



SUPPLEMENT

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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
26th August, 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 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:—

Robert Edward Stankley, Esq., Chief Engineer.

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

Norman Frederick Fitch, Esq., Chief Officer.

The ship was attacked three times by enemy aircraft which dropped bombs, one of which started a bad fire.

Chief Engineer Stankley, though wounded, at once went to the Engine Room and saw to the withdrawal of his staff. He then helped to get the boats away. Later he

fought the fire and, when the vessel again got under way, controlled the engines until the ship reached port.

Chief Officer Fitch saw to the taking off of the wounded passengers in the lifeboats and then arranged fire-parties and fought the fires until they were put out.

It was due largely to the courage and determination of the two Officers that the ship was saved and brought safe to port.

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

Ralph Churchill Ellis, Esq., Third Officer.

The ship was hit by bombs and heavily damaged amidships. Fires were started. The Captain, Chief Officer and Chief Engineer were killed and the Second Officer was badly wounded.

Third Officer Ellis was below when the attack started. He went on deck at once and organised rescue and fire-fighting parties.

It was due mainly to the good work of this Officer that four boats were got away. He was tireless throughout in helping the wounded and in searching for survivors in the burning ship and he did all he could to ensure that the surviving passengers and crew should be brought to safety.

William Reddington, Esq., Chief Engineer.

The ship was attacked by aircraft while in dock. She was hit in the engine-room by a bomb and fires broke out. Fire and first-aid