

At 10 30 a m the enemy hoisted the signal to "abandon the vessel as fast as possible," and in order to save life Lieutenant Parslow decided to obey, and stopped engines to give as many of the crew as wished an opportunity to get away in the boats. On receiving a wireless message from a destroyer, however, urging him to hold on, as long as possible, he decided to get way on the ship again. The submarine then opened a heavy fire on the bridge and boats with guns and rifles, wrecking the upper bridge, killing Lieutenant Parslow, and carrying away one of the port davits, causing the boat to drop into the sea and throwing its occupants into the water.

At about 11 a m two destroyers arrived on the scene, and the submarine dived.

Throughout the attack Lieutenant Parslow remained on the bridge, on which the enemy fire was concentrated, entirely without protection, and by his magnificent heroism succeeded, at the cost of his own life, in saving a valuable ship and cargo for the country. He set a splendid example to the officers and men of the Mercantile Marine.

Lieutenant Archibald Bisset Smith, R N R

For most conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in command of the S S "Otaki," on the 10th March, 1917.

At about 2 30 p m on 10th March, 1917 the S S "Otaki," whose armament consisted of one 4 7 in gun for defensive purposes, sighted the disguised German raider "Moewe," which was armed with four 5 9 inch, one 4 1 inch and two 22 pdr guns, and two torpedo tubes. The "Moewe" kept the "Otaki" under observation for some time and finally called upon her to stop. This Lieutenant Smith refused to do, and a duel ensued at ranges of 1900 2000 yards, and lasted for about 20 minutes.

During this action the "Otaki" scored several hits on the "Moewe," causing considerable damage, and starting a fire, which lasted for three days. She sustained several casualties and received much damage herself, and was heavily on fire. Lieutenant Smith, therefore, gave orders for the boats to be lowered to allow the crew to be rescued. He remained on the ship himself and went down with her when she sank with the British colours still flying, after what was described in an enemy account as "a duel as gallant as naval history can relate."

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

*St James's Palace, S W ,
24th May, 1919*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in recognition of valuable services rendered in connection with the War —

To be Officers of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order

Commander Victor Lindsey Arbuthnot Campbell, D S O , R N

For valuable services in connection with operations carried out on shore at Murmansk

Commander Alexander Rennie, R N R

For valuable services as Navigating Officer of H M S "Virginian" since December, 1914, whilst employed on patrol and ocean escort duties

Engineer Commander Thomas Alexander Graham, R N R

For valuable services as Engineer Officer of H M S "Orbita" whilst employed on ocean escort duties

Engineer Commander George Webster Todd, R N R

For valuable services as Engineer Officer of H M S "City of London" whilst employed on ocean escort duties

Engineer Lieutenant Commander (acting Engineer-Commander) James Young, R D , R N R

For valuable services as Engineer Officer of H M S "Mantua" throughout the War whilst employed on patrol and ocean escort duties

Lieutenant Commander Robert Cunningham Warden, R D , R N R

For valuable services in command of a mine sweeping gunboat and as second in command of a mine sweeping flotilla since June 1917

Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) Robert Ormiston Paterson, R M A

For valuable services in connection with operations carried out on shore at Murmansk

Lieutenant (now acting Lieutenant Commander) Harold Ernest Clare, R N R

For valuable services in command of H M S "Robina" during the last four years whilst employed in the Auxiliary Patrol

Lieutenant Albert Frederick Masters, R N R

For valuable services as Senior Executive Officer of Poole Naval Base from August, 1915 to December, 1918

Lieutenant Thomas Philip Ryan, R N R

For valuable services as Principal Mine sweeping Officer at Kirkwall from April to October, 1918

Engineer Lieutenant Robert Driscoll, R N

For valuable services as Engineer Officer at Ardrossan Auxiliary Patrol Base

Acting Lieutenant John Polehampton, R N R

For valuable services in mine sweeping operations

Acting Paymaster Lieutenant Arthur Harold Eglon, R N R

For valuable services in H M S "Orcoma" whilst employed on ocean escort duties

To be Members of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order

Artificer Engineer (acting Chief Artificer Engineer) William Henry Robbins, R N

For valuable services as Engineer Officer at Stornoway Auxiliary Patrol Base