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TUESDAY, 24 APRIL, 1945

**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD,**

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
24th April, 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 George Medal and of the British Empire Medal, and for the publication in the London Gazette of the names of the persons specially shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for their brave conduct:—

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

The Right Reverend Monsignor Hugh J. O'Flaherty, British Resident in Rome.
For services to the Forces in Italy.

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

The Reverend Father Aurelius Borg, British Resident in Rome.

The Reverend Father Giles Galea, British Resident in Rome.

The Reverend Father Edmund Madden, British Resident in Rome.

The Reverend Brother Robert Pace, D.Litt., British Resident in Rome.

For services to the Forces in Italy.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Henrietta, Mrs. Chevalier, British Resident in Rome.

For services to the Forces in Italy.

Awarded the George Medal:—

Leonard Steele, Farmer, Rufforth, West Riding of Yorkshire.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Herbert Stanley Smith, Farmer, Rufforth, West Riding of Yorkshire.

An aircraft crashed on to a farmhouse, setting it and the surrounding farm buildings on fire.

Steele and Smith hurried to the farm. Steele broke open the front door and went up the stairs which were blocked by debris. He forced his way into a bedroom and found the farmer's daughter trying to lift an elderly man out of bed. Steele, with help, removed the rubble from the bed and released the injured man. They had hardly left the room when the burning roof collapsed. Steele then heard that the farmer and his wife were still in the burning house. He climbed up the outside wall and entered their room, the walls and roof of which had caved in. Meanwhile Smith had found a ladder and entered a bedroom, but finding no one in that room, he climbed through another window and joined Steele. Together they released the badly injured victims and lowered them through the window. Steele and Smith then endeavoured to rescue the farmer's son who had been sleeping in a room at the back of the house, but the flames were too fierce and rescue efforts had to be abandoned.

Steele acted with conspicuous courage and complete disregard of his own personal safety and was ably helped by Smith.

COMMENDATIONS.

Those named below have been Commended for brave conduct.

When aircraft crashed and caught fire:—

Miss Betty Hildrith, Farm Worker, Rufforth, West Riding of Yorkshire.

Raymond Hutchinson, Police Constable, Tadcaster Division, West Riding of Yorkshire Constabulary.

When rescuing the crew of a burning vessel:—

James Charles Bennett, Deckhand, m.l. "Windrush," Port of London Authority.
 Albert Edward Holland, Driver, m.l. "Windrush," Port of London Authority.
 Captain William Arthur Loker, Master, m.l. "Windrush," Port of London Authority.

When rendering services to the Forces in Italy:—

The Reverend Father John Buckley, British Resident in Rome.
 The Reverend Father John Claffey, British Resident in Rome.
 The Reverend Father Ugolino Gatt, British Resident in Rome.
 The Reverend Father Thomas Lenan, British Resident in Rome.
 The Reverend Father Vincent Treacy, British Resident in Rome.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
 24th April, 1945.

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, and for the following awards of the British Empire Medal, for services in connection with the Burma Campaign, 16th November, 1943, to 15th May, 1944:—

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

Tom Alexander Blacklaws, Executive Officer in charge of the Aijal-Dwarband Road project.

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

The Reverend Ernest Wilfred Francis, Interpreter and Labour Officer, attached to the 9th Jat Regiment.

Hugh Johnstone Garrett, Harbour Master, Chittagong.

Cecil Middleton, Chief Transport Officer, Indian Tea Association, Zubza.

Wilfred Wemyss, Officer in Charge, Refugee Camp, Kohima.

Miss Ursula Violet Graham Bower, Officer in Charge, Watch and Ward, N. Cachar Hills.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Namkia Buing, Assistant to the Officer in Charge, Watch and Ward, N. Cachar Hills.

Maung Wai, Interpreter, attached to No. 1 Indian Field Broadcasting Unit, The Assam Regiment.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD,

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

24th April, 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 Alfred Lacey, Master, s.s. "Hannah Moller" (Moller's Ltd.).

While the ship was lying at Benghazi, she was damaged by a near miss during an enemy aircraft attack. Temporary repairs were immediately begun but the following night the vessel was hit by a bomb and badly damaged. The ship had only a nucleus crew on board and they made determined efforts to keep her afloat. During the operations, however, a strong gale blew up and the ship went aground and eventually broke her back.

The Master displayed outstanding qualities of courage and leadership. He did everything in his power to save the ship, in circumstances of considerable difficulty and danger, and set a splendid example to those who worked with him.

Captain Frank Septimus Thornton, Master, m.v. "Chinese Prince" (Rio Cape Line Ltd.).

The m.v. "Malayan Prince" was the Commodore ship of the first convoy to enter Tripoli after its capture in the early part of 1943. For about three weeks the ships were daily subjected to heavy enemy aircraft attacks but a splendid defence was put up and the ship was not damaged. While the convoy was moored to buoys off the port it was heavily attacked by aircraft and the gunfire of the "Malayan Prince" probably destroyed one of the enemy. It was imperative to get the ships into harbour for protection. The "Malayan Prince" was the first vessel to enter the port in spite of the fact that there were sunken blockships in the entrance. Later, fire broke out on board, but, by the combined efforts of the crew, it was subdued after a day's hard fire-fighting. After these experiences the Master of the "Malayan Prince" took command of the m.v. "Chinese Prince" which, while sailing in convoy, was heavily attacked by enemy aircraft. So good was the defence of the ship, however, that she escaped material damage.

Captain Thornton, who was in command of both these ships, showed outstanding qualities of courage and skill. Many determined attacks were made by the enemy but the exceptional organisation and leadership of the Master always brought his command through to safety.

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

Captain Frank Ronald Hunter, Master, Admiralty Salvage Vessel "Dispenser."

The name of Jack Hines is as now described, and not as stated in Gazette No. 37022, dated 10th April, 1945, page 1891.

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

Ernest Frederick Goodman, Esq., Chief Diver, Admiralty Salvage Vessel "Dispenser."

When the invasion of the South of France took place the opening of the port of Marseilles necessitated the clearance of blockships and the removal of numerous wrecks and obstructions before the port could be thoroughly effective. These waters were known to be mined, and the salvage vessel "Dispenser" played a prominent part in the dangerous and difficult work of clearance.

The Master displayed outstanding courage, coolness and skilful seamanship whilst manœuvring his ship in these dangerous waters. His expert knowledge and ability in rigging and lifting work was undoubtedly a major factor in the rapid clearance of a number of essential alongside berths. His cheerfulness and tireless energy kept his ship's company working with excellent results on an almost non-stop programme of raising and removing of wrecks.

Chief Diver Goodman showed exceptional courage in sustained diving operations in heavily mined areas. On one occasion he was rendered unconscious by the explosion of a nearby mine but he insisted on continuing his diving the next day. He showed remarkably endurance and outstanding ability in the diving operations.

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

Tom Pearson, Esq., Second Officer, s.s. "Ocean Courier" (Larrinaga Steamship Company, Ltd.).

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Derrick Harold Evans, Cadet, s.s. "Ocean Courier" (Larrinaga Steamship Company, Ltd.).

The ship, sailing in convoy, was torpedoed. She was badly damaged and members of the crew were trapped in their quarters. A volunteer party was immediately formed to go to their help. Two men were brought out alive and five bodies were recovered. The injured were removed from the ship. Later a tug came alongside and, taking "Ocean Courier" in tow, eventually brought her to port.

The Second Officer displayed outstanding courage and leadership. He formed and led

the party which went to the aid of the trapped men. At this time it was not known whether the vessel would remain afloat, and his action was undoubtedly fraught with considerable risk.

Cadet Evans also showed courage of a high order and voluntarily played a leading part in the rescue work.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Bernard Shaw, Seaman, s.s. "Kelmescott" (Pachesham Steamship Company, Ltd.).

The ship was torpedoed and badly damaged, with stokehold and engine-room flooded but she did not sink. Two hours later she was hit by a second torpedo, but still remained afloat, although with a heavy list. When the ship was first hit, a tug came to her assistance and, after the second torpedo, most of the crew were ordered to leave in the boats and on rafts, only sufficient personnel remaining on board to work her under tow. Further help arrived later and eventually the ship and all the crew were brought to safety.

Ordinary Seaman Shaw displayed conspicuous courage throughout. After the second torpedo, one of the firemen fell into the water. Without hesitation Shaw jumped overboard from his boat and, swimming to the fireman, succeeded in getting him on to one of the rafts, thereby saving his life.

COMMENDATIONS.

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

Alfred Cameron, Esq., Chief Engineer Officer, s.s. "Kelmescott" (Pachesham Steamship Company, Ltd.).

Captain Reginald Sharpe Craston, O.B.E., Master, s.s. "Ocean Courier" (Larrinaga Steamship Company, Ltd.).

Gerard Dixon, Esq., Third Engineer Officer, s.s. "Ocean Courier" (Larrinaga Steamship Company, Ltd.).

William Currie Dutch, Ship's Cook.

Erik Gothfred Wilhelm Lundahl, Carpenter.

Robert McNair, Esq., Second Engineer Officer.

Captain George William Mortimer, Master.

Bernard Michael Muckble, Fireman, s.s. "Ocean Courier" (Larrinaga Steamship Company, Ltd.).

Captain Ernest Pugh, O.B.E., Master, s.s. "Kelmescott" (Pachesham Steamship Company, Ltd.).

William Roll, Esq., Chief Officer.

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