



Government House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

25 October 2023

Gallantry Decorations

The Governor-General is pleased to announce the following Gallantry Decorations:

MEDAL FOR GALLANTRY (MG)

Pilot Officer Warran Frank COWAN

For acts of gallantry in action in hazardous circumstances on 22 July 1942 as the plane captain of Lockheed Hudson A16-201.

Sergeant Russell Bradburn POLACK

For acts of gallantry in action in hazardous circumstances on 22 July 1942 as the plane navigator of Lockheed Hudson A16-201.

Sergeant Laurie Edwin SHEARD

For acts of gallantry in action in hazardous circumstances on 22 July 1942 as the aircraft gunner of Lockheed Hudson A16-201.

Pilot Officer David Reid TAYLOR

For acts of gallantry in action in hazardous circumstances on 22 July 1942 as the plane wireless operator of Lockheed Hudson A16-201.

COMMENDATION FOR GALLANTRY

For acts of gallantry in action over two tours of operational service with Number 464 Squadron.

Warrant Officer William Albert KINLOCH

Pilot Officer Justin Reginald MULLIGAN

By His Excellency's command

Paul Singer MVO

Official Secretary to the Governor-General

MEDAL FOR GALLANTRY (MG)

Pilot Officer Warran Frank COWAN

For acts of gallantry in action in hazardous circumstances on 22 July 1942 as the plane captain of Lockheed Hudson A16-201.

During a daylight reconnaissance and ship shadowing action against the enemy occupied Buna beachhead, Pilot Officer Cowan demonstrated superior piloting and leadership skills while making valiant attempts to defeat multiple attacking Zero aircraft. Pilot Officer Cowan manoeuvred his bomber into violent high-speed turns, surprising the enemy by making repeated attacks. Eventually overwhelmed, the aircraft was crippled and crashed. Although killed in action in this engagement, the tenacity and skill of Pilot Officer Cowan and his crew left a lasting war and post-war impression on the enemy and is in keeping with the finest traditions of the Royal Australian Air Force and the Australian Defence Force.

Sergeant Russell Bradburn POLACK

For acts of gallantry in action in hazardous circumstances on 22 July 1942 as the plane navigator of Lockheed Hudson A16-201.

Displaying superior skills Sergeant Polack worked to facilitate a counter offensive engagement of multiple Japanese Zero aircraft. Outnumbered by enemy aircraft, the crew distinguished themselves through their cohesive efforts to ensure the aircraft presented the most defiant attacking profile possible to defend against the repeated enemy attacks. A fine example of tenacity and skill, this engagement left a lasting war and post-war impression on the enemy and is in keeping with the finest traditions of the Royal Australian Air Force and the Australian Defence Force.

Sergeant Laurie Edwin SHEARD

For acts of gallantry in action in hazardous circumstances on 22 July 1942 as the aircraft gunner of Lockheed Hudson A16-201.

Displaying superior skills Sergeant Sheard worked to engage multiple Japanese Zero aircraft. Outnumbered by enemy aircraft, the crew distinguished themselves through their cohesive efforts to ensure the aircraft presented the most defiant attacking profile possible to defend against the repeated enemy attacks. A fine example of tenacity and skill, this engagement left a lasting war and post-war impression on the enemy and is in keeping with the finest traditions of the Royal Australian Air Force and the Australian Defence Force.

Pilot Officer David Reid TAYLOR

For acts of gallantry in action in hazardous circumstances on 22 July 1942 as the plane wireless operator of Lockheed Hudson A16-201.

Displaying superior skills Pilot Officer Taylor assisted in the counter offensive engagement of multiple Japanese Zero aircraft. Outnumbered by enemy aircraft, the crew distinguished themselves through their cohesive efforts to ensure the aircraft presented the most defiant attacking profile possible to defend against the repeated enemy attacks. A fine example of tenacity and skill, this engagement left a lasting war and post-war impression on the enemy and is in keeping with the finest traditions of the Royal Australian Air Force and the Australian Defence Force.

COMMENDATION FOR GALLANTRY

Warrant Officer William Albert KINLOCH

For acts of gallantry in action over two tours of operational service with Number 464 Squadron.

Warrant Officer William Kinloch displayed the utmost gallantry and operational skill to accurately prosecute their targets with devastating effect ensuring his Squadron was able to gain mission success. These actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of the Royal Australian Air Force and the Australian Defence Force.

Pilot Officer Justin Reginald MULLIGAN

For acts of gallantry in action over two tours of operational service with Number 464 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Justin Mulligan displayed the utmost gallantry and operational skill to accurately prosecute their targets with devastating effect ensuring his Squadron was able to gain mission success. These actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of the Royal Australian Air Force and the Australian Defence Force.