



SUPPLEMENT
TO
The London Gazette

Of FRIDAY, the 16th of JULY, 1943

Published by Authority

Registered as a newspaper

TUESDAY, 20 JULY, 1943

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

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

20th July, 1943.

The KING has been graciously pleased to award the GEORGE CROSS to:—

Donald Owen Clarke (deceased), Apprentice,
Merchant Navy.

The ship, sailing alone, was attacked by the enemy and hit by two torpedoes. Fire broke out immediately, flames sweeping the vessel from bridge to poop. Apprentice Clarke was trapped in the accommodation and was severely burned. Despite this he made his way on deck and was one of those who got into the only boat which left the ship. The painter of the boat was kept fast and the helm put over and, as the vessel still carried some way, the boat was towed clear of the burning ship's side. When the painter was cast off the boat drifted back and it was clear to all on board that it would require a tremendous effort to pull it out of danger. Most of the occupants, however, were so badly burned that they were unable to help, but Apprentice Clarke took an oar and pulled heartily for two hours without a word of complaint. It was not until after the boat was clear that it was realized how badly he had been injured. His hands had to be cut away from the oar as the burnt flesh had stuck to it. He had pulled as well as anyone, although he was rowing with the bones of his hands. Later when lying at the bottom of the boat his thoughts were still with his shipmates and he sang to keep up their spirits. Next day he died, having shown the greatest fortitude.

By his supreme effort, undertaken without thought of self and in spite of terrible agony, Apprentice Clarke ensured the safety of his comrades in the boat. His great heroism and selfless devotion were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Merchant Navy.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

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

20th 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, a Bar to the British Empire Medal and 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 Officer of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—

Captain Maurice Harold Jones, Master.

The ship, sailing alone, was attacked by an enemy aircraft. A torpedo missed and the ship was then attacked with machine-gun fire but the accurate and spirited defence put up by the vessel caused the aircraft to swerve and bank steeply. It was seen to be hit by the ship's gun-fire and was probably destroyed. Later, when the vessel had returned to port, she was again attacked and once more her splendid defence caused the aircraft to break off the engagement.

The Master displayed great courage and resolution in handling the ship during these attacks and the successful termination of each engagement was undoubtedly due to his efficiency, leadership and fearless example.

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

Captain Godfrey Wentworth Highley,
Master.

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

George William Clark, Esq., Additional Chief
Officer.