



SUPPLEMENT

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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1,
20th March, 1940.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned appointments to the Fourth and Fifth Classes of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for the following Awards of the Medal of the said Most Excellent Order, for Meritorious Service, and for the publication in the London Gazette of the names of personnel of the Merchant Navy specially shown below as having received an expression of commendation for their good services.

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

Captain Ernest Coultas, Master, s.s. "Clan Macbean" (Clan Line Steamers Limited, London).

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

Robert Wilkie Cundale Bainbridge, Esq., Second Engineer, s.s. "Clan Macbean" (Clan Line Steamers Limited, London).

S.S. "Clan Macbean" was unarmed. She had been in a convoy which scattered

shortly before being attacked by torpedoes. These found two targets. Towards night-fall, while she was proceeding alone, the Chief Officer, by putting his helm hard over, cleared by inches a torpedo fired from an ocean-going submarine about three-quarters of a mile away and three points on the port bow. From this moment the Master took control of his ship and, with the help only of the native Quartermaster, handled her with such skill that the submarine, which had now surfaced, could make no further torpedo attack. The crew, mostly natives, went to boat stations and lowered all boats to rail level. Keeping stem on to her, "Clan Macbean" now overhauled the submarine; at 200 feet the enemy fired three shells which missed, and at 100 feet he thought it wise to dive with all speed, leaving his gun's crew in the water. While they were being picked up, "Clan Macbean" got right away.

By resolute handling of his unarmed ship, by brilliantly forestalling the enemy's movements and by courageously holding on his course, and so running into point blank gunfire from the submarine, the Master of "Clan Macbean" saved his ship. He could not have achieved his success without the unflinching devotion to duty of his Second Engineer, who remained at his post single-handed in the engine-room after the native crew on duty there had gone to boat stations.