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**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD.**

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
27th October, 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 award of the British Empire Medal, in the Merchant Navy, 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 an Additional Commander of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—

Captain James Thompson Hair, Master.

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

John Lewis, Esq., Chief Officer.
James Weatherston, Esq., Second Officer.

The vessel was acting as Vice-Commodore's ship in a North Russian Convoy which was attacked unceasingly. The Commodore's ship was so badly damaged that the Commodore transferred his authority to the Vice-Commodore, Captain Hair, who showed a most intelligent understanding of the attacks and manoeuvred his ship and the convoy in a masterly and seamanlike manner. His conduct and that of his entire ship's company was in the highest traditions of the Merchant Navy.

The Master was splendidly supported by his Officers, particularly the Chief and Second Officers, who showed ceaseless devotion to duty, remaining at their posts without rest or relief throughout the whole six days of the attacks. The work of the Second Officer was outstanding in that, apart from his normal ship's duty he maintained the supply of ammunition to all the guns.

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

Captain Harry Austin, Master.
Captain John Henry Reardon Smith, Master.

The ships formed part of an important North Russian convoy, which was subjected to very heavy enemy attacks. Both Masters showed consistent courage and devotion to duty throughout. They handled their ships with great skill and, in the course of a series of close and heavy air assaults, directed their armament to such good effect that they destroyed two enemy aircraft.

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

George Cyril Longfield, Esq., Chief Officer.

The vessel was in a North Russia Convoy which was subjected to a fierce attack from the enemy. She picked up 38 survivors before she herself fell a victim to concentrated air attack. The Chief Officer was in charge of the organisation of deck personnel throughout the operation. He showed coolness, leadership and inspiring devotion to duty.

When the ship was hit, he saw the rafts and boats away, and was himself one of the last to leave.

Samuel Albert Murphy, Esq., Senior Pilot, H.M. Dockyard, Malta.

Mr. Murphy has shown outstanding devotion to duty in most trying conditions of weather and air raids. When a convoy arrived at Malta he supervised the dockyard tugs berthing the ships and then, in most difficult weather conditions, helped the Master of a tug in taking a vessel in tow. Heavy and constant air raids were taking place during both operations and the tugs themselves were often attacked. Later Mr. Murphy went to sea again and supervised the towing of another ship. He was constantly on the bridge for two days and carried out his duties