

Frederick William Smy, Barge Master.

It was the Barge Master's watch and the Mate was below when the barge was damaged by enemy action, and she started to settle fast by the stern. Smy's head had been badly gashed by the roof of the wheelhouse but he went down in the cabin where the water came up to his chest.

He found the Mate stunned and pulled him up the companion, put him on the raft, which had fallen down from its place above the wheelhouse and, as he climbed on to it himself, the barge went down like a stone. Smy paddled across to another barge which altered course and picked them up.

Although injured, the Barge Master, at the risk of his life, saved his Mate.

Matthew Spratt, Gunner.

While the convoy in which the ship was sailing was attacked by aircraft on the starboard side, another bomber glided through cloud with engines shut off and bombed her from the port side. Her defence was so alert that the gunners, though attacked from an unexpected quarter, shot down the enemy.

Spratt, although on his first voyage, proved very cool and resourceful. In spite of the ship being bombed and badly damaged, he hit the aircraft and played the leading part in bringing it down.

Thomas Williams, Gunner.

When the ship was attacked by a German aircraft Williams manned the Lewis gun and, although the enemy dropped bombs and raked the ship with machine-gun fire, he kept up a sustained fire and hit the enemy's nose and fuselage. Williams showed courage and coolness throughout the attack.

COMMENDATIONS.

Those named below have been Commended for brave conduct when their ships encountered enemy ships, aircraft, submarines or mines.

Samuel Clayton Akester, Esq. (deceased), Chief Engineer.

Captain Cyril Allison, Master.

Joseph Arnott, Ordinary Seaman.

Edward Walter Baunton, Deck Boy.

George C. Beattie, Gunner.

Thomas R. Bell, Gunner.

Leslie Bradley, Able Seaman.

James Byers, Esq., First Mate.

Joseph Dyer, Gunner.

James Taylor Esplin, Steward.

James Penry Evans (deceased), Seaman.

Alex Flett, Esq., Mate.

John Stanley Ford, Gunlayer.

Stanley Herbert Gordon, Gunner.

James Frederick Hall, Gunner.

Henry Jeffs, Gunner.

Captain James Boyd Laird (deceased), Master.

Thomas Pickering Laybourne, Able Seaman.

Neil Macleod (deceased), Able Seaman.

Ernest Edward Markham, Gunner.

Captain David Martin, Master.

Edward James Montague, Gunner.

Francis Alec Meech Pain, Esq., Second Mate.

Alfred V. Palmer, Gunner.

Alfred James Smith, Able Seaman.

Walter James Smith, Gunner.

Frank William Theobald, Gunner.

John Stanley Thursfield, Gunner.

Harold Alfred Wyatt (deceased), Boatswain.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.

18th November, 1941.

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following award:—

The British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Henry George Blogg, G.C., Coxswain, Cromer Lifeboat (Royal National Life-Boat Institution).

A call for the Life-boat was received to help six ships, ashore on sands. Eighteen minutes later the boat was launched. It was blowing a W.N.W. gale with hard squalls of wind and rain and the tide soon began to ebb. When the six ships were reached the Coxswain took his boat over the submerged deck of the first ship again and again, bumping heavily, until her whole surviving crew of sixteen had been hauled abroad from the bridge. Next he went alongside a second ship and held his boat there until thirty-one men had been rescued. These forty-seven men were then taken to a Destroyer. A third ship had only her bridge above water, and Blogg drove his boat over the ship's bulwarks and held her against the bridge until all her surviving crew of nineteen had come aboard. From a fourth ship twenty-two men were rescued. The Life-boat kept bumping on the sands and once ran hard aground, but she came off on the next sea. Survivors of the other ships had been saved by the whaler of one of H.M. Ships and No. 2 Cromer Life-boat.

By the courage and resolution of Coxswain Blogg and his crew eighty-eight lives were saved.

LONDON

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:

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1941

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