



SECOND SUPPLEMENT

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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

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

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 publication in the London Gazette of the names of Officers and Men of the Merchant Navy specially shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for their brave conduct.

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

Captain William Samuel Coughlan, Master.

The ship was torpedoed and quickly settled. The crew took to the four lifeboats and set out on their long voyage towards land. The Master at once rationed food and water and kept the boats together. They sailed by day and each night he made them fast to one another. In this way the spirit of the whole company was kept high and, in spite of much suffering from heat, every one survived to be picked up on the tenth day.

Captain Coughlan had long perfected the boat drill in his vessel and his skill at sea was equal to every demand.

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

Captain Edward Gough, Master.

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

Harry Charles Carter, Esq., First Mate.

The ship was torpedoed and at once began to sink. Three out of four boats were got away. Captain Gough rescued men from another stricken ship, and transferred them from a raft. When picked up twelve days later his first thought was for his other boats which, owing to rough weather, had parted company.

The Master was again torpedoed on his way home and spent nearly four days in a lifeboat. Soon after his second rescue he took charge of salvage operations on a sunken ship. Captain Gough's seamanship and courage rose above every trial.

The First Mate, in charge of the second boat, brought more than twenty survivors to safety after nearly sixteen days on the open sea. Mr. Carter showed fine leadership and, in spite of great difficulties, maintained strict discipline, and when they reached a neutral shore he cared well for his men.

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

Derek Crawford Gilchrist, Esq., Third Officer.

A Merchantman was torpedoed and sunk by a Submarine at night. Six men were killed but the rest got away in three boats. Five days later a passing ship picked up survivors from two of these, but the third, in charge of Mr. Gilchrist, with nine Europeans and twenty-one Indians in her, was not picked up until twenty-five days later.

The Third Officer hoisted sail and set his course by the stars. He rationed food at half a biscuit, a spoonful of condensed milk and half a dipper of water for each man morning and evening and, while it lasted, a little meat for those who kept watch.

From the beginning Mr. Gilchrist set a high standard of work and conduct and his strict discipline gave everyone a feeling of

security. Watches were changed punctually and rations strictly given out and silence was kept in the boat from sunset until dawn.

It was very hot and daily the men grew weaker. When rain came it was with such violence that they were drenched and sat huddled together shivering with cold and unable to sleep.

Mr. Gilchrist, who is only twenty-four years of age, never let them despair and his courage and endurance sustained them all.

COMMENDATIONS.

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

Jack Mather Abbott, Esq., Second Radio Officer.

Captain Herbert Harold Henson, Master.

Walter Slade, Esq. (deceased), Third Officer.

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