



SUPPLEMENT

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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.

6th July, 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 George Medal and 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 Frederick Stewart Hamilton, Master.

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

George Alexander McGregor, Esq., Chief Engineer Officer.

Robert William Coen, Esq., Chief Officer.

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

William Percy Fell, Esq., Third Engineer Officer.

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

David Ritchie, Able Seaman.

The ship, sailing alone, was torpedoed when 220 miles from the nearest land. The explosion caused severe damage and two of the ship's holds were flooded immediately. Course was altered away from the enemy and speed increased until clear of the danger area. The ship was very unstable owing to the flooding of the holds but, in spite of very heavy seas, she was successfully brought to anchor at a port. As the weather remained bad it was considered advisable to put the crew ashore. The next

day the Master, with his senior officers, reboarded the ship. Repairs were urgently necessary and the ship, manned by a nucleus crew, was steamed to another port, but the repair facilities there were very limited. Materials and skilled labour were scarce and the timber used to form a pad over the huge rent in the ship's side was sawn from trees felled in the neighbourhood. By keen determination, hard work and excellent co-operation, however, temporary repairs were executed which enabled the ship to steam to the United Kingdom.

By his great courage and skilful handling Captain Hamilton was successful in saving a valuable ship and the major portion of her cargo. It was mainly due to his determination and resource that the very extensive damage was successfully and quickly repaired with the limited facilities available.

The Chief Engineer Officer was of great assistance to the Master in bringing the ship to safety, and he helped materially in planning and executing the extensive repairs.

The Chief Officer showed courage and coolness when the ship was hit. He ably assisted the Master throughout and set a high example by his cheerfulness and devotion to duty.

The Third Engineer Officer courageously carried out his duties and was largely responsible for making it possible for the Master to manœuvre the ship and evade further attack.

Able Seaman Ritchie set a high example by his courage and devotion to duty, cheerfully carrying out his duties at all hours in trying and difficult conditions.

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

Captain Joseph Douglas Miller, Master.

The ship was one of a convoy which was under continuous and heavy attacks by U-boats for several days. She was torpedoed