



Distinguished Flying Cross Award Citation

From 0245 -0430 local time, between April – June 1945, I was flying as Pilot in command of a C-46D attempting to land at Myitkyina, Burma. The airfield was closed because of heavy ground fog, and was forecast to remain so until after daylight. On board was a mortally wounded NCO who had been injured earlier in a hunting accident. He was shot at close range with a .45 cal pistol. The Unit flight Surgeon and two Medical Technicians were attempting to stabilize his medical condition. After advising the tower of our situation, I asked them to advise the local field hospital we were coming and that we were committed to landing. The Tower advised they would have emergency equipment standing by but we were on our own for the landing. Since the radio beacon was directly off the north end of the runway, we used this as our directional control and began a descent based upon a visual reference off the Irrawaddy River to the south. I instructed the co-pilot to watch for runway lights as we went below minimum published altitude. Just as I was ready to apply full power for a go around, he called runway lights directly below us. I cut the power and we dropped about 20 feet onto the runway. We cut the engines and within about two minutes there were Airfield Emergency Vehicles and an ambulance there for our patient. The Aircraft was towed off the runway and we found some cots in an Alert Tent on the Flight line to rest on. Our patient died about two hours later. He had been scheduled to return to the US the next month.

Branch of Service: U. S. Army Air Corps * Theatre for DFC: WW II * Aircraft: C-46D