

52747 Squadron Signals Leader S. Turner DFC and Bar 35 Squadron Pathfinder Force



Flight Lieutenant Stanley Turner was from Harthill, and was educated at Harthill Woodhall Senior School; he enlisted in 1939, and qualified as an Air Gunner on the 27th July 1940. His first entry in his Logbook is on the 14th July 1940 flying on Fairy Battles at R.A.F. Station Jurby on the Isle of Man.



Fairy Battle – Light Bomber

In 1940 he transferred to 17 OTU (Operational Training Unit) at Upwood and flies in Avro Anson and Bristol Blenheim light bombers.



Avro Anson – Light Bomber



Bristol Blenheim – Light Bomber

In 1940 Stanley is then transferred to Linton-on-Ouse with "B" flight and begins operations as Tail Gunner with his first on the 7th October 1940 to Amsterdam. According to his log book, on the 10th he bombed Cologne it additionally notes engine cutout. On the 14th he is on a raid to Stettin (landed at Marham). On the 23rd a raid was planned for Stettin but it notes that the target was not found so Bruhrital (sic) was bombed instead. On November 7th his logbook just notes "Raid", whilst on the 26th the target was Turin (bombed arsenal) where he notes "Baled out". His last raid for 1940 took place on the 11th December and again no target is noted.

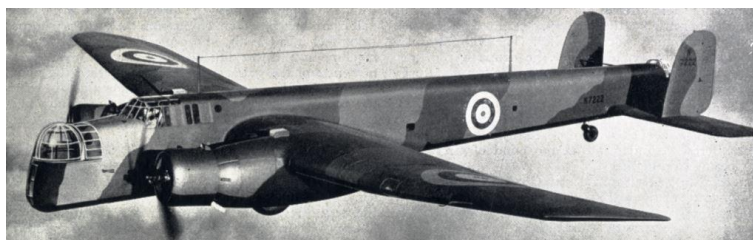
He then transfers sideways to 35 Squadron, still at Linton-on-Ouse, and still as Air Gunner, this time on Halifax heavy bombers.



Hadley Page Halifax Heavy Bomber

In 1941 He takes part in two operations in March one on the 10th which, he notes "Jettisoned Bombs", two days later he is on Ops to Hamburg. He has no Ops in April or May but is now attached to 58 Squadron. In June he has roles of both Tail Gunner and Wireless Operator and according to his log book has Ops to Ruhr (12th), Schwerte (15th), Dusseldorf (17th), Kiel (20th), Cologne (23rd). July sees him go to Duisburg (7th), Hamburg (16th). He transfers back to 35 Squadron for August and now as W/Op has Ops to Kiel (20th), Duisburg (29th), Cologne (31st). For September he has his first Op to Berlin (7th), Turin (10th) it notes "crash landed", Hamburg (15th), Stettin (29th). In October he just has two Ops, Essen (11th), 14th (Nurnberg) low level attack. November also has two raids, Berlin (7th) 7000lb bomb load, Brest (25th).

After a break from Ops he moves to 10 O.T.U. Abingdon on Whitley medium bombers. His first raid is on the 1st June 1942 to Essen, then again on the 13th September to Bremen (noted as holed by flak).



Armstrong Whitworth Whitley Medium Bomber

He then goes to No.3 P.R.C. at Bournemouth before returning to 10 O.T.U. Abingdon and is involved with a variety of different training roles. This continues until February 1944 where he moves to R.A.F. Rufforth and then briefly to R.A.F. Warboys.

In April 1944 he is back with 35 Squadron at R.A.F. Graveley who are now equipped with Avro Lancaster heavy bombers, and are part of the Pathfinder Force, and again he serves as Wireless Operator, his first Op is on the 26th to Essen. In May he has Ops to Boulogne (19th), Duisburg (21st), Dortmund (22nd) and Aachen (24th).

Note: The **Pathfinders** were target-marking squadrons in RAF Bomber Command during World War II. They located and marked targets with flares, which a main bomber force could aim at, increasing the accuracy of their bombing. The Pathfinders were normally the first to receive new blind bombing aids like Gee, Oboe and the H2S radar.



Avro Lancaster Heavy Bomber

Particulars of recommendation for the Distinguished Flying Cross:

Flight Lieutenant Turner is now Squadron Signals Leader and his enthusiasm efficiency and leadership has been proved. Now on his second tour of operations, he has completed 67 bombing attacks against the enemy and has recently flown in a most successful crew engaged on vital marking duties. Throughout, Flight Lieutenant Turner has set an example in keenness and ability, and his fine record of service. This Officer has carried out a large number of duties and continues to show determination and enthusiasm is worthy of high praise.

With the invasion of North West Europe on the 6th June he has an Op to Forêt de Cerisy, Montfiquet, France (7th), Rennes Airfield (9th), "Tours" (11th), Fouillard (15th), Renescue (16th) also noted "Buzz Bomb" (V1 Flying Bomb), Courbonne (23rd), Mieddelstraete (24th) "Buzz Bomb", Oisemont (28th). In July he has a combination of day and night Ops to Oisemont (2nd), Villeneuve St.George (4th), Caen (7th), L'Hey (9th), Nucourt (10th), Gadennes (11th), St.Philibert Ferme (14th & 16th), Stuttgart (24th & 28th), Foret-de-Nieppe (31st).

August of 1944 sees another busy month for 35 Squadron and his Ops are Aquet (5th), Caen (7th) Battle Front, Douai (11th), Stettin (16th), Rosselsheim (17th), Connantre (18th), Ile de Longue & Point des Espagnols (25th), Kiel (26th), Stettin (29th).

September sees his Ops slow down with just two to Bottrop (27th) and again on the 30th. In October he is sent to Saarbrücken (5th), Stuttgart (19th), Hannover (21st) recalled, Essen (25th). November his first Op is to Duren (16th) American Army Support, Wanne-Eickel, Herne, Germany (Ruhr) 18th, Koblenz (20th), Freiberg, Germany (27th). December Bonn (28th), Gelsenkirchen, Germany (29th).

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His first Op for 1945 was on the 19th January but is just noted as "Operations". His final Op was on the 4th April to Leuna (M.B.). He is involved with a Food drop to Rotterdam on the 7th May. In June he is involved with escorting the C-in C Bomber Command to Gardemoine (sic) and Toselande (sic). His final flying was in August with a Cooks Tour on the 3rd and a flight to Istres, France and Tibenham, England on the 19th.

Bar to the DFC, London Gazette 16.11.1945:

Since the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross Flight Lieutenant Turner has participated in numerous attacks against heavily defended targets. As signals leader he has set an inspiring example to other wireless operators in his squadron and he has materially contributed to the high standard of operational efficiency attained by his squadron.

His grand total of hours was 1008-25

Text Compiled by David Dixon 19th February 2021