



SECOND SUPPLEMENT

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TUESDAY, 11 JULY, 1944

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

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

11th July, 1944.

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 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 James William Binns, Master.

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

William Henry Cross, Esq., Chief Officer.

Arthur Stanley Frith, Esq., Second Officer.

The ship, sailing alone, was torpedoed and sank in about 40 minutes. Abandonment was carried out successfully, the crew getting away in three boats. Provisions from two rafts which had floated clear were added to the supplies in the boats. All the boats were kept together, a line being passed from one to the others during darkness. After a voyage of nine days, the whole of the ship's company reached land unaided.

The Master displayed outstanding courage, coolness and leadership. By his excellent organisation he ensured an orderly abandonment in difficult and trying circumstances and later led the boats which brought the entire crew to safety.

The Chief and Second Officers were in charge of the other boats. By their courage and example they maintained the morale of the crews during the boat voyages and their skill

and seamanship greatly contributed towards bringing the survivors to safety, in spite of the very trying conditions.

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

Captain George Arthur Henry Knott, Master.

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

George Blackhall, Esq., Third Officer.

Harold William Hugh Norcliffe, Esq., First Radio Officer.

The ship, sailing in convoy, was torpedoed and immediately caught fire. Although determined and courageous efforts were made to extinguish the fire, the position became hopeless and after an hour and a half the ship had to be abandoned.

The Master, who acted with high courage throughout, made determined efforts to save his ship. With sixteen others he was cut off amidships by the flames and this party made brave efforts to fight the fires. No pumps were available but bucket parties were organised and fire-fighting continued until it was impossible to remain on board.

The First Radio Officer showed great courage and when the flames were at their highest he volunteered to go aft and make contact with the engineers with a view to getting water on deck. With complete disregard of his own safety, he played a leading part in fighting the fires throughout the whole operation.

The Third Officer also displayed exceptional bravery and coolness. He went through the flames to collect fire extinguishers from all over the ship and was responsible for getting the fire under control on one side of the boat deck. In addition he entered the blazing gun pit and extinguished a fire there, thus averting the explosion of ammunition.

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

Captain George Philip Parkinson, Master.
George Henry Fairlem, Esq., Chief Engineer Officer.

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

Thomas Richard Windus, Esq., Chief Officer.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

James Smith, Boatswain.

The ship, sailing in convoy, was torpedoed and badly damaged, and she began to flood rapidly. In view of this and the possibility of further attack, orders were given for the crew to leave the ship and stand by in the boats. Half an hour later the Master and several of the crew reboarded the vessel and after further examination it was decided to attempt to save her. The remainder of the crew returned to the ship, which proceeding at reduced speed under her own power and with pumps going to cope with the flooding, was eventually brought to land and beached. The bulk of the cargo was saved, however, and the ship, which was refloated and repaired, is now back in commission.

The Master showed exceptional courage, coolness and leadership and, by his determination and judgment, brought his ship safely to land.

The Chief Engineer Officer also displayed outstanding courage and skill. By his tireless efforts and efficient control in the engine-room, although the ship was badly damaged and a target for attack, he contributed materially to the eventual saving of the vessel.

The Chief Officer acted with coolness and courage of a high order. With the Master and six other volunteers he reboarded the ship and by his determination did much to save her.

Boatswain Smith displayed courage and devotion to duty and his exemplary behaviour was an inspiration to all. In spite of the difficulties and the danger of further attack he was one of the first to reboard the ship and he played a leading part throughout.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Norman Edmund Longthorpe, Able Seaman.

The ship, whilst sailing in convoy, was severely damaged by enemy action. All the crew, some of whom were injured, eventually got away from the sinking ship and were taken on board an escort ship nearby.

Able Seaman Longthorpe displayed outstanding courage and coolness. Although he had the opportunity of getting away in the boat, he declined to leave and went to the assistance of his injured shipmates. The ship was breaking up but despite this he persisted in his rescue efforts and his action, undertaken without thought of his own safety, helped greatly in the saving of a number of lives.

COMMENDATIONS.

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

Richard Stoker Allan, Esq., Junior Third Engineer Officer.

Mohamed Yeacooob X Ekaram Alee, Senior Steward.

Thomas James Frederick Baker, Esq., Second Radio Officer.

Captain William Charles Barnes, Master.

Alexander Black, Esq., O.B.E., Chief Engineer Officer.

Captain Theodore Blanch, Master.

Jack Bright, Esq., Chief Officer.

Harry Francis Charles Broomfield, Esq., Radio Officer.

Seediq Ahmad X Abdul Cadar, Deck Serang.

Leicester Melbourne Edward Calvert, Esq., Senior Fourth Engineer Officer.

Dennis Thomas Cowan, Second Steward.

Charles Culpitt, Esq., Second Engineer Officer.

Edward John Cumming, Esq., Chief Refrigerating Engineer Officer.

Roderick Webster Currie, Esq., Senior Radio Officer.

William Cowen Currie, Chief Steward.

George Douglas, Esq., Senior Second Engineer Officer.

Louis James Evans, Chief Steward.

William Henry Wilkinson - Ferguson, Apprentice.

Douglas Thomas Gilham, Assistant Steward.

Geoffrey Reginald Veriour Hardy, Esq., Third Radio Officer.

Thomas Heddles, Pumpman.

Charles Walton Hodgson, Esq., First Radio Officer.

Albert George Linden, Esq., Chief Officer.

Eric Vincent Mace, Apprentice.

Kenneth Stuart Marsh, Esq., Second Officer.

William Sydney Mutimer, Esq., Third Officer.

Captain Frederick John Muttitt, M.B.E., Master.

Alfred Newman, Able Seaman.

Oscar Olsen, Esq., Second Officer.

John Edward Phillips, Boatswain.

Murdoch Mackenzie Ramsay, Esq., Chief Officer.

Edwin James Ridout, Esq., Second Officer.

James Rowan, Storekeeper.

Peter Ambrose Rucklidge, Esq., Third Officer.

James Ernest Saunders, Esq., Radio Officer.

Arnold Thompson Stratton, Able Seaman.

Joseph Edward Thompson, Donkeyman.

Robert Frederick James Wildman, Able Seaman.

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

John William Barnett, Esq., Second Officer, Merchant Navy.

The ship was discharging cargo when a fire broke out in one of the magazines which had not been discharged. Fire-fighting operations were immediately begun but the situation became extremely dangerous and after all but essential crew had been taken off, the vessel was towed out into the bay. Although tugs and lighters took out extra fire-fighting appliances and another ship manoeuvred alongside with hoses, the fire rapidly became beyond control and shortly afterwards the vessel blew up.

The Second Officer displayed outstanding devotion to duty and coolness throughout. With complete disregard of his own safety he remained in the ship to fight the fire in exceedingly dangerous circumstances and set an excellent example to all by his courage and determination.

Arthur Harry Bird, Esq., Third Officer, Merchant Navy.

For gallant and distinguished services.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division).

George Thomas Mutimer, Farm Manager, Westwick, Nr. Norwich.

An aircraft crashed and burst into flames. Mutimer at once rushed to the scene and, with assistance, rescued one of the crew who was trapped in the wreckage. By this time the port side of the aircraft was burning

fiercely, the fire was spreading to the fuselage and ammunition was exploding. Mutimer, although warned that explosions were imminent, climbed into the nose of the machine and, with assistance, succeeded in rescuing two other trapped and injured members of the crew. Mutimer showed courage and coolness and it was largely due to his leadership that all the injured were rescued from the aircraft.

COMMENDATIONS.

Those named below have been Commended for brave conduct:—

When aircraft crashed and caught fire:—

Reginald Emmerson, Police Constable, Norfolk Constabulary.

James Harley, Police Constable, West Riding of Yorkshire Constabulary.

When working in dangerous circumstances:—

Henry Gough, Cranedriver, Newhaven, Southern Railway Company.

When fire broke out in a magazine in a ship:—

Edgar Stenstrom Anholm, Esq., M.B.E. (deceased), Chief Officer, Merchant Navy.

John Anderson, Esq., O.B.E. (deceased), Chief Engineer Officer, Merchant Navy.

Clarence Victor Leonard (deceased), Carpenter, Merchant Navy.

Francis Lander Brabin Smith, Esq., (deceased), Third Officer, Merchant Navy.

The name of Jesse Peppiatt is as now described and not as stated in Gazette No. 36547, dated 10th June, 1944, page 2680.

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