

William L. Brewer, Chief Petty Officer Telegraphist;

whose training and organisation of the W/T department successfully withstood the supreme test of battle. His coolness and ability, when under fire, in repairing damage to W/T equipment, on the upper deck and below decks, resulted in Achilles' W/T being in full working order again in a very short time, and in getting the first Enemy Report through.

George H. Sampson, Chief Ordnance Artificer (First Class);

whose skilful maintenance of the gun armament material secured that at the end of the action all guns were fully in action and all hoists working. At no time was the rate of fire of any turret slowed up by any failure in the ammunition supply or by any defect.

Albert G. Young, Cook;

whose energetic example and most cheerful demeanour were an inspiration to the rest of his quarters during the whole of this action and the sixteen hour chase that followed.

Frank T. Saunders, Sergeant, R.M.;

who acted with courage and initiative throughout the engagement, overcoming each difficulty and breakdown as it occurred, and by his fine example and leadership urged his quarters to still further efforts.

H.M.S. EXETER.

Distinguished Service Medal.

James McGarry, Engine Room Artificer, Second Class;

who on his own initiative at the beginning of the action flooded the petrol compartment. After the two shell bursts near him and in dense fumes, with dead and dying around him, himself blown against a bulkhead and temporarily stunned, he maintained complete charge. He got Shipwrights to investigate damage and organised stretcher parties and the work in his area. On the arrival of the Engineer Officer he made a complete report while a messenger supported him.

Frank L. Bond, Engine Room Artificer, Fourth Class;

who, on a shell entering the Flat in which he was, stood fast in the dense fumes, and, waiting until the last man was reported clear of a Magazine, then flooded it. He then went to the main centre of the fire to ascertain damage. He found the flooding valve spindles shot away, the fire main shattered but enough flow of water into the magazine from the damaged fire main. So he carried on fighting the fire in the Chief Petty Officers' Flat.

After the action he performed his duties with marked zeal and cheerfulness.

Arthur B. Wilde, Sergeant, Plymouth;

who, ordering the evacuation of a Turret after the Gun House had been hit by an eleven-inch shell, calmly put a tourniquet of rope round the stump of a Marine's arm. He then returned to the Gun House where

he found a fire over the rammer of the left gun. This rammer contained a charge of cordite. He organised a chain system of buckets to the turret, put out the fire, removed the cordite, and threw the charge over the side.

Herbert V. Chalkley, Acting Petty Officer;

who, shortly after an eleven-inch shell burst in the Chief Petty Officers' Flat above the dynamo room in which he was, managed to open the door in the escape truck and crawl over the wreckage to the switchboard hatch. He could not clear the wreckage away, and realising that his services could be dispensed with in the dynamo room, he scrambled up the dynamo escape trunk to the upper deck, returned to the flat and helped the fire parties in getting the fire under control and isolated circuits there. The conditions in these two flats were very bad at the time that he was trying to escape from the dynamo room. His work with the fire parties was outstanding.

Charles D. Pope, Sick Berth Chief Petty Officer;

who, when returning from the fore part of the Sick Bay with bottles of Morphine Sulphate Solution, was knocked flat and temporarily unconscious by a shell bursting and badly perforating that end of the Sick Bay. The bottles were broken, but when he recovered he went back through the smoke and fumes and not finding more solution brought back with him Morphia Ampoules.

Throughout the action he displayed great coolness, initiative and cheerful optimism despite the floods in the Sick Bay.

After the action his nursing and devotion to the wounded was exemplary.

Charles F. Hallas, Petty Officer;

who was the Torpedo Gunner's Mate in charge of the torpedo tubes. Although wounded at the start of the action he remained at his station until all torpedoes were fired. He then formed parties to deal with fires on deck and help the wounded. After the action he worked unceasingly in repairing damaged circuits. His cheerfulness throughout was a great encouragement to all who were working with him.

John L. Minhinett, Stoker, First Class;

who, when taken wounded to the After Medical Station, refused all attention until he was certain that the message he had been carrying had been delivered. This message stated that the steering had been changed over to Number 3 position.

Eric A. Shoemith, Acting Leading Airman, F.A.A.;

who on his own initiative, despite his clothing being soaked in petrol, climbed on to the top of the centre section of the aircraft and cleared the triatic stay which had fallen across it, thus freeing the aircraft for jettisoning. While he did this the ship was under heavy fire, the petrol leaking from the aircraft was a great danger, and a Turret was firing on a forward bearing.