

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

Captain William Royal Thomas, Master.

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

Peter Gibb Johnstone, Esq., Fourth Engineer.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

George Taylor, Quartermaster.

An aircraft made bomb attacks on the ship and raked her with machine-gun fire. She was hit and fires started.

When the plane passed overhead the Master jumped up to fire his rifle and Taylor went with him. The enemy machine-gunned them and Taylor received a bullet through his eye. Despite this he went back to the wheel and continued to steer all through the action.

The Fourth Engineer, Mr. Johnstone, showed courage and devotion to duty.

The Master, thinking the ship would founder, sent one boat away with old sailors and firemen in it, whereupon the enemy flew off.

The Master, the two Engineers, the Chief Officer, the Third Officer and the cabin boy stayed to fight the fires and eventually extinguished them.

All now went well and the ship reached port.

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

Captain John Edwin Watson, Master.

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

Stanley Stuart Howie, Esq., Second Mate.

A submarine attacked the ship with rapid and accurate gunfire. The Master put up a very good fight, manoeuvring to keep the enemy astern, and returning the fire. The submarine was hit more than once.

The Master, who was wounded, gave orders to abandon ship. The submarine now fired a torpedo and the ship began to sink quickly. All the boats but two had been wrecked, so rafts and any things that would float were thrown overboard. Distress signals had been sent out and the survivors were rescued.

The Second Mate fought the gun with great coolness.

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

Captain James Beckett, Master.

*Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—*

Henry James Ritchie, Boatswain.

The ship was attacked by an aircraft with machine-gun fire and bombs. In spite of the damage done every available weapon was brought into action, and the enemy was driven off. The steering-gear and hand-gear had been damaged and both holds were filling and could not be pumped out. The weather was very bad. Two tugs were sent and two days later the ship was towed to port.

The Boatswain acted throughout with great courage and took the place of two of the gunners who were wounded early in the action.

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

Captain John Herbert, Master.

*Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—*

James Francis O'Neill, Gunlayer.

A submarine was sighted abeam and opened fire as the ship swung away to bring her astern. The Master ordered the gunner to hold his fire till the enemy came within effective range. Shots were exchanged and the ship's second and fifth rounds were hits. The submarine did not fire again. The ship fired until the submarine was out of range.

She was still on the surface with her after end smoking.

The gunlayer O'Neill did his work well.

*To be Additional Members of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—*

Thomas Cunningham Aitchison, Esq., Third Officer.

The ship was attacked by enemy aircraft and sunk.

The Third Officer, the last to leave the ship, saved the life of a shipmate who, unable to swim, was unwilling to leave.

William Arthur Allon, Esq., Chief Officer.

The ship was attacked by enemy aircraft in the Thames Estuary. She replied. Two aircraft dived near her, but the kite she was flying caused both of them to swerve away.

Chief Officer Allon, at the Lewis gun, withholding his fire until the second aircraft turned, shot so well that in one minute he brought it down into the sea.

Five bombs fell near the ship but they did no damage and no one was hurt.

Tom Collier, Esq., Chief Officer.

When the ship was attacked by enemy aircraft Mr. Collier was blown from the Monkey Island to the fore deck abreast the foremast, about 50 feet with a drop of about 40 feet. This broke two of his ribs and deafened him. He got up and began to search for survivors. He found five and put four on the raft and went on with another man searching for an hour and a quarter though the ship was listing more and more to port. When warned that she was going over and they ought to leave, he sent the other man off but himself went on looking till satisfied that no one was left.

Henry McGregor Post, Esq., Chief Officer.

The Chief Officer was in the port boat with the Master, who had been ill for some time before his ship was struck, and, therefore, much of the care of the boat and her crew fell on Mr. Post.

They were adrift in terrible weather for thirteen days. During that time Mr. Post's skill and courage were beyond praise. He was unfailingly cheerful and set a fine example.