

of the wreckage, and his air gunner was able to escape. Realising, however, that his passenger was still in the aircraft Flying Officer Tollemache, with complete disregard of the intense conflagration or the explosion of small arms ammunition, endeavoured to break through the forward hatch and effect a rescue. He persisted in this gallant attempt until driven off with his clothes blazing. His efforts, though in vain, resulted in injuries which nearly cost him his life. Had he not attempted the rescue it is considered he would have escaped almost unscathed.

Pilot Officer Edward Donald PARKER (76465), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

On the night of June 8th, 1940, this officer was first pilot of an aircraft detailed for bombing operations. Just after taking off in complete darkness the port engine failed. Displaying great coolness Pilot Officer Parker immediately raised the undercarriage and tried to fly straight on, but found that he could gain neither height or speed with his heavily loaded aircraft on only one engine. Reducing speed to 80 m.p.h. he switched off his engine and "felt" the aircraft into the nearest field in complete darkness. The aircraft crashed however and immediately burst into flames. Pilot Officer Parker jumped out and got clear to find that his navigator and air gunner were safe but the wireless operator was lying stunned near the burning aircraft. With complete disregard for his own personal safety and knowing there were four 500 lb. bombs in the wreckage, which might explode any moment, he returned and carried his wireless operator to a place of safety. During this action one of the bombs exploded and Pilot Officer Parker saved the airman further injury by throwing him to the ground. This officer displayed exceptional coolness, resourcefulness and courage throughout and, in face of extreme danger, undoubtedly saved the life of his wireless operator.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.

6th August, 1940.

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned appointment to the Fourth Class of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for the following Awards of the Medal of the said Most Excellent Order, for Meritorious Service, and for the publication in the London Gazette of the names of personnel of the Merchant Navy specially shown below as having received an expression of commendation for their good services.

To be an Additional Officer of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—

Captain William Gifford, Master, s.s. "Highlander" (North of Scotland and Orkney and Shetland Steam Navigation Company, Ltd.).

Awarded the Medal of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for Meritorious Service:—

Bert Whyman, Fireman; George Anderson, Able Seaman, s.s. "Highlander" (North of Scotland and Orkney and Shetland Steam Navigation Company, Ltd.).

Commended:—

William Birnie, Able Seaman; Laurence Smith Halcrow, Steward; Miss Cockburn, Stewardess; s.s. "Highlander" (North of Scotland and Orkney and Shetland Steam Navigation Company, Ltd.).

Towards midnight s.s. "Highlander" was attacked by enemy aircraft. The night was clear and starry, but there was no moon. The aircraft came up and opened fire with machine guns, and turned to attack again from ahead, passing down the port side. The enemy were engaged with defensive armament. As the first aircraft flew down the port side from ahead, "Highlander's" fire caused his port wing to hit a lifeboat and he crashed on the poop. His fuselage fell into the sea, and "Highlander" went on her way.

The second attack was made about ten minutes later, the same tactics being used. This time the enemy was hit and seen to fall into the sea a hundred yards astern.

A third aircraft is believed to have been heard.

Whitehall, 17th July, 1940.

The KING has been graciously pleased to ordain and declare that Eva Mary, widow of Elliot Mackirdy Scott Mackirdy, and Clare Isma, wife of Fred Somerset Hartnell, shall henceforth have, hold, and enjoy the same title, rank place, pre-eminence, and precedence as would have been due to them had their father Evelyn Henry Pierrepont survived his nephew Evelyn Robert, Earl Manvers, and thereby succeeded to the title and dignity of Earl Manvers. And to command that the said order and declaration be registered in His Majesty's College of Arms.

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Crown Office,

House of Lords.

1st August, 1940.

The KING has been pleased by Letters Patent under the Great Seal to present The Rev. Marcus Knight, B.A., B.D., to the Vicarage of Nuneaton, in the County of Warwick and Diocese of Coventry, void by the cession of the last Incumbent and in His Majesty's Gift in full right.

Lord Chancellor's Office,

House of Lords, S.W.1.

2nd August, 1940.

BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1914.

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 1 (1) of the Rules Publication Act, 1893, that after the expiration of at least 40 days from the date hereof the Lord Chancellor, with the concurrence of the President of the Board of Trade, proposes to amend the Bankruptcy Rules, 1915, by prescribing a new rule 108 A, relating to costs.

Copies of the above Draft Rules which may be cited as the Draft Bankruptcy (Amendment) Rules, 1940, may be obtained from any bookseller or directly from His Majesty's Stationery