

River Euphrates, and the outstanding results achieved contributed significantly to the reduction in the flow of enemy supplies to the front line.

During in theatre training and on active service, Squadron Leader Moule displayed faultless flying skills and outstanding qualities of leadership and devotion to duty. For the sustained period of intense operations, he led his formation with coolness, courage and determination equal to the highest traditions of a fighting Service.

#### D.F.C.

Wing Commander George William PIXTON, A.F.C.  
(8018671), Royal Air Force.

Wing Commander Pixton, the Officer Commanding No. 41 (Fighter) Squadron, operating Jaguar reconnaissance and fighter bomber aircraft deployed with his squadron on 9 December 1990 to the Operation Granby Royal Air Force Detachment at Al Muharraq, Bahrain. The aircraft are a key element of the United Kingdom's contribution to the multi-national force formed in response to the Gulf crisis.

The Jaguar detachment commenced offensive operations against enemy targets in the Kuwait Theatre of Operations on 17 January 1991. From the beginning of hostilities, Wing Commander Pixton had shown outstanding leadership and fortitude in leading and pressing home bold attacks against heavily defended targets. Using rockets, bombs and cluster munitions, these missions resulted in the destruction of a number of ammunition, fuel and other logistic storage areas essential to the enemy's war effort, and of long-range artillery and Silkworm missile sites that threatened allied land and naval forces. Wing Commander Pixton's tenacity and presence of mind in the face of the enemy was characterised by an attack against a Soviet produced Polnochny class vessel. On this occasion, whilst on Combat Air Patrol in support of allied naval forces, he was tasked to engage and destroy the Iraqi vessel operating in the most northern waters of the Arabian Gulf. Undeterred by the possible danger from the vessel's machine guns, and showing great coolness and courage, he led a devastating rocket and strafing attack that left the vessel ablaze from bow to stern.

Wing Commander Pixton's quiet, self-assured manner in the face of great danger has been a magnificent example to all his pilots and his groundcrew, and he has inspired his pilots to undertake bold, successful attacks against assets vital to the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. These missions are especially notable in that they were undertaken by single seat aircraft operating at the extreme limit of their radius of action, with minimal self-protection and sometimes without allied air cover. Wing Commander Pixton's airmanship, leadership and exceptional fearlessness are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Royal Air Force.

#### D.F.C.

Flying Officer Malcolm David RAINIER (8029095),  
Royal Air Force.

Flying Officer Rainier, a pilot serving with No. 54 (Fighter) Squadron Royal Air Force Coltishall, joined the Operation Granby Royal Air Force Detachment at Muharraq, Bahrain on 11 October 1990. The Jaguar aircraft are a key element of the

United Kingdom's contribution to the multi-national force formed in response to the Gulf crisis and throughout the air campaign they have been engaged in attacks against enemy positions in the Kuwait Theatre of Operations. At 23, he is the youngest single-seat fighter pilot serving with the British Forces in the Gulf.

Following the outbreak of hostilities, Flying Officer Rainier proved he was able to undertake operational missions that demanded flying skills and tactical awareness well above the level of competence that could be expected of someone with so little operational experience. Indeed, his professionalism, dedication and personal courage have been an example to older, more experienced pilots. Throughout the campaign he worked tirelessly for the benefit of the squadron and nothing was too difficult for him to tackle. He demonstrated an unflinching enthusiasm for work and constantly strove to improve his knowledge and operational capacity. He quickly became a highly respected member of his formation and the work he put into pre-planning war sorties was a major factor in the success of many missions. Indeed, on all of the 27 missions he flew during hostilities he showed great bravery and determination in fearlessly pressing home attacks despite heavy enemy anti-aircraft in fire and adverse weather conditions. Notably, on 19 January 1991, whilst taking part in a co-ordinated eight aircraft attack against two surface-to-air missile sites, his formation came under heavy anti-aircraft fire. Showing great presence of mind and undeterred by the obvious danger, Flying Officer Rainier promptly engaged this threat and scored a direct hit against the enemy position, eliminating the danger to the rest of the formation who were then able to safely attack their assigned targets.

Flying Officer Rainier has proved to be a most capable pilot whose bravery, leadership and airmanship are in the highest traditions of the Royal Air Force.

#### D.F.C.

Squadron Leader Nigel Leslie RISDALE (5204585),  
Royal Air Force.

Squadron Leader Risdale, a Tornado pilot serving with No. 15 Squadron Royal Air Force Laarbruch, joined the Operation Granby Royal Air Force Detachment at Muharraq, Bahrain on 19 November 1990. Tornado GR1 aircraft are a key element of the United Kingdom's contribution to the multi-national force formed in response to the Gulf crisis, and have been tasked on counter air-support and interdiction sorties against enemy targets, both in Iraq and in the Kuwait Theatre of Operations.

Ever since the outbreak of hostilities on 17 January 1991, Squadron Leader Risdale has been at the forefront of Tornado operations from Muharraq. He is one of the most outstanding pilots of the Tornado detachment and had participated in missions acknowledged by all the allied airforces to be some of the most dangerous of the war. In particular, on several occasions since hostilities commenced, he displayed exceptional fearlessness in making low level attacks at night against heavily defended enemy airfields deep inside Iraq. Invariably, on arriving at the target airfields, Squadron Leader Risdale was faced with a comprehensive wall of anti-attack aircraft fire. Despite the extreme danger to himself and the other