



**THIRD SUPPLEMENT**  
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TUESDAY, 16 FEBRUARY, 1943

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

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1,  
16th February, 1943.*

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 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 Walter Henry Grimshaw, Master.  
Joseph McWhirter, Esq., Chief Engineer Officer.

The ship, while sailing in convoy, was for three days subjected to almost continuous attacks from enemy aircraft and submarines. During the first attack she sustained severe damage by near misses. In the engine room an oil supply pipe was broken and all lights failed. Repairs were carried out and improvisations made so rapidly and effectively that there was no loss of speed. In view of serious leakages in two of the holds it was necessary to bring all available pumps into service. In spite of many difficulties and of the numerous attacks made by the enemy, the ship was brought safely into port.

The Master showed cool courage in his able handling of the ship during this exceedingly hazardous voyage.

The Chief Engineer Officer did magnificent work in the engine room and it was due to his courage, skill and resource that the ship was kept going without any loss of speed. Had the ship stopped during the constant attacks she would almost inevitably have been lost.

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

Captain John Murray Cuthill, Master.  
William Harold Owner Ryland, Esq., Chief Engineer Officer.

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

Charles Aloysous Milligan, Esq., Chief Officer.

The ship was sailing in convoy when she was torpedoed in darkness. The Master decided to abandon her and the crew were taken off.

The Master was determined to save his vessel if possible but weather conditions were bad and a favourable opportunity had to be awaited to re-board her. During the next five days, accompanied by his senior officers, he three times re-boarded the ship which was eventually taken in tow. The weather deteriorated however, and the towing wire parted. Strenuous efforts were made to re-connect the tow, but the weather got steadily worse and, with heavy seas sweeping over her, the ship gradually settled deeper in the water. When it was found that there was no further hope of salvage, the Master and his party of volunteers scrambled on to a raft, from which they were picked up.

Captain Cuthill displayed courage and great determination in his persistent efforts to save his ship.

Chief Engineer Officer Ryland and Chief Officer Milligan ably assisted the Master throughout, returning to the ship with him on all three occasions.

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

Captain James Dominic Donovan, Master.