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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD,

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

20th August, 1946.

The KING has been graciously pleased to award the GEORGE CROSS to:—

Odette Marie Celina, Mrs. SANSOM, M.B.E.,
Women's Transport Service (First Aid
Nursing Yeomanry).

Mrs. Sansom was infiltrated into enemy-occupied France and worked with great courage and distinction until April, 1943, when she was arrested with her Commanding Officer. Between Marseilles and Paris on the way to the prison at Fresnes, she succeeded in speaking to her Commanding Officer and for mutual protection they agreed to maintain that they were married. She adhered to this story and even succeeded in convincing her captors in spite of considerable contrary evidence and through at least fourteen interrogations. She also drew Gestapo attention from her Commanding Officer on to herself saying that he had only come to France on her insistence. She took full responsibility and agreed that it should be herself and not her Commanding Officer who should be shot. By this action she caused the Gestapo to cease paying attention to her Commanding Officer after only two interrogations. In addition the Gestapo were most determined to discover the whereabouts of a wireless operator and of another British officer whose lives were of the greatest value to the Resistance Organisation. Mrs. Sansom was the only person who knew of their whereabouts. The Gestapo tortured her most brutally to try to make her give away this information. They seared her back with a red hot iron and, when that failed, they pulled out all her toe-nails. Mrs. Sansom, however, continually refused

to speak and by her bravery and determination, she not only saved the lives of the two officers but also enabled them to carry on their most valuable work.

During the period of over two years in which she was in enemy hands, she displayed courage, endurance and self-sacrifice of the highest possible order.

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20th August, 1946.

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, 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 James Alexander TAYLOR, Master,
m.v. "Empire Patrol" (Prince Line Ltd.).

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

Paul Francis Johns HUNTER, Chief Officer,
m.v. "Empire Patrol" (Prince Line Ltd.).

John Douglas HUGHES, Senior Second
Engineer Officer, m.v. "Empire Patrol"
(Prince Line Ltd.).

The "Empire Patrol" was carrying Greek refugees, mainly women and children, from East Africa to Greece, when a fire broke out on board.