

enemy firepower, he pressed on with his task without a moment's hesitation. This typical example of his courage and fortitude was a magnificent example to us all. Squadron Leader Garwood's gallantry, outstanding flying skill and selfless dedication deserve special recognition.

D.F.C.

Squadron Leader Michael Andrew GORDON
M.B.E. (2625943), Royal Air Force.

Squadron Leader Gordon, a Jaguar pilot and flight commander from No. 41(F) Squadron Royal Air Force Coltishall, joined the Operation Granby Royal Air Force Detachment at Muharraq, Bahrain on 14 November 1990. Jaguar aircraft are a key element of the United Kingdom's contribution to the multinational force formed in response to the Gulf crisis, and are tasked on air interdiction, combat search and rescue, anti-ship combat air patrol and tactical reconnaissance missions, both in Iraq and in the Kuwait Theatre of Operations.

Ever since the outbreak of hostilities on 17 January 1991, Squadron Leader Gordon has displayed qualities of leadership and coolness under fire that were a magnificent example to others. He was regularly met by heavy anti-aircraft artillery fire and surface to air missile defences on the approach to, or overhead his targets but, undeterred by the obvious danger and showing a complete disregard for his personal safety, he pressed home his attacks with devastating accuracy. His exceptional fearlessness, skill, and his determination to meet the task laid on him inspired other pilots to press home their particular attacks, also with devastating results. Typically, on the 17th January 1991, whilst leading the first Jaguar mission of the conflict, Squadron Leader Gordon noticed anti-aircraft artillery fire bursting close behind his wingman who, at that time, was concentrating on the final stages of his attack dive. With complete disregard for his personal safety, and showing outstanding fortitude and presence of mind, Squadron Leader Gordon flew his own aircraft between the incoming anti-aircraft fire and his vulnerable wingman to draw the anti-aircraft fire away from other aircraft. This selfless act undoubtedly saved a fellow pilot and a valuable aircraft from total loss and contributed to his wingman's successful attack.

Squadron Leader Gordon's exceptional gallantry and quiet but dogged determination have been a shining example to all during a period of dangerous and demanding air operations that have undoubtedly saved the lives of many allied ground forces.

D.F.C.

Squadron Leader Robert Ian McALPINE (8019097),
Royal Air Force.

Squadron Leader McAlpine is the Squadron Weapons Leader and Pilot Flight Commander of No. 20 Squadron. On 8 November 1990 the Squadron was instructed to work up with the new ALARM anti-radiation missile system and be ready to deploy operationally to Saudi Arabia by 23 November 1990. During this period the new Squadron Commander was completing his own operational work up, having only recently arrived, and so the task of masterminding the programme devolved to Squadron Leader McAlpine. That the Squadron met the exacting timescales and then successfully used the missile during Operation Desert Storm is testimony to his dynamic leadership.

Squadron Leader McAlpine led the first phase of the Squadron deployment to Tabuk and immediately impressed his superiors with his professional knowledge and commitments. He adapted quickly to the new flying environment and in addition to his normal duties, was given the task of preparing all of the pre-planned ALARM war sorties. Despite the long hours required to complete this exacting task he once again produced outstanding results with no detriment to the faultless performance of his normal duties. At war McAlpine proved himself to be an inspirational airborne leader whose enormous confidence and calmness under pressure did much to allay the fears of the Squadron's junior officers. His determination never wavered and he completed 25 operational sorties, involving ALARM, medium level bombing, dive bombing and bombing in the support of laser-designation.

During the extremely hazardous initial phases of the air war when the JP233 airfield attack weapon was used at low level he remained calm and authoritative, and during the medium level and dive bombing phases he pioneered the development of techniques and tactics that were totally new to the Tornado.

Squadron Leader McAlpine has driven himself relentlessly to achieve the operational objectives and has set standards and achieved results that have contributed immeasurably to the operational success of the Tabuk Tornado Squadron. His fine personal example, innovative approach to the employment of new weapons, and courage under enemy fire are worthy of recognition.

D.F.C.

Squadron Leader Douglas Elliot MOULE (8027675),
Royal Air Force.

Squadron Leader Moule is currently serving on No. 14 Squadron at Royal Air Force Bruggen. He is an outstanding pilot, and at an early stage in the preparations for Operation Granby he was given the responsibility of leading a formation. With very little time available, he applied himself selflessly and with considerable zeal to the task of training his formation in the unfamiliar disciplines required for possible conflict in desert operations. Only a few days before the start of hostilities, one of his crews was tragically killed in a low flying training accident. By exercising his exceptional leadership skills he quickly rallied the remainder of his formation, restored their morale and ensured that they were more than ready to carry out offensive operations when hostilities commenced. Their subsequent successes were due in very large measure to his sheer force of character, energy and dogged determination.

On numerous flying operations deep into enemy territory, by day and by night, he displayed exceptional skill, courage and determination. Unfailingly, he displayed great powers of leadership and set the finest of examples to his young and inexperienced formation. Of particular note, he was largely responsible for training the detachment for joint Tornado and Buccaneer Laser Guided Bomb operations. Indeed it was his exemplary tactical knowledge that was fundamental in the process of developing suitable profiles for the use of such weapons in the Gulf area. In early February 1991, within the space of three days, he led the first such attacks carried out by the Dhahran Detachment against vital highway bridges over the