

the bridge, the Master himself fired and hit. The Germans jettisoned their remaining bombs and, with smoke and flame coming from the engines, the aircraft lost height as it drew away.

It was due to the Master's skilful handling of the ship that she was saved from damage. The Second Officer, although wounded, stood to his post until the action was over.

The cool and accurate fire of the Gunner, who was wounded, probably destroyed the enemy.

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

Captain Charles Rayner Pilcher, Master.
Captain Percival John Pycraft, D.S.C., Master.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

James Allan Newlyn, Carpenter.

The ships, which were sailing separately, were both damaged at night by the explosion of a mine. One was shelled by a U-boat and three times attacked by torpedo-carrying aircraft. By the skill and leadership of the Masters, both ships arrived at port without anyone being hurt, although the enemy expended much ammunition. One aircraft was destroyed and another damaged.

Carpenter Newlyn, who was on duty for twenty hours after his ship was damaged, took soundings frequently and reported to Captain Pilcher as to how great a strain could be put on the vessel.

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

Oswald McCurdy, Esq., Chief Officer.

The ship was torpedoed in darkness, and after twenty minutes sank. Lives were lost in the explosion but all the survivors got away in the boats.

The Chief Officer and the twenty-six men in his charge were at sea for eighteen days before being picked up. Mr. McCurdy kept good discipline and routine throughout, and by his seamanship saved the lives of his comrades.

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

Alfred Lawson, Esq., Chief Officer.

Awarded the George Medal:—

Frederick William Terence McGowan, Esq.,
First Radio Officer.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Alfred Charles Davis, Boatswain.
Joseph Piccirillo, Second Steward.

When the ship was attacked by enemy aircraft her defensive armament was at once brought into action. The enemy made three runs and in the third, the ship received such damage that she was set on fire and later sank.

The Chief Officer was wounded and stunned but when he had recovered he at once organised the getting away of boats, the care of the wounded, and the freeing of

rafts which were to carry the many survivors previously picked up from other vessels. In this he was helped by the Boatswain, who was himself wounded, and by the Second Steward, who was tireless in his efforts to spare the hurt.

The First Radio Officer instantly responded to the alarm signal and transmitted the distress message before his set was wrecked. When the ship was hit he was trapped in his cabin with three others. As soon as the blast cleared, he removed the debris and forced his way out. He returned three times to release the others, two of whom were badly hurt. By his own effort alone he succeeded in dragging them to safety.

The Chief Officer was among the last to leave the ship, which by then was blazing. He showed great courage and devotion to duty and by his efforts many lives were saved.

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

Rupert Edward Gardiner, Esq., Chief Officer.
Bertram Hugh Smith, Esq., First Radio Officer.
Edwin Goodridge, Esq., Second Engineer.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

James Linton, Cadet.

The ship was torpedoed and was so badly damaged that she had to be abandoned. The First Radio Officer sent out signals on the emergency set until the last moment and then helped to get the boats away. One overturned, but six men including Mr. Smith and the Second Engineer managed to regain it and cut the painter, allowing it to drift clear of the burning ship. This boat lay to her sea anchor during the night. In the morning two other boats were seen, but owing to the heavy swell and the fact that there were no oars, they could not join company.

Some time later, Mr. Goodridge was able to rig a jury rudder and sail, and a course was set. After a week they were rescued.

During this time Cadet Linton, who is under eighteen years of age, was in charge of the boat altogether for forty-one hours to give his seniors some rest. He showed skilful seamanship and good judgment.

The Chief Officer in charge of another boat showed courage and fine seamanship. Although most of his company knew nothing of boat work, he had no instruments and was in great pain, he brought his boat to safety in ten days.

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

Edwin Charles Grieves, Esq., Chief Engineer.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

John Francis Keegan, Gunner.

The ship was attacked and hit by enemy aircraft. The Gunner shot with such coolness and accuracy that the enemy was certainly damaged.