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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
17th 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 Fishing Fleet, and for the publication in the London Gazette of the names of those 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 Philip George Bell, Master.
James Kirkland Greig, Esq., Chief Engineer.

For courage, skill and resource during enemy air attacks, when the ship was acting as a supply vessel in the Mediterranean.

Captain Robert Brooks, Mooring and Wreck Raising Officer, Port of London Authority.

A ship was bombed and set on fire. In the presence of great danger from enemy aircraft, Captain Brooks encouraged the crew to strenuous efforts in fire fighting. It was largely due to his personal efforts that the vessel was saved.

This Officer has at all times set an inspiring example to his men. On two occasions he has conducted salvage operations in the face of enemy attack, and has answered every call on his services with skill and courage.

Captain Jack Reginald Lewis, Master.

The ship was torpedoed and the Master received a head injury and was stunned. When he came to, the vessel was sinking. He directed rescue work and, after four days

in a small boat, sighted land. In spite of his injury and of later illness, the Master's care for his men, his leadership and his fine qualities of seamanship were unflinching.

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

Harry Alexander Binnie, Esq., Chief Engineer.

The ship was twice attacked by German aircraft. In the second assault bombs badly damaged her, and escaping steam prevented the firemen staying in the stokehold.

The Chief Engineer remained below alone for an hour and a half, traced the escapes of steam and maintained pressure so that the engines could be kept running. Later, Mr. Binnie showed great resource in making temporary repairs.

Captain Lachlan McNeill, Master.

The ship was attacked by two German aircraft which raked the decks with machine-gun fire. The Master himself took a hand in the defensive fire which was so steady and accurate that the assailants were driven off. Shortly afterwards a third aircraft appeared and dropped two bombs. Once again the defence was ready and the aircraft was certainly hit. Sparks were seen coming from the starboard engine and smoke from the tail. The Master's sound defence not only saved the ship, but prevented an attack developing on a trawler fishing nearby.

William McVicar, Esq., Third Officer, s.s. "Britannia".

Dr. Adaline Nancy Miller, M.B., Ch.B., Ship's Surgeon, s.s. "Britannia".

The ship was sailing alone when she was approached by a raider, which opened fire at long range. She replied with her defensive armament but a shell put her main gun out of action and she suffered heavy structural

damage. As her speed was less than that of the enemy, the Captain gave orders to abandon ship. A signal to this effect was made to the enemy, but the raider continued shelling, and holed many of the lifeboats. He sank the ship by gunfire and made off.

During the action the Ship's Doctor, with perfect calm, attended to the wounded and dying. She continued her good work after the company had taken to the lifeboats and, by her efforts, saved many lives. The Third Officer was in charge of a lifeboat certified to hold fifty-eight people but which carried eighty-four. She was put before the wind, since she was otherwise unmanageable and, after a memorable voyage of twenty-two days, during which five Europeans and thirty-nine Indians died, a landfall was made. It was due to the courage, resolution and good seamanship of the Third Officer that the survivors reached safety.

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

Captain Henry James Busby, Master.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Donald Frederick Pritchard, Engineer.

During an air raid fire-bombs which fell on the tug were put out by the crew. Later, when a bomb damaged a shelter close by, the Master and crew rescued two men from the debris. A fire broke out on the other side of the dock gateway. The Master got his ship under way and played hoses from her until the fire was put out. A shed then caught fire and endangered a ship moored alongside. Captain Busby towed her across the dock to safety.

The Engineer took a leading part in putting out the fires until the tug was got under way.

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

Captain Thomas Arthur McVeigh, Master.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Ernest James Walter Petley, Gunner.

The ship was sailing alone when she was attacked by two German aircraft. Although bombs fell close and badly shook the ship, her Master had organised so sound a defence that the assaults, which lasted altogether nearly half an hour, failed. Petley fired coolly and well. He certainly damaged, and may have destroyed, one of the enemy.

The ship fought a most determined and successful action, and the Master brought her safely to port.

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

Captain Horace William Moore, Master.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

James Chisholm, Gunner.

Henry Edward Parsons, Gunner.

The ship was sailing alone when she was attacked by two dive-bombers. The Master at once ordered fire to be opened, and one

of the enemy was quickly destroyed. The other continued the assault with bombs, depth charges, machine-guns and cannon. The ship was damaged, and it was due to the skill of her Master and the accuracy of her Gunners that the attack was driven off and she was able to reach port.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Stanley Edward Brown, Gunner.

The ship was attacked by three enemy aircraft. Under the Master's direction the Gunner at once opened fire and the enemy was driven off. The same night she was dive-bombed by another aircraft and again Brown shot coolly and well. In an attack earlier in the year he played a leading part in bringing down a German aircraft.

Joseph Glenton, Deck Hand.

The trawler was fishing when she was attacked by an enemy aircraft. Although in a poor position to manoeuvre, the Skipper conducted a stout defence against heavy bombing and machine-gun fire. Cool and accurate fire by Glenton so damaged the German that later he was seen to crash into the sea.

George Mair, Able Seaman.

The ship was attacked by an E-boat and struck by two torpedoes. The Chief Officer was trapped under the collapsed bridge protection and the Hotchkiss shield and gun. He was extricated by Mair, who had himself sustained injury. The Able Seaman showed courage and determination, and it was not disclosed until later that he had made the rescue although suffering from a fractured hip.

Denis John O'Brien, Able Seaman.

The ship was hit by bombs and had to be abandoned. Boats were lowered and ordered to lie to their sea-anchors.

One of the boats became separated from the rest, and was at sea for six days in heavy weather. On the second day the Officer in charge died and Able Seaman O'Brien found himself senior survivor. He sailed and organised the boat until rescued, showing courage, seamanship and resource throughout.

Clifford George Rawlins, Fireman Trimmer.

The trawler was making for her fishing ground when she was viciously attacked by an enemy aircraft. Rawlins, a lad of eighteen years, who was at the Lewis Gun, fired coolly and accurately. He was four times wounded, but gave no sign of this until he collapsed at his gun after the third attack. He showed high courage and devotion to duty.

COMMENDATIONS.

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

Alexander Black, Esq., Chief Engineer.

Albert Edward Blyth, Esq., Skipper of a Steam Trawler. (Award dated 24th May, 1940.)

Edith, Mrs. Cane, Night Stewardess, s.s. "Britannia".

John Thomas Gill, Second Hand (now Skipper of a Steam Trawler).

Captain Alfred Goodfellow, Master.
 Miss Barbara Mitchell-Heggs, Sister, Colonial
 Nursing Service, Gold Coast.
 Dennis Cuthbert Howgego, Esq., Second
 Officer.
 Captain David Warren James (deceased),
 Master.
 William Leitch, Esq., Chief Officer, s.s.
 "Britannia".
 Clifford Thomas Morgan, Esq., Chief Officer.
 David Pritchard, Esq., Chief Officer. (Award
 dated 8th October, 1940.)
 Frederick Rix, First Engineman.
 George Sanderson, Esq., Second Engineer.

Ronald George Douglas McKean-Scott, Gunner.
 (Award dated 24th May, 1940.)
 Aubrey Sharman, Esq., Skipper of a Steam
 Trawler.
 Henry Shaw, Assistant Steward.
 Captain Vincent Foskett Sizer, M.B.E., Master.
 Ernest Smith, Smokeroom Steward.
 Captain John Webster, Master.
 John White, Esq., Chief Engineer.

The name of Skipper John Matthew Mecklen-
 burgh is as now described and not as stated
 in Gazette No. 35421, dated 20th January,
 1942, page 327.

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