

**Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC)  
Douglas Ian Paterson**

76055. Flight Lieutenant.  
Royal NZ Air Force.  
Attached 9 Sqn RAAF

NZ Gazette Number 37 dated 20 May 1971

**CITATION**

**On June 14, 1970**, Flight Lieutenant Paterson was the captain of an Iroquois helicopter called forward for an emergency re-supply of ammunition to a platoon of C Company, 8 RAR in Phuoc Tuy Province.

The Australian Army platoon, critically low on ammunition, was under heavy fire from a superior enemy element entrenched in bunkers less than 50 metres away, and in grave danger of being overrun.

Quickly evaluating the seriousness of the situation, and knowing full well the proximity of the enemy and his own vulnerability to ground fire, Flight Lieutenant Paterson undertook to drop belts of ammunition to the platoon.

He completed part of the re-supply operation before being forced to land his aircraft, which had been badly damaged by enemy fire, in a secure area; his aircraft had sustained 21 hits at very close range.

Despite his knowledge of the accuracy and intensity of the enemy fire Flight Lieutenant Paterson returned to the area in a replacement aircraft and completed the re-supply mission.

As a result of his courageous actions the Australian Army platoon was able to break contact successfully and withdraw without loss of life.

The outstanding courage and devotion to duty displayed by Flight Lieutenant Paterson in this action were in keeping with the finest traditions of the Service and brought great credit to himself and the Royal New Zealand Air Force.

**Notes to Citation:**

Born Opotiki 15 April 1934. Served in the RNZAF from 24 Jan 1951 to 20 May 1971 as a Pilot, then from 6 March 1972 to 6 March 1977 as an administrator. Died in Auckland 12<sup>th</sup> June 1980