

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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