



THIRD SUPPLEMENT  
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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS  
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.  
2nd February, 1943.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for the following awards of the British Empire Medal, in the Merchant Navy, and for the publication in the London Gazette of the names of those specially shown below 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 Stanley Bruce, Master.

The ship, sailing in convoy, was subjected to almost daily enemy attacks. An aircraft aimed two torpedoes at the vessel from a distance of about half a mile. The ship was manoeuvred to avoid these and, as the enemy came within range, intensive fire was opened by the vessel's armament. It is probable that the machine was hit as, when last seen, it was flying very low.

Captain Bruce displayed cool courage and skilful seamanship in bringing his ship safely through numerous perilous situations.

Captain Harry Allinson Moore, Master.

The ship, sailing alone, was torpedoed. Almost immediately the engine-room was flooded and the engines stopped. When a second torpedo hit her some minutes later the Master ordered away boats with women, children and some of the male passengers. Half an hour later a third torpedo struck the vessel which began to settle rapidly and the Master decided to abandon ship.

The Master used the ship's motor-boat as a mark boat and wireless messages were sent. As a result a rescue ship picked up the survivors on the following day.

Captain Moore's judgment and skill throughout were of a high order. It was due to his splendid organisation and leadership that of the persons on board, only four, killed by the explosion of the first torpedo, were lost.

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

Captain Samuel Francis Champion, Master.

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

William Simpson Faskin, Esq., Chief Engineer Officer.

The ship was subjected to heavy and sustained air attack and was hit and set on fire. It was clear that she could not last long and the Master, therefore, gave orders for her to be abandoned.

Captain Champion showed splendid leadership and, with the Chief Engineer Officer, was responsible for saving many lives.

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

Richard Thomas Clarke, Esq., Third Officer.

After the ship had been torpedoed and sunk, one of the boats made a voyage of 20 days before being picked up.

Great hardship was suffered through exposure and ten of the occupants of the boat died during the voyage. After seventeen days the physical condition of the Officer in charge made it necessary for him to hand over the control of the boat to the Third Officer who throughout had been of great assistance. It was due to the courage, skill and fortitude of Mr. Clarke during the latter part of the voyage that the boat was brought to safety.