

Certificate of Authentication



OPERATION BLACK BUCK



THE LONGEST NIGHT

Michael Rondot

Sqn Ldr Bob Tuxford's Victor K2 XL189 refuelling Vulcan XM607 en-route to attack Stanley airbase with 21 x 1000lb bombs. The night of 30 April-1 May 1982 - Operation BLACK BUCK 1 – The first mission, and the longest night for the crews involved.



The Falklands War, 2 April–14 June 1982. Michael Rondot's dramatic painting captures the power & beauty of the mighty Handley Page Victor in action during Operation BLACK BUCK, the name given to the series of extreme long-range attacks on the airfield at Stanley, East Falkland. Vulcans from Ascension Island flew the 15-hour round trip, attacking the runway and airfield installations with 1000lb bombs and targeting radar sites with AGM-45 Shrike missiles. The Vulcan missions required multiple refuelling, using as many as 18 Victor K2 tanker aircraft sorties with the aircraft operating in concert, including tanker-to-tanker refuelling.

The Royal Air Force had never flown anything remotely resembling the scale of this complicated operation. It was a success because of the determination, courage, ingenuity and resourcefulness of the air and ground crews involved in the operations, but the shining star was the Victor K2.

Vulcan bombers wore the laurels after the Falklands War, but it fell to the Victor tankers, their aircrews, ground and engineering support to make any of it possible.

The edition is limited to 20 signed canvas prints (17x30 ins) and 300 artist-signed & numbered prints, with multi-signed artist's proofs and remarque prints within the edition.

The artist's proofs and remarque prints are signed by **Air Chief Marshal Sir MICHAEL KNIGHT KCB AFC** Air Officer Commanding No.1 Group during Operation BLACK BUCK and individually signed by **12 Operation BLACK BUCK aircrew (7 Victor & 5 Vulcan)**

Group Captain **ALAN BOWMAN MBE**
Wing Commander **COLIN SEYMOUR**
Wing Commander **CHRIS MORFFEW**
Wing Commander **BARRY NEAL**
Squadron Leader **BOB TUXFORD AFC**
Flight Lieutenant **STEVE BIGLANDS**

Flight Lieutenant **NEIL BROOKS**
Squadron Leader **MARTIN WITHERS DFC**
Squadron Leader **JOHN REEVE**
Squadron Leader **BARRY MASEFIELD**
Flight Lieutenant **JIM VINALES**
Flight Lieutenant **BRIAN GARDNER**

This is print number / 300 of the limited edition

