



SUPPLEMENT
TO
The London Gazette

Of FRIDAY, the 27th of AUGUST, 1943

Published by Authority

Registered as a newspaper

TUESDAY, 31 AUGUST, 1943

**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD,**

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
31st August, 1943.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned promotion in and 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 John Duncan, Master.

George Hunt Armstrong, Esq., Chief Engineer Officer.

The ship was at Singapore when the enemy were advancing towards the port.

The Master handled his vessel with courage, skill and outstanding seamanship in difficult and dangerous circumstances and saved her from possible capture or sinking by the enemy. During the period covered by the operations, valuable services were rendered to the military authorities, troops and refugees at a critical time.

The Chief Engineer Officer was outstanding. He displayed magnificent qualities of initiative and resource in effecting repairs and his work helped materially in saving the ship.

Captain Charles Henry Hurst, Master.

The ship arrived at a North Russian port with a valuable cargo and whilst she was there numerous air raids were made on the port. During these attacks a spirited defence was put up by the ship which resulted in the destruction of three enemy fighters.

Later the ship left for the United Kingdom and was brought back safely in spite of the dangers and hazards of the voyage.

The Master handled his ship with courage, resource and determination during all the enemy air attacks. The delivery of a valuable cargo and the success of this voyage were due to his excellent organisation and leadership, coupled with the magnificent defence put up by the vessel.

Captain Griffith Roberts, Master.

The vessel was subjected to a number of submarine and air attacks. The Master handled his ship with courage, resolution and skill in dangerous and difficult circumstances. Due to his outstanding leadership and organisation, all enemy attacks were successfully beaten off and the ship saved from damage.

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

Captain Evan Owen Evans, Master.

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

Alan Hocking Newby, Esq., Second Officer.

The ship, sailing in convoy, was torpedoed in darkness and set on fire. Although at first the fire was confined to the port side, it eventually spread all over the ship. Two boats were lowered but one of them overturned and the other caught fire. The Master and Second Officer remained on board, but it was not possible to bring the vessel before the wind and the bridge had to be abandoned owing to the flames, smoke and intense heat. Nevertheless they made efforts to retard the fire by steam smothering but were unsuccessful and eventually left the ship in one of the remaining boats.