



COUP DE GRÂCE

— MICHAEL RONDOT

Gulf War Jaguars in action, a limited edition print signed by the pilots who flew this mission.



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COUP DE GRÂCE

500 signed & numbered, with 50 artist's proofs.

Published price: Signed & numbered print: £75, Artist's proof: £120 Remarqued print or AP: £235 Canvas print: £300.

by Michael Rondot
25x190ins. (650x490mm)

On 30th January 1991, two weeks into Operation Desert Storm, Iraqi navy ships made a desperate dash for the northern Persian Gulf and sanctuary in Iranian waters. Only a lucky few made it through the gauntlet of Allied air power lying in wait. On fire after attacks by US Navy aircraft, this Polnocny C class landing ship fell prey to a pair of rocket and cannon-armed Jaguars a few miles from the mouth of the Shatt-al-Arab waterway in southern Iraq. After making a low pass to visually confirm the identity of the ship, the Jaguars unleashed four pods of CRV-7 rockets onto their target and then re-attacked with 30mm cannons before returning to their base at the end of a harrowing 3-hour mission.

Heavily armed, and using Victor tankers to in-flight refuel, Jaguars flew from Al-Muharraq, Bahrain during the Gulf War, their mission to seek and destroy targets in Kuwait and southern Iraq. The results were invariably the same: the targets were hit and the Jaguars, despite coming under fire, returned safely home.

Michael Rondot flew some of these missions. His first hand experiences add a unique authenticity to his paintings, bringing to life the drama of war witnessed from the cockpit of a combat aircraft. COUP DE GRÂCE is one of his most powerful images, capturing the aggressive lines of the weatherbeaten Jaguars against a dramatic backdrop of the stricken Iraqi ship. Each limited edition print is signed by the pilots who flew this mission, Group Captain William Pixton DFC AFC and his wingman, Flight Lieutenant Pete Tholen adding their signatures to enhance a print destined to become one of the great collector's items from Desert Storm.



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