

ship was hit by a salvo of shells which put the steering gear out of action. The engines were then stopped and the port lifeboat got away with about 30 men.

The shelling continued and the remaining hands, with the exception of the Master and Radio Officers, boarded the starboard boat which remained alongside. The Master then made an inspection of the ship whilst the First Radio Officer continued to send out signals until the aerial was brought down by shell fire. When the Master and Radio Officers took to the boat, the "King John" was a mass of wreckage forward and amidships and the poop was on fire.

Captain Smith displayed coolness and courage throughout and he did not leave his ship until she was a mass of wreckage and on fire.

The Fourth Engineer Officer was stunned by a blow on the head from falling wreckage. When he recovered consciousness, he went below and started up the main engines in an attempt to get away. He remained below until the engine room was wrecked by shell fire, after which he jumped overboard and, although wounded and in a dazed condition, managed to reach a raft.

The First Radio Officer acted with outstanding devotion to duty, remaining at his post sending out distress messages until the aerial was brought down.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Khawsi Sayed SHAHABUDDIN, Cadet, s.s. "Chilka" (British India Steam Navigation Company, Ltd.).

The s.s. "Chilka" was shelled by an enemy raider and so severely damaged that she had to be abandoned. The crew got away in five boats and a raft, and all reached land after five days.

Cadet Shahabuddin displayed outstanding courage, endurance and devotion to duty. He helped to man the three inch gun, and during the action was badly injured by an explosion which was caused by a shell hitting the ammunition locker and setting it on fire. He tried to extinguish the fire with his bare hands and would not desist until dragged away. The skin was burnt off his hands and face, and during the lifeboat voyage of five days he endured intense agony without complaint.

KING'S COMMENDATIONS

John CAMERON, Chief Steward, m.v. "King John" (King Line, Ltd.).

George Mercer HINDLE, Esq., Second Radio Officer, m.v. "King John" (King Line, Ltd.).

For services when their ships encountered enemy raiders.

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