



SUPPLEMENT
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**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE
ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.**

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
9th July, 1941.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for the following awards of the George Medal and the British Empire Medal and for the publication in the London Gazette of the names of Officers and Men of the Merchant Navy specially shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for their brave conduct.

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

Captain Philip Edmund Birch, Master.

The ship went to the help of another which had been torpedoed. While she was rescuing the crew, she was attacked by two submarines. The Master handled his vessel with skill. He used his gun well and one of the submarines was seen to dive suddenly.

On another occasion the ship was machine-gunned and bombed by an enemy aircraft. The Master instantly replied with his gun. The ship was holed and set on fire and the crew were ordered to the boats.

They returned later and, without help, brought the vessel to port.

In both actions the Master showed courage and tenacity.

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

Captain Arthur Patterson, Master.

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

Edgar Stenstrom Anholm, Esq., Second Officer.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Herbert Phythian, Seaman.

Gysbert Fluit, Seaman.

The Master of the vessel returned in the darkness to the scene of an attack on a convoy. Men were dimly seen clinging to rafts. Second Officer Anholm volunteered to take a boat with a crew of two, Seamen Phythian and Fluit, to rescue these men. Seventeen exhausted seamen were picked up and the heavy boat-load was brought back to the ship and the men hauled aboard.

Later the same night the Second Officer helped to save other men when boats were sighted. In all, forty-nine men owe their