



FOURTH SUPPLEMENT

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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1,
23rd January, 1945.*

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

Captain James Garden, Master, Australian Hospital Ship "Manunda."

Whilst in command of the "Manunda," Captain Garden made several trips to the Middle East, and was responsible for the safe evacuation of a large number of sick and wounded personnel of the Australian Military Forces.

During the Japanese air attack on Darwin he displayed exceptional courage and coolness in difficult and dangerous circumstances. The ship suffered considerable damage and casualties were sustained amongst the crew. Largely as a result of his skilful direction and supervision, the loss of the vessel by fire was avoided, and the lives of many members of other ships' crews were saved. On the day following the raid, he displayed remarkable seamanship in successfully evacuating the wounded. He accomplished the long voyage from Darwin to Fremantle with a badly damaged ship and handicapped by a shortage of officers as a result of casualties

sustained during the raid. Subsequently he made many voyages to bring back casualties from New Guinea and he performed these duties with cheerfulness and efficiency. Throughout the period during which he has served as Master of the "Manunda," Captain Garden has given the greatest assistance and active co-operation in transporting sick and wounded personnel from all the theatres of operations in which Australian troops have been engaged.

Captain Frederick Charles Pearce Harris, Master, s.s. "Benedict" (Booth Steam Ship Company, Ltd.).

The ship arrived off the Salerno beachhead and lay there for four days. During the whole of that period the beaches and the anchorage were subjected to violent attacks by enemy aircraft. It was mainly due to the excellent defence put up by the ships, in which the "Benedict" played a prominent part, that the attacks were beaten off and the vessel escaped damage.

Captain Harris has shown courage and coolness of a high order throughout the war. After being in command of various ships, he served in the forefront of the Sicilian and Italian campaigns with indomitable spirit.

Captain Sidney Gray Larard, Master, s.s. "Stanhill" (Stanhope Steam Ship Company, Ltd.), since appointed Master, s.s. "Empire General" (Hain Steam Ship Company, Ltd.).

A convoy was sailing en route for Sicily, when a ship was torpedoed. s.s. "Stanhill", under the command of Captain Larard, sighted a submarine periscope and immediately opened fire. The periscope disappeared, but a destroyer completed the action with depth charges. The vessel arrived off the Sicily Beaches on the first