

Certificate of Authentication



OPERATION BLACK BUCK THE LONGEST NIGHT



Michael Rondot

A Victor tanker refuelling a Vulcan bomber southbound to attack Stanley airbase on the Falkland Islands on the night of 30 Apr 1982. Operation BLACK BUCK 1 – at the time, the longest bombing mission in history.



The Falkland Islands War, 2 April – 14 June 1982. On 29 April, at RAF Waddington, the crews of the first two Vulcans that had been readied for bombing operations in the South Atlantic with 1000lb bombs were making their final preparations for deployment to Ascension Island. Meanwhile, Victor K2 tanker aircraft were already flying extreme long-range reconnaissance missions to the area around South Georgia Island in support of the assault led by 42 Commando on 25 April to recapture the island.

Michael Rondot's dramatic painting captures the power and beauty of the 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. Vulcans from Ascension Island flew the 15-hour round trip, attacking the runway and airfield installations, 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 RAF had never before 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 operation, but the real star of the show was the Victor K2.

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

The edition is limited to 300 signed and numbered copies, with multi-signed artist's proofs and Remarque prints within the edition, and 20 giclée prints on canvas.

This is print number / 300 of the limited edition



MICHAEL RONDOT AVIATION FINE ART SINCE 1980

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