



THIRD SUPPLEMENT

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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1,
14th August, 1942.

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following appointment to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—

To be an Additional Member of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order:—

Acting Flight Lieutenant Jabez Lander Thrusell (44202) Royal Air Force.

One night in June, 1942, an aircraft, carrying a heavy bomb, crash landed on an aerodrome. Flight Lieutenant Thrusell, the station armament officer, at once went out to the crash, and set about rendering the bomb safe. The crashed aircraft was being supported by the bomb, the main spar lying across the top of the bomb. It was not considered advisable to cut the main spar to approach the missile from inside the fuselage, as it could be seen that the bomb was damaged and in a dangerous state. Flight Lieutenant Thrusell dug away the ground on the port side of the aircraft, then crawled underneath and set to work. With great care and patience and working with the aid of a torch and pliers, Flight Lieutenant Thrusell managed to render the fuzing devices safe. Flight Lieutenant Thrusell carried out this hazardous task without hesitation, in the dark, and at considerable risk to himself, and displayed devotion to duty of the highest order. He has always shown the highest degree of energy and efficiency.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1,
14th August, 1942.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the British Empire Medal (Military Division) to the undermentioned:—

Can/R.58350 Sergeant Pierre Cecil Bion, Royal Canadian Air Force.

One night in May, 1942, Sergeant Bion was the air gunner of an aircraft which was recalled through bad weather. The pilot attempted to land but collided with some high trees on the hillside. The aircraft immediately caught fire. Sergeant Bion managed to extricate himself from the aircraft and assisted the wireless operator, who, whilst in a very dazed condition, was endeavouring to get free. Having taken him to safety Sergeant Bion

returned to the burning aircraft and, with the assistance of the navigator, extricated another member of the crew who had been trapped in the second pilot's seat. Leaving the navigator to attend to this member, Sergeant Bion returned to the aircraft and, unaided, extricated the pilot (who was suffering from a compound fracture of the left leg and was unable to move) and carried him to a place of safety. Unfortunately the pilot died a few hours later. Sergeant Bion who had sustained lacerations, abrasions and an injury to his left knee, displayed presence of mind and complete disregard for his own safety whilst performing his gallant rescue work.

528206 Corporal John Rankin Aitken, Royal Air Force,

652901 Corporal Robert Christopher Mason, Royal Air Force,

1063929 Corporal Richard O'Brien, Royal Air Force.

These airmen, who are employed on bomb disposal duties, have displayed courage and devotion to duty of a high standard. During the past five months their aerodrome in Malta has been subjected to intense and almost continuous enemy air attacks and a very large number of delayed action bombs have been dropped. They have been called upon, both by day and night, to carry out their duties in the face of many dangers and flying operations have never been held up. Corporals Aitken, Mason and O'Brien have displayed great devotion to duty and complete disregard for their own safety. They have saved many aircraft from destruction and have set an example of the highest order.

Air Ministry,
14th August, 1942.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallantry displayed in flying operations against the enemy:—

Distinguished Service Order.

Wing Commander Minden Vaughan BLAKE, D.F.C. (36095).

During the past 10 months, this officer has completed numerous sorties, including several attacks on enemy shipping. He has rendered valuable service and his leadership has been of the highest order. He has destroyed at least 9 hostile aircraft.