

THIRD SUPPLEMENT

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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1. 16th March, 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 an Additional Officer of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:----

Captain Harold Faulkner, Master.

- To be an Additional Member of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—
- Sidney Robert Milburn Turner, Esq., Fourth Engineer Officer.

The ship was dive bombed by six Japanese aircraft. Two of the attacking planes were probably destroyed by the intensive fire put up by the vessel. Several direct hits were sustained which caused extensive damage and the ship began to break up. Although he ordered the crew to the boats, the Master remained on board in the hope of saving the ship. Nothing further could be done however and, some time after the vessel was finally abandoned, she sank.

Captain Faulkner showed courage and coolness throughout and set a fine example. It was due to his excellent organisation that the whole of the crew was saved.

The Fourth Engineer Officer displayed outstanding devotion to duty during the attack. He remained below and stopped the engines when required so that the ship lost way and boats and rafts could be got away in safety.

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

Captain Robert Edward Hopkins, Master. Richard Viner, Esq., Chief Engineer Officer.

- To be an Additional Member of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:---
- Charles George Benjamin Broughton, Chief Officer.

The ship, sailing alone, was torpedoed. She remained afloat, but 20 minutes later was fired on by the submarine. The enemy fire was returned, two shells being seen to explode close to the submarine, which may have been damaged. Half an hour later, two torpedoes were seen coming towards the ship and evasive action was successfully taken. No further attack was made and under her own power the vessel was brought safely to a nearby port where an examination disclosed that she had sustained serious damage. When, however, it was found that there were no facilities for executing the extensive repairs required, the crew were eager to take the ship to a port where repairs could be effected. In spite of her damaged condition the ship put to sea and, after sailing alone through submarine infested waters, eventually reached port.

The Master displayed courage and excellent leadership, and not only saved a valuable ship, but ensured her return to service in the shortest possible time.

The Chief Engineer Officer's cool courage was an inspiring example to all the engineroom staff.