



Government House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
27 March 2026

Gallantry Decorations - April 2026

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

STAR OF GALLANTRY (SG)

Royal Australian Air Force

Pilot Officer Warren Frank COWAN

For acts of conspicuous gallantry in action in circumstances of great peril on 22 July 1942 as the aircraft captain of Lockheed Hudson A16-201.

The *Medal for Gallantry* awarded 25 October 2023 for the same action has been cancelled.

By Her Excellency's command

Gerard Martin PSM

Official Secretary to the Governor-General

STAR OF GALLANTRY (SG)

Pilot Officer Warren Frank COWAN

For acts of conspicuous gallantry in action in circumstances of great peril on 22 July 1942 as the aircraft captain of Lockheed Hudson A16-201.

Pilot Officer Cowan demonstrated superior piloting skill and leadership during a daylight reconnaissance and ship-shadowing mission against the enemy-occupied Buna beachhead, while making valiant attempts to counter 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 impression on the enemy and is in keeping with the finest traditions of the Royal Australian Air Force and the Australian Defence Force.