



SUPPLEMENT

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TUESDAY, 13 AUGUST, 1940

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.  
13th August, 1940.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned appointment to 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 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:—*

Alexander Brown, Esq., First Officer, s.s. "Earlspark" (Denholm Line Steamers Ltd., Glasgow).

When "Earlspark" was sunk by enemy action with her Master and six of the crew missing, Mr. Brown took charge of the rest of the crew, 32 in all, one of whom died later from continued hardship and exposure.

In a strong wind and a heavy sea, their lifeboat full of water, and far from land, Mr. Brown kept up his men's spirits, organised baling out, collected two rafts, the survivors on which could not be got into the lifeboat for some days; owing to rough weather, towed

these rafts, and kept his lifeboat afloat and his men in good heart, in spite of exposure and privations, for five days' perilous drifting. When H.M.S. "Enchantress" finally sighted and rescued "Earlspark's" survivors and took the boat's crew on board all but one recovered.

To Mr. Brown's courage, leadership and determination during five days of peril and hardship the survivors undoubtedly owe their lives.

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

Maurice Holden, Greaser, s.s. "Empire Commerce" (Ministry of Shipping).

"Empire Commerce" was carrying a large pulpwood cargo to Sheerness. Off the N.E. Spit buoy she was badly damaged by an explosion under her engine room.

This seemed to break her back; the port life-boat was blown into the air; her decks and funnel cracked. The crew were taken off, leaving only a small working party aboard, and the ship had to be beached.

The explosion ruined the engine room, the engines canting at an angle of 45 degrees. The lower engine room ladder was torn away, and the water poured in. Greaser Maurice Holden was able to get out of the engine room, but, looking back, saw his engineer, Carrington—

who had been caught in the inrush—overwhelmed by the rising water. Holden at once went down again, swam to Carrington at the risk of his own life, and managed to drag him to safety. Holden's brave act, in a situation of extreme danger, saved Carrington from death.

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

James George Henry Missen, Gunlayer, m/v "Stork" (General Steam Navigation Company Ltd., London).

*Commended:—*

Captain Robert James Carey, Master,	} m/v "Stork," (General Steam Navigation Company Ltd., London).
William Harold Maryson, Gunner,	
Hubert Beaumont Kemp, Lewis Gunner.	

M/v "Stork" unloading at Boulogne, was continuously bombed and machine-gunned off that Port. In the middle of a dive-bombing attack Gunlayer Missen, who had been on continuous duty at the ship's 12-pounder, succeeded in hitting a German bomber. The machine, on fire and out of control, swerved away, one of its crew using a parachute, falling into the sea.

Further continuous raids, with dive-bombing and mine-dropping attacks, went on above and around "Stork" till her Master decided to try and save her. He was successful in this, and the ship eventually reached Southampton.

Gunlayer Missen showed persistent devotion to duty and entire disregard of personal safety, and successfully replied to continuous attacks during three days and nights.

*COMMENDATIONS:—*

The individuals named below have been brought to notice for good services when their ships encountered enemy submarines, aircraft or mines:—

Captain Reginald McGregor Spencer, Master	} m/v "Athelprince," (Athel Line Limited, London)
John Henry Flockhart, Esq., Chief Officer	
William Powers, Gunner	} s.s. "Devon City," (Reardon Smith and Company Ltd., Cardiff).
William Taggart, Gunner	
Captain Robert Alfred Smiles, Master	} s.s. "Dunster Grange" (Houlder Line Limited, London)
Frederick George Franklin Jones, Esq., Chief Engineer	
John William Pocock, Esq., "Golden Spray," Margate.	
James Harkness, Fireman, (General Steam Navigation Company Ltd., London).	
James Sinclair Roger, Esq., Chief Engineer	} Hospital Carrier "Maid of Kent" (Southern Railway Company, London).
Leslie George Bowley, Esq., Engineer.	
Captain John Cecil McCarthy, Master	} s.s. "Vestal" (Corporation of Trinity House, London).
William George Albert Ford, Seaman Wireless Operator	

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