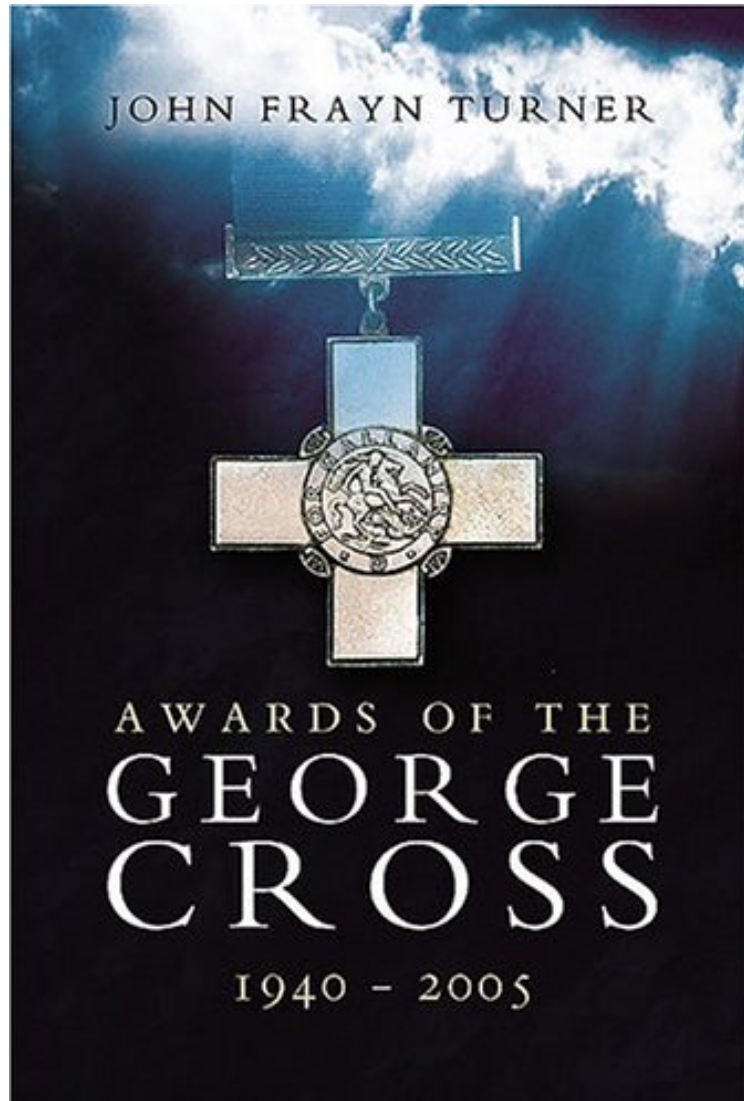


(Library ebook) Awards of the George Cross 1940 - 2005

Awards of the George Cross 1940 - 2005

John Frayn Turner

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John Frayn Turner : Awards of the George Cross 1940 - 2005 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Awards of the George Cross 1940 - 2005:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Better than a book of short stories. By Ned Middleton There are stories in this book enough to make the hardest man cry - and when I say stories, these are all factual accounts of great deeds of valour. Each one is simply amazing and many leave one wondering why this particular serviceman - who was on operational duty at the time, was awarded the George Cross and not the Victoria Cross. I well remember the BOAC air crash near Staines, England in 1968 but was completely unaware of the GC awarded to a stewardess who lost her

life after saving the lives of others. As a former serviceman I was also aware of the awards made in Northern Ireland to Sergeant Michael Willetts of 3 Para, Major Stephen Styles RAOC (bomb disposal) and Captain Robert Nairac Grenadier Guards. I had not, however, heard of the only other GC award during that 30 year period of conflict to Warrant Officer Barry Johnson also RAOC (bomb disposal). No VCs were ever awarded for service in Northern Ireland. Amongst my other interests, I am currently engaged in rewriting my hugely successful scuba diving guide to Malta - a fantastic little country for divers and probably home to the greatest diveable shipwreck in the world! Part of Malta's heroic history includes the story of another great ship - the SS Ohio, which survived one of the greatest convoy ordeals of all time. In an operation which saw one aircraft carrier and two cruisers lost, another two cruisers put out of action and the Ohio sustaining a direct torpedo hit, it says much for Captain Dudley Mason of the OHIO that his surpassed all by eventually bringing his ship into port and for which he was also awarded the GC. Some of the citations take up no more than a half page, others are much longer. They are all as riveting as each other - such as the major who was demonstrating how to throw live grenades when he failed to throw the activated device out of the pit and immediately threw himself onto the bomb in order to save the lives of his students. Such are the details of bravery and this book reveals all which resulted in the award of the GC between 1940 and 2009. Perhaps some of the bravest of those brave are the few women amongst their number. Laid out in chronological order, my only complaint with this work lacks an index. Whilst all 160 recipients are listed alphabetically at the beginning of the work, if you wanted to read the citation of a specific individual you will have to thumb through the work to find the relevant entry. A minor point which will not spoil anyone's enjoyment of an otherwise excellent product. NM

Early in WW2, King George VI was deeply impressed by the heroic deeds of servicemen out of the front line and civilian non-combatants in acts connected with the war such as bomb disposal, rescues after air raids. So in September 1940 the King instituted the George Cross for 'For Gallantry' away from the heat of actual battle, to be awarded to civilians and servicemen and women. As the war progressed, the range of deeds increased. In April 1942 the unprecedented award of the GC was made to the entire population of the Island of Malta 'to honour her brave people'. Later the award was made for supreme gallantry to members of the Special Operations Executive, including Violette Szabo and Forest Yeo-Thomas (The White Rabbit). Many were posthumous. The George Cross continued to be awarded in the post war years and up to the present day, and this fine book covers all of these.

About the Author John Frayn Turner is a hugely respected and much published author. He has numerous titles in print with Pen and Sword Books. He currently is re-locating with his wife to Cornwall.