

dived to the attack. He machine-gunned the bridge, from which steady shooting was kept up. The Master put up such a good defence that the aircraft found it hard to pull out of the last dive and was not seen again.

James Frederick Ward, Esq., Skipper of a Trawler. (Award dated 26th July, 1940.)

The trawler was bombed and machine-gunned by two enemy planes when fishing. With his wheel lashed, the Skipper kept firing with his rifle, and his gunner with the Lewis gun. Suddenly the enemy ceased fire and one plane limped away with its port wing dipping. It gradually disappeared, seemingly out of control and was probably lost. The trawler continued fishing but was again attacked by two more enemy aircraft. The Skipper, although wounded, continued firing until the enemy disappeared.

Sidney Wright, Esq., Skipper of a Trawler. (Award dated 26th July, 1940.)

The trawler was attacked by an enemy plane which dived to within 80 feet, and machine-gunned her. The moment it cleared the funnel, the Skipper ordered the gunners to fire. This they did at point-blank range and the plane broke off the action, flying away within six yards of the water, its left wing continually dropping. In the gathering darkness it was impossible to verify whether the plane crashed. This was the fourth time that Skipper Wright had saved his ship from air attack.

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

Ernest Catterson, Esq., Chief Officer.

*Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—*

Carl Ellis, Steward.

The ship was attacked in darkness by German aircraft and set on fire. All the boats were destroyed. The Chief Officer, helped by the Steward, got a raft overboard and put the injured on to it. Later they transferred them into boats from other ships. They acted with courage and skill in the face of danger, and by their efforts many lives were saved.

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

Captain Thomas Parry, Master.

*Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—*

Edwin Albert Mancor, Gunner.

The ship was attacked by an aircraft which dived out of the clouds. The gunner opened fire and hit the enemy, who turned away, jettisoned his bombs and fell into the sea.

The Master's ready and skilful defence, coupled with the accuracy of the gunner, saved the ship from further attack and destroyed the enemy.

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

Charles Alfred Sleeth, Esq., Skipper of a Trawler. (Award dated 1st August, 1940.)

*Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—*

Edward Thomas Fifield, Cook. (Award dated 1st August, 1940.)

The trawler was suddenly attacked by an enemy bomber. Fifield, who was already at the gun, was hit by machine-gun fire. Although bleeding profusely, he stayed at his gun, firing steadily. The Skipper meanwhile left the bridge to fetch rockets to warn other ships. By this time the gunner was weak from loss of blood and the Skipper took his place at the Lewis gun. It seems probable that while firing some 300 rounds, Fifield hit the enemy, as part of the fuselage was seen to fall. When at the gun, the Skipper succeeded in piercing the plane's under-carriage during a very close attack in which three more bombs only just missed the trawler, whose steering was damaged. After being hit in this last attack, the bomber flew away.

Fifield showed unflinching bravery in standing to his gun when wounded and his rapid, and probably successful, fire shook the attacker. The Skipper set a fine example throughout, and when he in turn took over the gun, his fire undoubtedly drove off the enemy, enabling him to bring his ship safely home.

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

Daniel Jack Thomas, Esq., Chief Engineer.

*Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—*

William Webb, Leading Salvage Hand (Port of London Authority).

The ship received a signal that another had been attacked by dive bombers and set on fire. She altered course and drew alongside the damaged vessel. The Chief Engineer and Webb leapt aboard and trained hoses on to the flames. The Chief Engineer, realising that the boilers might explode, had himself lowered into the stokehold and released the safety valve. Although their boots were burnt away and their feet were blistered from the intense heat, Mr. Thomas and Webb, showing great devotion to duty, remained at their posts for four hours until the fire was subdued.

*Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—*

Henry Herbert Austin, Third Hand.

Harold Petrini, Gunner.

(Both awards dated 21st October, 1941.)

The trawler was attacked by an enemy aircraft with machine-guns.

Austin and Petrini, without stands or protection of any sort, held their fire till the last moment and aimed so well that the aircraft burst into flames, the tail fell off, and it crashed into the sea.

Edward John Bland, Assistant Foreman and Diver (Port of London Authority).

A ship was mined and sunk. To lift her a diver had to go down and pass a wire through her propeller aperture. Enemy mines were known to be near the wreck, and there was constant danger of air attack. In face of