

Stewardess Owen groped her way in the darkness to the women's berths on the lowest deck of the vessel. She had difficulty in opening the doors of the quarters but forced them and brought five women and girls to the well-deck. Sailors offered her life-belts for her charges. She saw them put on, although there was none for herself. She then returned to bring away another girl. By this time the ship was sinking. Stewardess Owen could have reached the last life-boat but she would not leave the girl and jumped into the sea with her and supported her for nearly two hours, until they were rescued.

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

Clifford Walter Davies, Esq., Chief Officer.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Edgar Chalker, Cook and Steward.

The ship was attacked by enemy aircraft with cannon, machine-guns and bombs. She replied at once with her defensive armament manned by Chief Officer Davies, a Gunner and Steward Chalker. They went on firing despite the hail of bullets and cannon shell.

The Chief Officer and the Steward were wounded, but the brave defence put up by these men drove off the enemy and saved their ship.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

John George Gordon, Chief Steward.
Joseph Barnes Rickerby Stamper, Able Seaman.

The ship was attacked by an enemy aircraft which bombed and machine-gunned her. All hands stood to the guns throughout the attack and put up a spirited fight.

Gordon and Stamper, who were both badly hurt, went on firing their guns until they dropped from loss of blood. Both men showed courage and endurance and possibly damaged one of the enemy aircraft.

COMMENDATIONS.

Those named below have been commended for brave conduct when their ships encountered enemy ships, submarines, aircraft or mines:—

Captain Harold Corbin Archer, Master.
George Alfred Bright, Gunlayer.
Harold Falkingbridge, Esq., Chief Officer.
Captain Donald Duncan Halcrow, Master.
Matthew George Mallinson, Gunner.
Hans Christian Olsen (deceased), Steward.
Captain Thomas Patterson Wilson, Master.

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