

explosion was much greater than the one previous; the flames leapt hundreds of feet into the air and when the smoke cleared away nothing could be seen.

13 All this time Raider No 2 was chasing us and firing continuously. We received a direct hit on the stern, luckily again just above the waterline. A fire was started, but was promptly brought under control.

14. We steamed on under the cover of a smoke screen. Raider No 2 continued to chase and fire at us for about another 15 minutes, then the firing ceased and after about another 15 to 20 minutes when the smoke screen was cleared, the enemy was not in sight. It is presumed that Raider No 2 went back to pick up any survivors from the sunken raider.

15. The tanker was last seen disappearing over the horizon, and information has since been received which leads one to believe that she was able to make her escape.

16. It is estimated that there were well over 200 shells fired at us, and considering that we received a direct hit and innumerable near misses, it is incredible that no one was even slightly injured.

17. Those who took part in this action will never cease to marvel at the result. To think that a small ship, with only one 12-pdr. gun, should engage two raiders, both more than ten times her own size, and each with about 20 times her gun power, and so enable the tanker

to escape, sink one raider, and then get away herself, is almost miraculous.

18 The R I.N. should be justly proud of their little "Bengal Tiger"; she has had her tail twisted and has a few scars but these will soon be healed and the Tiger will be roaring again.

APPENDIX I.

Admiralty, S.W. I.

13th April, 1943.

Sir,

I am commanded by My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for India, the accompanying copy of a letter (with enclosures) from the Commander-in-Chief, Eastern Fleet, concerning the action in the Indian Ocean on the 11th November last between H.M.I.S. BENGAL and the M.S. ONDINA and two Japanese raiders

2. My Lords have read with great interest the report on this noteworthy success against a much superior enemy force, and they would be glad if the Secretary of State would convey to the Government of India an expression of their deep admiration for the very gallant part played by H.M.I.S. BENGAL.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) F. W. MOTTERSHEAD.

The Under Secretary of State,
India Office, S.W. I.

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