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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

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

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the British Empire Medal (Military Division) to:

Sick Berth Attendant Allan James Dunmore, C/MX.63126, H.M.S. Jasmine.

For skill and tireless devotion in tending wounded Merchant Seamen.

Stoker Petty Officer Alfred Duff Stewart, P/KX.84935, H.M.S. Carnation.

For zeal, resource and devotion to duty when H.M.S. Cossack was sunk.

Chief Petty Officer Charley Eyles, P/J.79512.
Petty Officer William Young McLanachan, C/JX.133512.

For bravery and devotion to duty.

ADMIRALTY.

*Whitehall.
3rd March, 1942.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the grant of the VICTORIA CROSS, for valour and resolution in action against the Enemy, to:

The late Lieutenant-Commander (A) Eugene Esmonde, D.S.O., Royal Navy.

On the morning of Thursday, 12th February, 1942, Lieutenant-Commander Esmonde, in command of a Squadron of the Fleet Air Arm, was told that the German Battle-Cruisers SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU and the Cruiser PRINZ EUGEN, strongly escorted by some thirty surface craft, were entering the Straits of Dover, and that his Squadron must attack before they reached the sand-banks North East of Calais.

Lieutenant-Commander Esmonde knew well that his enterprise was desperate. Soon

after noon he and his squadron of six Swordfish set course for the Enemy, and after ten minutes flight were attacked by a strong force of Enemy fighters. Touch was lost with his fighter escort; and in the action which followed all his aircraft were damaged. He flew on, cool and resolute, serenely challenging hopeless odds, to encounter the deadly fire of the Battle-Cruisers and their Escort, which shattered the port wing of his aircraft. Undismayed, he led his Squadron on, straight through this inferno of fire, in steady flight towards their target. Almost at once he was shot down; but his Squadron went on to launch a gallant attack, in which at least one torpedo is believed to have struck the German Battle-Cruisers, and from which not one of the six aircraft returned.

His high courage and splendid resolution will live in the traditions of the Royal Navy, and remain for many generations a fine and stirring memory.

His Majesty has also been graciously pleased to give orders for the following Appointments to the Distinguished Service Order, and to approve the following Awards:

To be Companions of the Distinguished Service Order:

Temporary Acting Sub-Lieutenant (A) Brian Westland Rose, R.N.V.R.

who was Pilot of one of the Swordfish aircraft sent to attack the German Battle-Cruisers. His aircraft was hit early in the action; but though in great pain from a wound in his back, he held on his course. Another hit burst his petrol tank, and his engine began to fail, but with unshaken resolve he flew on, and came within 2,000 yards of the Enemy before he dropped his torpedo, which was last seen running well towards the target. Then he flew back across the fire of the Enemy escort, and his aircraft, now on fire, came down into the sea just beyond.

Temporary Acting Sub-Lieutenant (A) Edgar Frederick Lee, R.N.V.R.

who was Observer to Sub-Lieutenant Rose. Before the Swordfish had reached the Enemy escort vessels their Air Gunner was killed. Sub-Lieutenant Lee stood up in the cockpit and directed the Pilot so that he could evade the attacking Enemy fighters. He went on doing this until his aircraft came down in flames. Then, although under fierce fire from the Enemy, he got his wounded Pilot, who was very much heavier than he, into his dinghy, and returned to the aircraft, but found it sinking. For an hour and a half he stayed in the flooded dinghy, tending and encouraging his wounded Pilot, and never losing heart, until both were rescued.

Temporary Acting Sub-Lieutenant (A) Charles Major Kingsmill, R.N.V.R.

Temporary Sub-Lieutenant (A) Reginald McCartney Samples, R.N.V.R.

who were Pilot and Observer of a Swordfish that was badly hit early in the action by cannon shells from an Enemy fighter. Both were wounded, but with part of the aircraft shot away, and the engine and upper wing in flames, they flew on undaunted until they had taken aim and fired their torpedo. They then turned and tried to come down near some ships, but these opened fire, so they flew on until their engine stopped, and their aircraft came down into the sea. Soon afterwards they were picked up, still cheerful and dauntless, by one of H.M. Vessels.

The Conspicuous Gallantry Medal.

Naval Airman First Class Donald Arthur Bunce, FAA/SFX.631,

who was Air Gunner in the Swordfish aircraft piloted by Sub-Lieutenant Kingsmill. With his machine on fire, and the engine failing, he stayed steadfast at his gun, engaging the Enemy fighters which beset his aircraft. He is believed to have shot one of them down. Throughout the action his coolness was unshaken.

Mention in Despatches (Posthumous).

Lieutenant (A) John Chute Thompson, Royal Navy.

Sub-Lieutenant (A) Robert Laurens Parkinson, Royal Navy.

Sub-Lieutenant (A) Cecil Ralph Wood, Royal Navy.

Temporary Sub-Lieutenant William Beynon, R.N.V.R.

Temporary Sub-Lieutenant (A) Eric Herbert Fuller-Wright, R.N.V.R.

Temporary Acting Sub-Lieutenant (A) Peter Bligh, R.N.V.R.

Leading Airman Ernest Tapping, FAA/FX.76365.

Temporary Leading Airman William Grenville Smith, FAA/FX.79499.

Temporary Leading Airman Henry Thomas Albert Wheeler, FAA/FX.189404.

The last that was seen of this gallant band, who were astern of the leading flight, is that they were flying steadily towards the Battle-Cruisers, led by Lieutenant Thompson. Their aircraft shattered, undeterred by an inferno of fire, they carried out their orders, which were to attack the target. Not one came back. Theirs was the courage which is beyond praise.

Leading Airman Ambrose Laurence Johnson, D.S.M., FAA/FX.82042,

who, as Air Gunner to Sub-Lieutenant Rose, showed the same dauntless spirit. He was killed early in the action.

Lieutenant William Henry Williams, Royal Navy,

Leading Airman William John Clinton, P/JX.143258,

who, as Observer and Air Gunner to Lieutenant-Commander Esmonde, shared his fate in this gallant action, and showed the same high courage.

His Majesty has also been graciously pleased to give orders for the following Appointment to the Distinguished Service Order, and to approve the following Awards:—

For bravery and enterprise in action against Enemy Submarines:

To be a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order:

Acting Commander James Douglas Prentice, Royal Canadian Navy, H.M.C.S. Chambly.

The Distinguished Service Cross.

Lieutenant Edward Theodore Simmons, R.C.N.V.R., H.M.C.S. Chambly.

Sub-Lieutenant John Alfred Robert Allan, R.C.N.V.R., H.M.C.S. Chambly.

The Distinguished Service Medal.

Chief Engine Room Artificer William Spence, V.17088, R.C.N.V.R., H.M.C.S. Chambly.

Leading Seaman Alfred Harry Beale Johnson, C/JX.151297, H.M.C.S. Chambly.

Signalman Eugene Hugh Tobin, V.8336, R.C.N.V.R., H.M.C.S. Chambly.

Mention in Despatches.

Mr. Antony Fenwick Pickard, Mate, R.C.N.R., H.M.S. Chambly.

Able Seaman Leo Paul Lehto, R.C.N.R., H.M.C.S. Chambly.

For bravery and enterprise in action against the Enemy:

The Conspicuous Gallantry Medal.

Acting Able Seaman Joseph Booth, C/JX.186335,

who, in his first action with the Enemy, was hit in four places, but went on firing his gun until he ran out of ammunition, and then fell unconscious.

Mention in Despatches.

Lieutenant George Dick Kendall Richards, Royal Navy.

For bravery, skill and coolness in successful Submarine patrols:

The Distinguished Service Cross.

Lieutenant Francis Ruck Keene, Royal Navy, H.M.S. Upholder.

The Distinguished Service Medal.

Engine Room Artificer Third Class Norman Douglas Board, P/MX.55599, H.M.S. Upholder.

Petty Officer Telegraphist William Eric Anderson, D/JX.136036, H.M.S. Upholder.

Able Seaman Leslie John Abel Young, C/J.101714, H.M.S. Upholder.

For leadership, coolness and skill in action against the Enemy:

The Distinguished Service Cross.

Temporary Acting Sub-Lieutenant Peter Trevelyan Erskine Nicholson, R.N.R.

The Distinguished Service Medal.

Acting Petty Officer Edwin Sydney Stacey, D/JX.136874.

Mention in Despatches.

Temporary Acting Lieutenant-Commander Robert Peverell Hichens, D.S.C., R.N.V.R.

Temporary Lieutenant Leveson Granville Robert Campbell, R.N.V.R.

Temporary Lieutenant George Findlay Duncan, R.C.N.V.R.

Motor Mechanic Raymond Harold White, P/MX.69116.

Able Seaman John Johnston, P/ESD/X.1607.

Able Seaman William Frederick Langley, P/SSX.23335.

For good services in boarding and bringing into port a torpedoed Merchantmen:

Mention in Despatches.

Mr. Ernest Alfred Aguzzi, Gunner, Royal Navy, H.M.S. Widgeon.

Temporary Acting Petty Officer William Reginald Harmsworth, C/JX.136070, H.M.S. Widgeon.

Signalman Charles Edward Moyes, C/SSX.29511, H.M.S. Widgeon.

For good services when H.M.S. Cossack was sunk:

Mention in Despatches.

Commander (E) Robert Brian Halliwell, D.S.O., Royal Navy, H.M.S. Cossack.

Lieutenant-Commander George William Houchen, O.B.E., R.N.R., H.M.S. Carnation.

Temporary Lieutenant Henry Vincent Gordon, R.N.V.R., H.M.S. Carnation.

Temporary Acting Stoker Petty Officer Leslie Bellinger, P/KX.84108, H.M.S. Cossack.

Leading Seaman Sidney Arthur Halcomb, P/JX.142574, H.M.S. Carnation.

Able Seaman David George Broome, P/JX.156413, H.M.S. Cossack.

Signalman Thomas McLuskey, P/CD/X.2495, R.N.V.R., H.M.S. Carnation.

Boy First Class Sidney Ivor Davis, P/JX.171890, H.M.S. Cossack.

Another Award for services in this action will soon be published.

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