



# SUPPLEMENT TO The London Gazette

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TUESDAY, 17 AUGUST, 1943

## CENTRAL, CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.  
17th August, 1943.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire 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 Additional Officers of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—*

Captain Edward Bacon, Master.

The ship, sailing in convoy, was torpedoed and sustained considerable damage. The Master decided that she could be saved and, with the help of a number of the crew who remained on board with him, was able to get the vessel in tow.

Captain Bacon acted with outstanding courage throughout and it was due to his determination and skill that the severely damaged ship was brought safely to port.

Captain Sidney Thomas Dunster, Master.

The ship played a vital part in carrying oil and petrol to forces operating off the coast of North Africa and was the focus of sustained and heavy air attacks. So skilfully was she handled by her Master and so efficient was her barrage that she sustained no damage, and performed invaluable work.

In addition to this service, her Master did well in two Malta convoys earlier in the war. His courage and resource have been unflinching.

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

Captain Herbert Spencer, D.S.C., Master.

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

Robert William Crome, Esq., Second Officer.

The vessel was acting as Commodore ship and was subjected to particularly heavy air attack. Evasive action had to be taken constantly and her defensive armament was continually in action, several hits being observed on the enemy aircraft. Despite the fierceness of the attacks she was so skilfully handled that she was brought into port undamaged.

The Master displayed courage and leadership of a high order, handling his ship magnificently. It was due to his splendid organisation and example that such a spirited and effective defence was put up on all occasions.

The Second Officer who was in charge of all the guns, behaved with courage and coolness throughout. His efficient control of the ship's armament was such that all attacks were beaten off and several hits were scored on the enemy aircraft.

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

Samuel Douglas Haines, Esq., Chief Radio Officer.

The ship, sailing alone, was torpedoed. Severe damage was sustained and abandonment was ordered. The Chief Radio Officer behaved with outstanding courage and