

The ultimate success of the attack with his only remaining missile was a tribute to Needham's cool and professional approach under fire. His courage and competence have been of an extremely high order throughout.

D.S.C.

Lieutenant Commander Michael Scott PEAREY,
Royal Navy.

During Operation Granby HMS *Brazen* played a leading role in the Multi-National Force implementing United Nations sanctions against Iraq. After hostilities commenced, she provided air defence protection to Allied units and her Lynx helicopters assisted in the destruction of the Iraqi Navy. As Flight Commander, Lieutenant Commander Pearey played a major part in this task.

On 29 January 1991 as captain of one of *Brazen's* aircraft, he was operating in the far north of the Persian Gulf together with a Lynx from HMS *Gloucester*. Having conducted a search of the area three miles off the Kuwaiti coast at levels of below 100 feet, he returned to refuel on USS *Mobile Bay*. He obtained information there about possible enemy contacts and sought permission to investigate. After searching the coast he located 17 vessels heading south in support of the Iraqi assault on Khafji, and called in HMS *Gloucester's* Lynx to assist in the successful engagement and destruction of the enemy forces. He continued to press home the attack at the very limits of the aircraft's range and endurance, flying a total of eight hours that day, much of it at low level close to enemy territory, and his courageous leadership and professionalism contributed to the prevention of an Iraqi attack by sea on Saudi territory.

Next day Pearey was again in action against the enemy, conducting attacks on two Iraqi naval vessels in poor visibility and smoke at a considerable distance from friendly naval units. With little regard for the possibility of retaliation he closed to three miles to ensure accurate identification of the targets before engaging the enemy.

On 8 February Pearey's aircraft was once more operating off the Kuwaiti coast seeking out the many small enemy craft which were hiding in coastal inlets and creeks. Diverting to investigate a suspected mine his aircraft came under enemy fire. Remaining calm he instructed the pilot to take evasive action, before continuing his mission.

Lieutenant Commander Pearey made a significant contribution to the destruction of the Iraqi Navy in circumstances which demanded the highest levels of professionalism, courage and stamina.

D.S.C.

Commander Philip Lawrence WILCOCKS,
Royal Navy.

During the months leading up to the Gulf war, HMS *Gloucester* played a prime role in enforcing the United Nations embargo, stopping, boarding and searching a number of Iraqi and other suspect ships. Thereafter, in working up his ship for the possibility of war, Wilcocks demonstrated great drive, uncompromising warfare standards and very fine leadership.

Throughout the Gulf War itself, HMS *Gloucester* was the most consistently forward of all Allied warships, remaining in Defence Watches for 53 days and nights. During this time she provided anti-air

missile defence to the United States carriers, helped to detect and destroy enemy mines, controlled Allied air defence aircraft, launched numerous successful Lynx/Sea Skua attacks upon Iraqi missile armed fast patrol craft and, finally, destroyed in flight a Silkworm missile which was targeted against major Allied vessels conducting shore bombardment within 15 miles of the enemy held Kuwaiti coast and in her immediate vicinity.

At all times during this period Wilcocks commanded with great stamina, calm and commonsense, demonstrating aggressive flair of the very highest order. His ship was profoundly respected by Allied and United Kingdom task forces alike, drawing open praise on many occasions. She did through her many achievements, bring the very greatest credit and honour upon her Captain, his ship's company and the Royal Navy.

D.S.C.

Lieutenant Anthony Peter WILLIAMS,
Royal Navy.

Williams arrived in the Northern Arabian Gulf on 1 February 1991 as Deputy Officer in Charge of Fleet Diving Unit B (FDU B). He moved into action immediately, co-ordinating training, refining techniques on new equipment, establishing an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) cell and overseeing inspections for Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in ships of the RN Task Group as they arrived in Bahrain.

During hostilities Williams was the supervisor of an airborne EOD team and of diving operations from Gemini craft, spending many hours in helicopters in the front line of Naval operations, often within ten miles of the enemy coast. Insisting on putting himself in the way of danger before his men, he showed remarkable courage and stamina by leading personally on countermining sorties, placing charges on live buoyant mines and diving for protracted periods, often at night, on live ground mines in order to bring them to the surface for exploitation. In addition he conducted the unenviable task of recovering dead bodies from the sea into helicopters. He led a team of two men on an inspection of HMS *Gloucester* to search for a mine reportedly entangled in her propeller shafts.

Moving ashore on 5 March to Mina Ash Shuaybah he took over as Officer In Charge of FDU B. He established a base camp and helped co-ordinate EOD operations with American and Australian Units for clearing the ports of Mina Al Ahmadi, Mina Ad Dohah and Faylakah Island. The work involved rendering safe unstable live ordnance, beached mines, booby traps and IEDs, clearing buildings and oil tankers of ordnance and collecting dead bodies from the harbour waters. Often these jobs required him and his team to first reach the scene through areas of anti-personnel mines and barbed wire. Throughout this extremely dangerous operation he showed an implacable professionalism and positive leadership which was beyond his experience. At all times his men saw him in the leading role, tirelessly taking on the most hazardous tasks himself.

The conditions under which FDU B operated were atrocious. With no infrastructure ashore the men lived in cargo containers on a jetty with no light, sanitation or potable water, in an atmosphere heavy with acrid smoke and toxic fumes from the oilfield fires burning inland, and diving in water with zero visibility due to