



SUPPLEMENT

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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
13th April, 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 award 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 An Additional Commander of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—

Captain Norman Savage, Master.

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

Richard Williams Roberts, Esq., D.S.C., Staff Commander.

The ship, sailing alone, was torpedoed in darkness when over 500 miles from the nearest land. As a precautionary measure, the Master ordered the boats with the passengers and the majority of the crew aboard to be lowered and kept alongside. Two hours later, a second torpedo hit the ship and orders were then given for abandonment. After all remaining on board had embarked in the boats, two more torpedoes hit the ship and she sank immediately. The boats were formed into two flotillas, which, towed by the ship's motor boats, set course for land. All of the boats eventually reached safety.

The Master displayed great courage and exceptional judgment throughout. His splendid organisation and leadership resulted in the saving of the lives of all on board, with the exception of five men who were killed by the explosion.

The Staff Commander ably assisted the Master. He was responsible for the care, maintenance and efficiency of the life-saving appliances, and it was due mainly to his foresight and keenness that the organisation for abandonment functioned so well.

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

Captain Sidney Crossland Grant, Master.
Frank Roland Martin, Esq., Chief Engineer Officer.

The ship, sailing in convoy, was torpedoed in darkness. After inspection of the damage, the Master decided that the vessel could be saved. Temporary repairs were carried out and the ship, under her own power, reached a small port on the same day. No facilities for major repairs, however, were available, and after some further temporary repairs had been effected, the ship proceeded in her damaged condition, without escort, to a larger port.

The Master displayed courage and determination and his efforts were responsible for saving a valuable vessel and her return to service in the shortest possible time.

The Chief Engineer Officer showed great courage and initiative in effecting repairs in the engine-room and set a splendid example to his staff.

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

Captain Henry Burgess, Master.

*Awarded the British Empire Medal
(Civil Division):—*

George Alvin Decker, Cadet.

The ship, sailing alone, was torpedoed and began to sink rapidly. Abandonment was ordered and all hands got clear. Another torpedo hit the ship, which sank at once. One of the boats which was standing by was

capsized by blast. Decker jumped out of his boat into the sea and took charge of operations. By his efforts and under his direction, the boat was righted and all but one of the occupants rescued. The survivors were picked up the following day.

The Master remained on board to the last. He displayed great courage and coolness throughout and it was due to his inspiration and leadership that the crew, with one exception, was saved.

Cadet Decker showed courage, initiative and leadership.

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

Harry Duffin, Esq., Skipper of a Steam Trawler.

The steam trawler, when in company with two other trawlers, was attacked by enemy aircraft on two occasions and a spirited defence was put up.

On the second occasion, one of the other trawlers was hit and sunk. Skipper Duffin immediately went to the rescue, picked up all the crew and later landed them safely.

He displayed great courage in these and five other attacks which have been made on

his ship. He has always succeeded in beating off the enemy and this is due in no small measure to his courage, example and determination.

COMMENDATIONS.

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

Alfred Bearham, Engine-room Storekeeper.

Alexander Campbell, Able Seaman.

Captain Reginald Sharpe Craston, O.B.E.,
Master.

Stanley Firman, Esq., Second Officer.

William John Gilfillan, Esq., Chief Engineer
Officer.

William Greenland, Able Seaman.

William Henry Charles Hall, Able Seaman.

Brian Lory O'Brien, Esq., Extra Second Officer.

Wilfred Pearse, Esq., Chief Officer.

George Henry Rice, Esq., Chief Officer.

Donald Robinson, Esq., Second Officer.

Archibald Harold Shore, Esq. (deceased), Chief
Engineer Officer.

Alfred Walter Stoddart, Assistant Steward.

Kenneth Wardale, Esq., Chief Officer.

George Williams, Able Seaman.

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