



FOURTH SUPPLEMENT

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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
4th February, 1941.*

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 George Medal and the Medal of the said Most Excellent Order, and for the publication in the London Gazette of the names of Officers and Men of the Merchant Navy specially shown 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 Sinclair Begg, Master.

Captain Begg's ship was bombed and set on fire. The ship's hose was at once connected up and the fire was tackled. The cargo was highly inflammable and there was danger of the magazine exploding. The Master decided to send off in the boats all the crew except the fire-fighting party.

This party, consisting of himself, his 2nd and 3rd officers, the Carpenter, the Chief

Steward and the Radio Officer, extinguished the fire on deck and then worked on the flames between decks, being helped by an escort vessel. After some hours the fire, though still burning, was under control, the crew were brought back on board and the ship taken in tow and anchored.

By their brave action, under the determined leadership of Captain Begg, the fire-party saved not only the ship but also her valuable cargo.

James Alexander Embley, Esq., Chief Officer.

The ship was torpedoed by a U-boat at midnight. She sank rapidly without sending any messages for help for her wireless apparatus was put out of action. The crew got away in two boats, one in charge of the Captain; the other, under the Chief Officer, ran into increasingly heavy weather and on the second night, with a damaged rudder, had to lower sail, use oil and ride to a sea anchor.

In the morning they rigged a jury rudder and then sailed on with great difficulty for three more days before being rescued.

During the whole voyage, the Chief Officer, who is 57 years old, acted with great courage and showed fine seamanship.