

BRITAIN CITES THREE FOR ST. NAZAIRE RAID

Victoria Cross Awarded to Two Officers and a Lost Seaman

Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LONDON, May 21.—The highly prized Victoria Cross has been awarded for valor in the Commandos' March 27 attack on the German naval base at Saint Nazaire in France to Commander Robert E. D. Ryder, who led the small force of unprotected ships; Lieut. Comdr. S. H. Beattie, who commanded the destroyer Campbeltown, and Seaman W. A. Savage.

Seaman Savage was killed at his station on a gunboat while running the gantlet of the shore batteries. Lieut. Comdr. Beattie is a German prisoner.

The citations record that these awards were made not only in recognition of the personal valor of these three men, but also to commemorate the outstanding gallantry of those unidentified heroes "who did not return."

Commander Ryder, although his main task of driving the Campbeltown into the ship basin gates had been completed, remained on the spot, conducting operations, directing the evacuation of the destroyer's crew and dealing with strong points with close-range weapons while exposed to heavy fire for more than an hour. He did not withdraw until certain that his ship could be of no use in rescuing any of the Commando troops still ashore. It is regarded as a miracle that his motor boat, loaded with wounded, should have been able to withdraw through the intense enemy barrage.

Lieut. Comdr. Beattie, under intense fire directed at the bridge of the Campbeltown from a distance of a hundred yards and in the blinding glare of searchlights, guided the destroyer into the lock gates and scuttled her in the designated position.

Seaman Savage "showed great gallantry, skill and devotion to duty" as the gunlayer of a pom-pom on a motor gunboat.

"Completely exposed," says the citation, "he engaged under heavy fire positions ashore with cool, steady accuracy. On the way out of the harbor he kept up the same vigorous accurate fire against attacking ships until he was killed at his gun."