



SUPPLEMENT

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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1,
9th September, 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 award 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:—

Captain Henry Edwards, Master.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Thomas Howard Eagles, Apprentice.

The ship was attacked three times in heavy seas by an enemy aircraft. The ship fought back and accurate fire drove the aircraft off and probably destroyed it.

The Master's spirit and determination, his handling of the ship so that she presented as small a target as possible to the enemy, his defence organisation and the behaviour of the entire company were in the best traditions of the Merchant Navy.

Apprentice Eagles, who is 16 years of age, did good work. He was at the machine gun, which jammed. In a few seconds, quite unperturbed by tracer bullets flying past his head, he had cleared it and continued firing.

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

Captain Robert Roberts, Master.

The ship was attacked by an enemy aircraft, which flew athwart the ship, spraying the deck with bullets and dropping a bomb which damaged the engines. Another attack was made, and all the ship's guns were fired in reply. Many tracers were seen to enter the aircraft which banked steeply and disappeared astern, probably damaged.

The damaged pipes were temporarily repaired, and the ship was able to continue her voyage. It was due to the Master's foresight and seamanship that the vessel was saved.

James Wilkie, Esq., Third Engineer.

The ship was in dock when a heavy air raid started. High explosive bombs fell nearby and members of the crew were killed and wounded by fragments and blast. The Third Engineer showed exceptional courage and devotion to duty. Although badly wounded, he made his way to the engine-room to make sure that everything was in good order below. It was only later that he revealed the extent of his own injuries.