

ship in darkness and in the midst of an enemy attack was undertaken without thought of self.

Alan Charles Thayne, Esq., Second Radio Officer.

When the ship in which Mr. Thayne was serving was torpedoed, a number of the crew managed to reach a small raft. As the ship sank, the signal mast came down on top of the raft, which capsized and carried the occupants under the water. Several underwater explosions occurred and the survivors were shot to the surface. Although almost completely exhausted, they managed to reach the raft and cling to it. It was then that one of the officers was seen floating in the water some distance away, face downwards and evidently unconscious. He had been struck by wreckage, his life-saving waistcoat was torn and he was clearly on the point of drowning. Second Radio Officer Thayne immediately swam to his assistance and, with difficulty, managed to bring him to the raft. There he helped him to cling on until they were both picked up nearly two hours later.

Second Radio Officer Thayne, although almost exhausted and without his lifejacket,

left the comparative safety of the raft to help his shipmate, without thought of his own safety. His very gallant action undoubtedly saved the officer's life. Had any further explosions occurred while the rescue was taking place there would have been little chance of survival.

William Stewart Wheeler, Lamptrimmer.

Lamptrimmer Wheeler's ship, carrying a number of passengers, was torpedoed in darkness. As the vessel was sinking rapidly, abandonment was ordered. During the abandonment one of the boats was up-ended and the occupants were thrown into the sea. Other boats which had got clear were picking up survivors when the cry of a small child was heard some distance away. Wheeler immediately dived into the water, swam through floating wreckage for a distance of about 600 yards to the child and supported it for over 30 minutes until they were found by another boat and picked up.

Lamptrimmer Wheeler displayed great courage in plunging overboard into a choppy sea covered with wreckage. But for his gallant action the life of the child would undoubtedly have been lost.

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