

By effecting this very temporary repair he prevented not only the wastage of gas but also the possibility of serious damage to the holder.

White showed courage and devotion to duty.

#### COMMENDATIONS.

Those named below have been Commended for brave conduct in Civil Defence:—

Harry Kenneth Brown, Staff Officer, Civil Defence Rescue Service.

Miss Eleanor Grace Chapman, Midwife.

Frank Herbert Denton, Motor Fitter.

Alfred Percy Drake, War Reserve Police Constable.

Hubert O'Meara, M.B., B.S., Medical Practitioner.

#### CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD,

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.  
6th March, 1945.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned appoint-

ment to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in the Merchant Navy.

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

Captain John Buick Ritchie, Master, m.v. "Daronia" (Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Company, Ltd.).

The tanker "Daronia" sailing in convoy was torpedoed and extensive damage was caused. The vessel listed badly but the Master determined to save her if he could and, by trimming the tanks, brought her on an even keel. The distance to the nearest land was approximately 375 miles. Very heavy weather was experienced and for two days it was necessary to steer so that the damage was on the lee side, with the ship low in the water and labouring heavily. Altogether it took four days to make the voyage but she was eventually brought to safety under her own power.

The Master displayed great courage and coolness throughout this trying ordeal. By his determination, exceptional judgment and seamanship he saved a valuable ship.

LONDON

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