Godfrey Crash Parsqnt, R N*, H M S "Pekin," displayed great skill and devotion to duty in continuing to command his group of trawlers after having been mined in Trawler No 58 on 19th December. On this day his group exploded eight mines, and brought to the surface six more, Trawler No 99 being blown up and Nos 58 and 465 damaged, all in the space of about 10 minutes

*Lieutenant H Boothby, R N R*, H M S "Pekin" When Trawler No 99 ("Oranda") in which he was serving was blown up by a mine on the 19th December, Lieutenant Boothby successfully got all his crew (except one who was killed) into safety. Lieutenant Boothby was again blown up on 6th January, 1915, in Trawler No 450 ("The Banyers")