



**SECOND SUPPLEMENT**

TO

**The London Gazette**

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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.