

smoke screen to avoid the threat of torpedoes, and each time Captain Sherbrooke pursued him and drove him outside gun range of the convoy and towards our covering forces. These engagements lasted about two hours, but after the first forty minutes H.M.S. Onslow was hit, and Captain Sherbrooke was seriously wounded in the face and temporarily lost the use of one eye. Nevertheless he continued to direct the ships under his command until further hits on his own ship compelled him to disengage, but not until he was satisfied that the next Senior Officer had assumed control. It was only then that he agreed to leave the bridge for medical attention, and until the convoy was out of danger he insisted on receiving all reports of the action.

His courage, his fortitude and his cool and prompt decisions inspired all around him. By his leadership and example the convoy was saved from damage and was brought safely to its destination.

His Majesty has also been graciously pleased to give Orders for the following Appointment to the Distinguished Service Order, and to approve the following Awards:

For skill and enterprise while in command of H.M.S. Petard in a successful attack on an enemy submarine:

*To be a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order:*

Lieutenant-Commander Mark Thornton,  
D.S.C., Royal Navy.

For gallantry and skill in flying operations in the Middle East:

*The Distinguished Service Cross.*

Temporary Sub-Lieutenant (A) Frederick Brian Cooper, R.N.V.R.

Temporary Sub-Lieutenant (A) Oswald Samuel Ernest Lloyd, R.N.V.R.

Temporary Sub-Lieutenant (A) William Dickson Orwin, R.N.V.R.

Temporary Sub-Lieutenant (A) Leonard Wilkins, R.N.V.R.

*The Distinguished Service Medal*

Acting Petty Officer (Air) John Duncan Mackechnie, FAA/FX.77186.

Leading Airman Angus Scott Harper, FAA/FX 77345.

*Mention in Despatches.*

Temporary Lieutenant (A) Gerald Frederick Arnold, R.N.V.R.

For services to the Eighth Army in Egypt:

*Mention in Despatches.*

Captain Philip Ruck-Keene, Royal Navy.  
Captain George Walter Gillow Simpson,  
C.B.E., Royal Navy

For energy and skill in saving their ship when she was mined:

*Mention in Despatches*

Chief Petty Officer Hector McDonald, D/J. 77519.

Chief Stoker William Henry Charles Kelly, D/K.57969.

Master-at-Arms John Charles Henry Harber, D/M.39787.

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