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TUESDAY, 16TH FEBRUARY 1993

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

## HONOURS AND AWARDS

### AIR FORCE DEPARTMENT

Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the following award:

#### *Air Force Cross*

Squadron Leader Christopher Derek TINGAY MBE (8125804)  
Royal Air Force

Squadron Leader Tingay has been the Flight Commander of the Special Forces Flight of No. 47 Squadron for 2 years and 5 months. On 2nd July 1992, Squadron Leader Tingay initiated Operation CHESHIRE. Within hours of his arrival Squadron Leader Tingay found himself airborne and captain of the first Royal Air Force Hercules aircraft deployed to fly humanitarian relief missions into Sarajevo. The situation in this beleaguered city was perilous as there was the ever present threat of attack from ground forces and no guarantee of safety when the aircraft had landed. That the situation

was extremely hazardous is poignantly illustrated by the tragic loss of the Italian aircraft.

Despite this life-threatening situation, Squadron Leader Tingay calmly and courageously led his crew through this and subsequent humanitarian missions. Furthermore, Operation CHESHIRE was conducted under the immense pressure of international and media interest but neither instance deflected Squadron Leader Tingay from his steadfast professionalism and meticulous planning, thereby ensuring that future operations were conducted successfully. During a period of intense flying lasting 9 days, with little opportunity for proper rest, he flew 21 missions into Sarajevo, carrying a total of 310 tonnes of relief supplies. When he returned to the United Kingdom, Squadron Leader Tingay immediately used his new found expertise to ensure that his remaining crews were properly prepared for their part in the Operation and that their flying techniques were constantly refined and adapted to meet an ever changing situation in theatre.

Squadron Leader Tingay is an exceptionally brave man, and an outstanding leader. His unrelenting devotion to duty in dangerously volatile conditions has ensured that the Royal Air Force contribution to the United Nations relief operation into Sarajevo became an example for others to follow. He has brought great credit not only to his Service, but also to his country. Squadron Leader Tingay's actions have been in the finest traditions of the Royal Air Force.

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