

of a new type and rendering it safe was a matter of some guesswork and consequently, very dangerous.

The weather during the whole of the operation was very rough, and frequent snow-storms militated against the gentle handling of the torpedo, making the task even more hazardous.

Lieutenant Steele also found and removed the submarine's scuttling charges which were in a particularly awkward position in the partly-flooded submarine. Any false move on his part in the bad light would have resulted in an explosion and his own destruction, but by his courage and devotion to duty the whole of this new type of midget submarine was captured intact as well as the latest type of torpedo pistol.

Lieutenant Steele also took part in the recovery of a new type of torpedo from a Seehunde Midget Submarine stranded off Yarmouth on 7th February, 1945. This was also a very delicate and dangerous operation carried out under extremely difficult conditions in bad weather, and calling for great endurance and devotion to duty from this Officer and his helpers. The submarine went aground on the Scroby sands and when it was possible to land there Lieutenant Steele found that it was largely buried in liquid sand and very difficult to salvage. With the aid of a bulldozer and tractor and sheer determination, sufficient of the submarine was uncovered to make recovery of the torpedo possible. The weather and condition of the sand made it necessary to work as quickly as possible, and Lieutenant Steele and his party worked for thirty hours at a stretch in order to complete the operation successfully.

The recovery of these new types of enemy weapons was of the greatest use in deciding on appropriate counter measures, which were very necessary at that time, as the midget submarine was a menace to coastal and cross-channel shipping.

Temporary Lieutenant (Sp.) Richard Aitken WATERS, R.N.V.R.

Lieutenant Waters was ordered to recover a Seehunde Midget Submarine which had been stranded on a sandbank near Walcheren. The operation began on 13th January, 1945 and was completed on 5th February, 1945, under extremely difficult conditions. The submarine was practically buried in sand and it was impossible to remove the portside torpedo pistol until it was dug out a little. When he did attempt to remove the pistol Lieutenant Waters found that it had to be removed by hand, as it had jammed, and had to be started with a cold chisel and hammer. Later when it was possible to remove the starboard torpedo he again had to use a hammer, some two feet under freezing water, in order to recover the pistol from the torpedo which was not fully in the safe condition. He also had to remove the detonators and primers from this pistol by force, a most dangerous task, which took three and a half hours. A slightly inaccurate blow with the hammer during any of these operations would have certainly resulted in an explosion which would probably have had fatal consequences, a fact of which Lieutenant Waters was fully aware.

This was the first Seehunde to be recovered so completely and this successful operation resulted in full knowledge being obtained of the latest German midget submarine, which was a menace to our coastal and cross-channel shipping.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.

23rd October 1945.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the British Empire Medal (Military Division) to the under-mentioned:

Sergeant (Temporary) Douglas Seatrell BIRKETT, R.M., Ch.X.100296,

for outstanding leadership, zeal and great devotion to duty in training singlehanded an efficient platoon which successfully took part in the critical operations during March and April 1945, in the invasion of Holland.

Chief Petty Officer Sultan MOHAMED, 2951, R.I.N.

Leading Seaman Barkat ALI, 5845, R.I.N.

Able Seaman Hardev SINGH, 13183, R.I.N.

for courage, skill and devotion to duty whilst serving with H.M.I.S. Adyar, in the salvage of aircraft and depth charges.

Chief Stoker Patrick John NICHOLSON, P/KX.61553 (Southsea).

Engine Room Artificer Third Class George Alec SHIMMINGS, P/MX.50949 (Fareham, Hants.).

Shipwright Fourth Class George Kenneth HERITAGE, C/MX.118207 (Gravesend).

Temporary Stoker Petty Officer Edgar James WARMAN, C/K.64514 (Woodchurch, Kent).

Sick Berth Petty Officer Denis Ernest William EDMONDSON, P/MX.49778 (Bristol).

Leading Seaman Morgan THOMAS, P/SSX.20803 (Pencoed, Nr. Bridgend, Glamorgan).

Able Seaman Frank Leslie CURTIS, D/JX.287303 (Ladywood, Birmingham).

Able Seaman Norman BURGOYNE, LT/JX.257663 (Manchester).

Coder Ernest Edwin WILKS, D/JX.205620 (Cardiff),

for good service, efficiency and zeal whilst serving in H.M. Ships Larne, Aurora, Clinton, Hunter, Black Prince and Light Coastal Forces, in the clearance of the Aegean and the relief of Greece during the period 1944-1945.

ADMIRALTY.

Whitehall,

23rd October, 1945.

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following appointments to the Distinguished Service Order and to approve the following Rewards and Awards:

For gallantry, skill and great devotion to duty whilst serving in H.M. Ships Formidable, Victorious, Indefatigable, Illustrious and Indomitable during the operations performed in collaboration with the United States Pacific Fleet in the capture of Okinawa and the Nansei Shoto area, over a period from 26th March, 1945, to 20th April, 1945:

Bar to the Distinguished Service Order.

Captain Quinten Dick GRAHAM, C.B.E., D.S.O., Royal Navy.