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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

*St James's Palace, S W 1.
3rd February, 1942*

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, in the Merchant Navy, and for the publication in the London Gazette of the names specially shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for their brave conduct.—

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

Captain William Evans, Master.

The ship was torpedoed in darkness. Owing to the good organisation of Captain Evans, the whole crew got away safely in three boats in charge of himself and two other Officers. They kept together for two days, until heavy weather drove them apart. The Master's boat was rescued after nine days and the others also reached safety.

The Master showed unflinching courage and excellent seamanship.

Captain Stephen Leonard Hoare, Master
Charles Meryon Proctor, Esq, Chief Engineer

The ship was attacked by torpedo bombers, but succeeded in driving them off. Later she was again attacked by two torpedo bombers. Captain Hoare's good seamanship saved her from damage and the enemy was repulsed. During these attacks the Chief Engineer succeeded in developing a speed which the vessel had never before reached.

Captain William Edward Rawlins Eyton-Jones, Master.

The ship picked up a life-boat holding twenty-five survivors from a stricken vessel. Four days later she was herself attacked and sank within three minutes. The Master went down with the ship but came to the surface and helped a survivor to some wreckage. The two were then picked up by the only boat which had got away. Captain Eyton-Jones took charge, and rescued others from the sea until there were fifty-eight people on board. Stores were supplemented from rafts nearby, rations fixed and a course set for a British possession. After thirteen days, and a voyage of over five hundred miles, all but two of the boat-load reached safety. The Master showed high qualities of leadership and his seamanship never faltered.

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

Captain Alexander MacKinlay, Master
Thomas Livingstone Main, Esq, Chief Engineer.

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

Thomas Williams Ellis, Esq, Chief Officer

The ship was attacked by torpedo bombers, but succeeded in driving them off. Later she was twice attacked by bombs and torpedo bombers. Again her gunnery was spirited, and she hit at least two enemy aircraft. Only expert seamanship saved her from being torpedoed. The Master showed great skill throughout, and he was ably seconded by the Chief Engineer and the Chief Officer.