

and leadership displayed by the Third Officer that the 21 occupants of the boat were brought to safety.

Seaman Stringer showed courage and coolness during this boat voyage and rendered valuable assistance to the Third Officer throughout. His skill in handling the boat during the heavy weather contributed greatly to the successful outcome of the voyage.

Carpenter Chapman was in charge of a boat which made a voyage of 22 days, and he showed outstanding courage, leadership and resource. He set watches and introduced strict rationing of food and water. By his excellent seamanship the boat was navigated through very bad weather and, in addition to his other duties, he found time to nurse a sick man. During the voyage when food supplies were running low he was able to catch a shark, about 4 ft. 6 in. in length. Using his hand as a bait, he coolly waited for the shark to approach. Catching it by the gills, he threw it into the boat and then killed it. This resourceful action was the means of considerably augmenting the food supplies in the boat.

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

Geoffrey Dennis Griffin, Esq., Fourth Officer.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Alfred William Walden, Boatswain.

George Ernest Sagar, Able Seaman.

The ship has taken part in several convoys which have been heavily attacked by U. boats and aircraft and the vessel has been subjected to heavy air attack on numerous occasions when in port. The spirited defence put up by the ship and the loyal and willing co-operation of the crew prevented her from sustaining serious damage and she has now returned safely to the United Kingdom after having performed much good work.

During the vessel's last voyage she was in a port which was heavily attacked by enemy aircraft and the Fourth Officer, Boatswain Walden and Able Seaman Sagar displayed outstanding courage and devotion to duty during the raid and helped to extinguish numerous incendiary bombs which fell on the quayside, and thus helped to save the vessel from possible damage.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Patrick Joseph Shirley, Donkeyman.

The ship, sailing in convoy, was torpedoed in darkness. She sustained much damage and the engine-room and machinery spaces flooded rapidly. As the vessel began to sink orders for abandonment were given, and the survivors were got away in three boats. The ship settled slowly, and later she was hit by a second torpedo which broke her in two.

Donkeyman Shirley showed outstanding courage. When the ship was hit, two men were injured and the flood waters forced them against the stokehold ladder. Although the ship was sinking Donkeyman Shirley, who had heard cries for help, gallantly went down into the stokehold in pitch darkness, and succeeded in rescuing one of the men.

COMMENDATIONS.

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

Charles Draper Bennell (deceased), Chief Steward.

Geoffrey Ronald Brownrigg, Apprentice.

Jack Buckley, Able Seaman.

Peter James Chrisp, Esq., Third Officer.

George Curphy, Esq., Third Engineer Officer.

John Dodds, Chief Steward.

Captain Arthur Eric Fishwick, Master.

Peter Albert Franks, Esq., Third Radio Officer.

Cyril Hancock (deceased), Assistant Steward.

Kenneth Hanham (since deceased), Ordinary Seaman.

Thomas Henry Hosking, Pumpman.

Robert Burton Hudson, Esq. (deceased), Second Officer.

Henry Haig Jackson (deceased), Greaser.

Captain Roy Jennings, Master.

David McMinn, Esq., Chief Engineer Officer.

Captain John Park, Senior Pilot.

Arthur Louis Richmond, Esq., Chief Radio Officer.

Albert Newton Rylett, Esq., Senior Chief Officer.

Thomas Shaw, Able Seaman.

John Edward Thompson, Esq., Radio Officer.

Captain James Wilfred Tozer (deceased), Master.

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