



THIRD SUPPLEMENT  
TO  
**The London Gazette**

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TUESDAY, 4 APRIL, 1944

**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS  
OF KNIGHTHOOD.**

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

*4th April, 1944.*

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 Alexander Bell, Master.**

The ship, sailing alone, was attacked by an enemy submarine. The first indication of attack was a violent explosion close to the ship but later the submarine was seen on the surface of the sea. Immediately the ship opened fire on the enemy and course and maximum speed were maintained. Three hours later the conning tower of the enemy was again sighted. Course was immediately altered but the enemy gave chase, shelling the ship continuously. Although some damage was sustained by the ship owing to the excessive pressure put on the engines, the enemy was shaken off and the vessel brought safely to port.

The Master displayed exceptional coolness and judgment throughout and, by his courage, skill and seamanship, beat off a determined attack by the enemy, so saving a valuable ship and cargo.

**Captain Thomas West, Master.**

The ship, sailing in convoy, was torpedoed. Although she was badly damaged the Master decided that she could be saved. The engines were used intermittently throughout the night and the ship was kept in a safe position in the convoy. The following day an escort vessel took her in tow but, as both ships were in danger of drifting on to

sandbanks near by, the tow had to be slipped and the ship, by the skilful use of her engines, kept clear until a tug arrived and took her in tow again.

Captain West displayed courage and skill of a high order throughout and, by his determination and seamanship, kept his ship clear of danger until she was taken in tow and brought safely back to port.

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

**Frederick Alfred Armitage, Esq., Second Officer.**

Shortly after arriving in port and before her cargo could be unloaded, the ship was attacked by enemy aircraft. Bombs hit the vessel and almost immediately she was a mass of flames. The fire spread so rapidly that it was possible to lower only one of the boats and as the survivors jumped into the water they were picked up by this boat and a launch which had put off from shore.

The Second Officer showed great courage when the ship was hit. Although injured himself, Mr. Armitage carried an officer through the flames to the comparative safety of the fore-castle head. Afterwards he mustered the survivors forward and directed them to safety during the abandonment and, by his leadership and example, did much to keep up their spirits.

**Sidney Herbert Chilcott, Esq., Second Engineer Officer.** (Award dated 26th November, 1943. Since deceased.)

The ship, sailing in convoy, was torpedoed and badly damaged. She immediately began to sink by the head, but efforts made by the crew to save her proved successful and the ship was brought safely to port.

The Second Engineer Officer displayed outstanding courage and devotion to duty. After the ship was hit he remained at his post in the engine-room ready to comply with any orders from the bridge, and this materially