

THE DAY MY FATHER WAS DECORATED

Many of you will have heard my brother Jules Bright giving a talk at JAC's recently on Commander Bright's life in the Royal Navy. I thought you would like to hear my account of the day he received the D.S.C.

In the King's Birthday Honours of June 1941, in "The Times", my father's award was announced and the citation read:-

D.S.C. to Lieut. Commander M. M. Bright RN(Ret).

"For outstanding zeal, patience and cheerfulness and for never failing to set an example of wholehearted devotion to duty without which the tradition of the Royal Navy could not have been upheld".

Excitement was high in the family, two invitations arrived from the Lord Chamberlain's office at Buckingham Palace. It was decided that my mother and I would have the honour, as my eldest brother (an Eng. Officer in the Merchant Navy) was in convoy and might not have leave. We set off to the Palace in July 1941 dressed in our best clothes. On entering the gates of the Palace, the sentry presented arms to my father. We walked through a courtyard and entered through a door with footmen in red and gold livery who looked at our invitations.

My father was taken to a special room where he received, with others, instruction as to what he had to do. Mother and I entered the Palace and went up a few stairs to a large magnificent room which I believe was a Ballroom. I learned, on my second visit to the Palace last week, that this was a temporary arrangement used during the war. There were magnificent

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