

## **ANNEX B**

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### **19 RAF Operations Since 1945**

#### **1. Operation Plainfare - The Berlin Airlift: 28 June 1948 to 23 September 1949**

Launched in **28 June 1948**, it was a response to the Soviet Union's blockade of West Berlin, which aimed to cut off the city's supplies. At its peak, the RAF flew around 400 missions per day, delivering nearly a quarter of all Allied supplies to the besieged city. [RAF's vital role in the Berlin Airlift | Royal Air Force](#)

More than 100 RAF aircraft were involved. During the airlift, the RAF suffered five major aircraft accidents, killing 18 airmen. [Berlin Airlift: 70 years on | RAF Benevolent Fund](#)[Berlin Blockade - Wikipedia](#)

#### **2. Operation Firedog - Malayan Emergency: 16 June 1948 to 31 July 1960**

The Malayan Emergency **1948–1960** was a guerrilla war fought in Malaya between the Malayan National Liberation Army and the military forces of the Federation of Malaya, along with and Commonwealth countries.

Royal Air Force activities, grouped under "Operation Firedog", included ground attacks in support of troops and the transport of supplies. Nearly 23,000 operational sorties flown by the ten squadrons involved.

The RAF used a wide mixture of aircraft: Avro Lincoln heavy bomber, Short Sunderland flying boats. Jets were used in the conflict when de Havilland Vampires replaced Spitfires of No 60 Squadron RAF in **1950** and were used for ground attack. Jet bombers used the English Electric Canberra in **1955**.

The RAF lost 16 aircraft from stations in Malaya and Singapore. [List of fatal accidents and incidents involving Royal Air Force aircraft from 1945 - Wikipedia](#)

#### **3. The Korean War: 25 June 1950 to 27 July 1953**

The only RAF aircraft involved were 3 Flying Boat Wing squadrons providing reconnaissance and transport to UN forces. [Which aircraft did the RAF use during the Korean War? - Quora](#) The 3 Squadrons were based at Iwakuni in southern Japan on four-week deployments. [The Air War | Korea | Britain's Small Wars](#)

RAF pilots were detached to the United States Air Force, United States Marine Corps and Royal Australian Air Force to fly combat operations over Korea. [10 things you \(possibly\) didn't know about the Korean War - News](#)

RAF aircrews served with No.77 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).

A total of 32 RAF pilots of which 4 were killed in action, one was killed in a flying accident and one was made a prisoner of war. [1951 - RAF Museum](#).

The RAF also flew F-86A aircraft of the USAF 4th Fighter Wing. [North American F-86A Sabre | National Air and Space Museum](#)

By the time the armistice was signed, 77 RAF aircrew had flown combat operations over Korea. 10 were killed in action, and 14 more lost their lives in an air accident. [10 things you \(possibly\) didn't know about the Korean War - News](#)

#### **4. [The Mau Mau Rebellion – Kenya: 20 October 1952 to 12 January 1960](#)**

Between **June 1953** and **October 1955**, the RAF provided a significant contribution to the conflict. At first [No. 1340 Flight RAF](#) used the armed Harvard training aircraft against the Mau Mau, where they dropped 21,936 20-lb. bombs operated and used machine guns.

As the campaign developed, Avro Lincoln heavy bombers were deployed, flying missions in Kenya from **18 November 1953** to **28 July 1955**, dropping nearly 6 million bombs. A flight of de Havilland Vampire jets flew in from Aden, but were used for only ten days of operations. [Mau Mau rebellion - Wikipedia](#) [Operation Anvil - Wikipedia](#)

Between **July** and **October 1955**, the RAF's airpower in Kenya, under operations like [Operation Mushroom](#), focused on intensive bombing and ground attacks against Mau Mau forest hideouts using [Harvard](#) and Vampire jets. [Operation Mushroom - Wikipedia](#)

#### **5. [Operation Musketeer - Suez Crisis: 29 October 1956 to 7 November 1956](#)**

Operation Musketeer was the Anglo-French plan for the invasion of the Suez canal zone in Egypt to capture the canal during the [Suez Crisis](#) in **1956**.

The RAF was heavily involved, conducting air strikes and transport operations during the **1956** Suez Crisis. Key roles included bombing targets with English Electric Canberra bombers, providing air support and transport for paratroopers via Valetta and Hastings aircraft, and fighter support with Hawker Hunter and de Havilland Venom aircraft. RAF operations taking place from **31 October** to **5 November**.

A total of 34 RAF Fighter/Strike, Bomber/Reconnaissance, Transport aircraft squadrons were involved. No 48 (Field) Squadron of the RAF Regiment defended RAF [El Gamil](#) airfield in Egypt from Egyptian ground attack. [Operation Musketeer \(1956\) - Wikipedia](#)

## **6. Aden Emergency - South Yemen: 10 December 1963 to 30 November 1967**

The British declared a state of emergency on **10 December 1963**, following an NLF grenade attack on the British High Commissioner of Aden.

The RAF's main operations during the Aden Emergency (**1963-1967**) involved close air support for ground troops, notably in the [Radfan Campaign](#) (**early 1964**), which included specific actions like Operation Nutcracker and Operation Cap Badge to suppress tribal revolts and secure supply routes, using Hawker Hunters for strikes from RAF Khormaksar. [Operation Nutcracker | Radfan | Britain's Small Wars](#)

By **1965**, the RAF Khormaksar station in Aden was operating nine squadrons, including transport units with helicopters and several Hawker Hunter fighter-bomber aircraft. The army called in these for attacks on rebel positions.

Repeated guerrilla attacks by the [National Liberation Front](#) against British forces, caused the British to leave Aden by the end of **November 1967**. [Aden Emergency - Wikipedia](#)    [British Order of Battle at the Aden Emergency - Wikipedia](#)

RAF Regiment units were involved in the Aden Emergency, specifically No. 34 Squadron RAF Regiment and No. 27 Squadron RAF Regiment, providing crucial ground defence for RAF assets.

## **7. Brunei Rebellion/Revolt: 8 December to 17 December 1962**

The short Brunei Rebellion/Revolt that started on **8 December 1962** was an insurrection in the British protectorate of Brunei by opponents of its monarchy's proposed inclusion in the Federation of Malaysia.

The same day two companies of 1st Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Gurkha Rifles were flown from Singapore to Brunei by the RAF. The troops were in a Bristol Britannia of [No. 99 Squadron](#) and three Blackburn Beverley aircraft from [No. 32 Squadron](#).

By **17 December**, the rebellion had been held and broken

The British military operation to suppress the **1962** Brunei Rebellion (also known as the Brunei Revolt) was named Operation ALE. [Brunei revolt - Wikipedia](#)

## **8. Indonesia - Malaysia Confrontation: 20 January 1963 to 11 August 1966**

It stemmed from Indonesia's opposition to the creation of the State of Malaysia from the Federation of Malaya. The conflict was an undeclared war with most of the action occurring in the border area between Indonesia and East Malaysia on the island of [Borneo](#) (known as [Kalimantan](#) in Indonesia).

Indonesia also conducted lower intensity covert actions on the [Malay Peninsula](#) and in Singapore

Although combat operations were primarily conducted by ground forces, airborne forces played a vital support role. [Indonesia–Malaysia confrontation - Wikipedia](#)

The presence of RAF strategic bombers, such as the Vulcan Bomber, served as a powerful deterrent to Indonesia. They did not drop any bombs.

During the Indonesia–Malaysia Confrontation the most significant series of operations involving the RAF were part of the covert campaign known as Operation Claret. [Operation Claret - Wikipedia](#) July 1964 to July 1966

During Operation Claret (covert cross-border raids) in the Indonesia-Malaysia Confrontation, the RAF primarily used transport and helicopter aircraft for logistics and support, including Armstrong Whitworth Argosy (AW.660), Belvedere, and Whirlwind helicopters, plus Beverley transports for air-dropping supplies, while fighter/bombers like Hawker Hunters and V-bombers (Vulcan, Victor) provided deterrence and occasional strikes from bases in Malaysia/Singapore.

Tre RAF helicopters were used to support the SAS, Paras, and Gurkhas, alongside transport aircraft.

Neither the Avro Vulcan nor the Handley Page Victor bombers were used in combat missions during Operation Claret. Both were deployed as a deterrent. The Hawker Hunter aircraft did carry out ground attacks, primarily against Indonesian personnel who had infiltrated the area. [Operation Claret - Wikipedia](#) July 1964 to July 1966  
[Operations in Malaysia and Borneo – Ubique LoquSabah imur Far East Air Force \(Royal Air Force\)](#).

The conflict officially ended on **11 August 1966**, with the signing of the Bangkok Agreement.

### **9. Sabah Crisis - Philippine, Malaysia Dispute: 1968**

During the **1968** Sabah Crisis, the RAF deployed Hawker Hunter jets from Singapore to the US Clark Air Base in the Philippines for joint exercises with the Americans, serving as a visible deterrent and a show of Anglo-American support for Malaysia's claim over Sabah against Philippine assertions. [Sabah Crisis](#),

Note: Sabah is a Malaysian state located in the [northern part of the island of Borneo](#), Southeast Asia.

### **10. Operation Corporate - The Falklands War: 2 April 1982 to 14 June 1982**

The conflict began on **2 April 1982**, when Argentina invaded and occupied the Falkland Islands, followed by the invasion of South Georgia the next day.

On **5 April** the British government dispatched a naval task force to engage the Argentine Navy and Air Force before making an amphibious assault on the islands.

By **mid-April** the RAF had set up an airbase about half way to the Falklands on the British overseas territory of [Ascension Island](#) . The Falkland Islands are about 8,050 miles from the UK.

The RAF aircraft that moved there consisted of a sizeable force of Avro Vulcan B Mk 2 bombers, Handley Page Victor K Mk 2 refuelling aircraft, and McDonnell Douglas Phantom FGR Mk 2 fighters to protect them.

10 RAF Harrier GR3s were adapted for carrier duty and operated alongside the Royal Navy's Sea Harriers from HMS Hermes. Note: 4 were lost during the conflict. 3 were shot down and 1 crashed on landing on the Falkland Islands on **June 8**.

On **1 May**, British operations on the Falklands opened with the "Black Buck 1" attack (of a series of 7, of which five completed the attacks) on the airfield at Stanley.

A Vulcan bomber from [Ascension](#) flew an 8,000-nautical-mile round trip, dropping conventional bombs across the runway at Stanley. The mission required repeated aerial refuelling using several Victor K2 tanker aircraft operating in concert, including tanker-to-tanker refuelling.

The 16 hours round trip raids from Ascension Island were the longest-ranged bombing raids in history at that time.

The conflict ended with an Argentine surrender on **14 June**, returning the islands to British control. [Falklands War - Wikipedia](#)      [Operation Black Buck - Wikipedia](#)  
[Falklands War order of battle: British air forces - Wikipedia](#)

## **11. First Gulf War – Iraq: 2 August 1990 - 28 February 1991**

The first Gulf War was a war waged by coalition forces from 35 nations led by the United States against Iraq in response to Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait.  
[Gulf War - Wikipedia](#)

### **1. Operation Desert Shield: 2 August 1990 - 16 Jan 1991**

The defensive buildup of U.S. and coalition forces

### **2. Operation Desert Storm: 17 January 1991 - 28 February 1991**

The combat phase.

**3. Operation Granby** was the code name given to the British military operations during the Gulf War. Within nine days of the invasion 12 RAF Panavia Tornado F3 interceptors of 5 & 29 Squadrons operated alongside aircraft of the USAF.

Between **16 January** and **28 February 1991**, the RAF Jaguar Detachment at Al Muharraq, Bahrain, flew 158 missions against Iraqi forces. These comprised 618 individual aircraft sorties, totalling almost 922 flying hours. [Desert Storm 30: SEPECAT Jaguars in the 1991 Gulf War](#)

The war ended with the liberation of Kuwait by the Coalition forces. Iraq subsequently agreed to the United Nation's demands on **28 February 1991**.

Eight RAF Tornados were lost; these aircraft types flew a total of 2,500 sorties. Five RAF air crew were lost in operations, and three prior to the air offensive.<sup>[5]</sup> [Operation Granby - Wikipedia](#)

The ground war officially concluded with the signing of the armistice on **11 April 1991**. However, the official end to Operation Desert Storm did not occur until sometime between **1996 - 1998**.

In addition to those killed, seven RAF aircrew were taken as prisoners of war (POWs). [Timeline of the Gulf War \(1990–1991\) - Wikipedia](#)

### **Wars in Europe - The Balkans: 1990s**

The RAF's main engagements in Europe during the **1990s** were the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia. These operations were primarily conducted as part of NATO and UN missions to enforce no-fly zones, provide humanitarian aid, and conduct peacekeeping/combat air patrols.

#### **12. Bosnian-Herzegovina War: 6 April 1992 to 21 November 21 1995**

The RAF participated in various operations over Bosnia and Herzegovina:

##### **1. Operation Cheshire: July 1992 to July 1996**

RAF Hercules transport aircraft flew humanitarian aid into the capital city Sarajevo. It remains the longest running airlift in the RAF's history.

[Operation Cheshire: RAF's Sarajevo airlift | RAF Benevolent Fund](#)

**2. Operation Deny Flight: 12 April 1993 to 20 December 1995:** RAF Tornado F3s and AWACS aircraft enforced a NATO-mandated no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina. [Operation Deny Flight - Wikipedia](#)

**3. Operation Deliberate Force: 30 August 1995 to 20 September 1995:** The RAF was involved in NATO's intense air campaign against Bosnian Serb targets, which ultimately led to the Dayton Accords and the end of the war. [Operation Deliberate Force - Wikipedia](#)

**4. Operation Deliberate Guard: 21 December 1996 to 19 June 1998:** Following the major combat, the RAF continued to participate in NATO operations to ensure stability and monitor the peace agreements in Bosnia and Croatia. Formerly called Operation Decisive Edge<sup>[15]</sup> that operated from **January to December 1996**.

[Bosnian War - Wikipedia](#)   [DELIBERATE GUARD - Canada.ca](#)

The operation to keep the inhabitants of Sarajevo alive during civil war in the early **1990s** remains the longest running airlift in the RAF's history. [Operation Cheshire: RAF's Sarajevo airlift | RAF Benevolent Fund](#)

### **13. Mogadishu Somalia: August to December 1992**

In **1992** the RAF was involved in a Somalia mission primarily through humanitarian aid airlift operations. "We provided two RAF transport aircraft and accompanying personnel to support the US-led coalition's actions" [Somalia - Hansard - UK Parliament](#)   [Operation Provide Relief - Wikipedia](#)

### **14. Operation Southern Watch - Iraq: 27 August 1992 to 20 March 2003**

Operation Southern Watch was a military operation conducted by the United States Department of Defence from **27 August 1992** to **20 March 2003**. The objective was to monitor and control the airspace in southern and south-central Iraq following the end of the first Gulf War **February 1991** [Persian Gulf War](#).

In **April 1991**, shortly after the United States and its coalition allies expelled Iraqi military forces from Kuwait in Operation Desert Storm, the United States established a no-fly zone over northern Iraq.

Operation Southern Watch began on **27 August 1992**. It continued until **20 March 2003**, when the United States began Operation Iraqi Freedom (second Gulf War) with the aim of removing Saddam Hussein from power.

**RAF Involvement:** Operations Jural, Warden (North), Bolton and Resinate (South) were the UK's code names for the Royal Air Force contributions to the coalition no-fly zone enforcement missions over Iraq.

Operations Jural, Bolton and Resinate (South) were active at differing times from **1992** to **March 2003** enforced the southern no-fly zone. RAF Tornado F3s and GR4s operated from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Operation Warden (North) was active **1995** to **1998**, enforcing the northern no-fly zone above the 36th parallel. The RASF aircraft operated out of Turkey as part of the broader Operation Northern Watch.

The RAF operations involved Tornado jets flying continuous reconnaissance missions and were occasionally involved in armed responses, such as the air strikes during Operation Desert Fox in **December 1998**.

The **1998** bombing of Iraq (code-named Operation Desert Fox) was a major bombing campaign against Iraqi targets, from **16 to 19 December 1998**, by the United States and the United Kingdom.

RAF operations in Iraq continued until the start of second Gulf War on **20 March 2003**. Section 17: The Second Gulf War- Iraq.

### **15. The Kosovo War: 28 February 1998 - 11 June 11 1999**

The Kosovo War began on **28 February 1998** with escalating conflict between Serbian forces and the Kosovo Liberation Army, leading to NATO's 78-day bombing campaign that started in March the following year.

The RAF played a significant and integral role in NATO air campaign that started in Kosovo in **March 1999** against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The official NATO operation code name was Operation Allied Force. The RAF campaign was called Operation Engadine. Both from **24 March 1999** to **10 June 1999**.

It marked the first time the RAF had engaged in combat operations over Europe since the Second World War. Aircraft used included Harrier GR7 and Tornado GR1 and F3 jets, supported by RAF tanker aircraft, all operating from bases in Italy, Germany and France.

For almost three years, Tornado F3 squadrons rotated to Gioia del Colle air base in southern Italy for three-month periods under **Operation Deny Flight: 12 April 1993 to 20 December 1995**.

The biggest challenge was the distance. Aerial refuelling support for the gruelling sorties was provided by RAF VC10 tankers. It was an 8 to 9 hour round trip.

The Tornado GR1's targets were all static, known military installations, including bridges, barracks and weapons supplies. Only a few were in Kosovo, the vast majority being in Serbia.

The Harrier was primarily being used against targets in daytime. "The Harriers were closer [to the Balkans] and they were being employed more regularly, doing 24/7 operations".

Operation Allied Force was suspended on **10 June 10 1999**. The air strikes lasted a total of 78 days. The operation concluded after the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

agreed to withdraw its military, police, and paramilitary forces from Kosovo and allow for the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping mission.

[Kosovo War - Wikipedia](#)   [When RAF Tornados went to war in Europe](#)

## **16. Afghanistan War: 7 October 2001 to 30 August 2021**

The war started on **7 October 2001** when the U.S.-led coalition began airstrikes and ground operations (initially named Operation Enduring Freedom) against al-Qaeda and the Taliban in response to attacks carried out on 11 September 11 attacks. [War in Afghanistan \(2001–2021\) - Wikipedia](#)

### **1. Operation Veritas: 7 October 2001 to July 2002**

The codename used for British military operations against the Taliban government of Afghanistan from **7 October 2001** until **July 2002**.

RAF Tristar and VC10 tankers refuelled British and United States avy aircraft. Nimrod and Canberra aircraft performed electronic and photo reconnaissance, and Nimrods conducted maritime patrol operations. Sentry AWACS aircraft were also deployed.

Operation Veritas also incorporated [Operation Oracle](#), [Operation Fingal](#), and [Operation Jacana](#). It was succeeded by [Operation Herrick](#).  
[Operation Veritas - Wikipedia](#)

### **2. Operation Fingal: 1 December 2001 to 20 September 2004**

It was the British-led peacekeeping mission in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan as part of the initial International Security Assistance Force

RAF Regiment squadrons provided vital ground defence and security for the airfield and surrounding areas. RAF transport aircraft were involved in deploying British forces into Afghanistan from the UK and Oman. Two Chinook helicopters from 27 Squadron RAF were deployed to provide essential lift capabilities for ground forces.  
[Operation Fingal - Wikipedia](#)

### **3. Operation Herrick: 20 June 2002 to 31 December 2014**

The codename for all British operations in the War in Afghanistan. During Operation Herrick the RAF flew thousands of missions,

On **25 August 2004**, it was announced that 6 RAF Harrier GR7 from No. 3 Squadron would be deployed to Afghanistan.

**Combat Air Support:** Harrier GR7/GR9s (up to **2009**), Tornado GR4s: ground attack and reconnaissance roles, Typhoon FGR4s: contributed multi-role combat capabilities and MQ-9 Reaper Drones

**Air Mobility & Transport:** Hercules C-130J: tactical airlift and supply, Atlas C.1 (A400M): Supported air transport operations and VC10/TriStar Tankers: Conducted vital air-to-air refuelling sorties, often operating from bases outside Afghanistan.

**Support & Logistics:** The RAF Regiment: Provided force protection, including guarding airfields. 1 Air Mobility Wing & 47 Air Despatch Squadron: Handled air cargo and logistics. Tactical Medical Wing: Managed aeromedical evacuations. Mobile Meteorological Unit: Provided essential weather forecasting.  
[Operation Herrick - Wikipedia](#)

**End of Major Combat Operations:** NATO formally ended its combat mission on **28 December 2014**, transferring full security responsibility to the Afghan National Security Forces

#### **4. Operation Toral: 1 January 2015 to 8 July 2021**

The codename for the British presence **post-2014** as part of NATO's [Resolute Support Mission](#). The RAF was involved in Operation Toral, primarily through the Toral Aviation Detachment, which used RAF Puma helicopters to provide crucial air transport for UK and NATO forces. [Operation Toral - Wikipedia](#)

**Final Withdrawal and Conclusion:** The conflict ended with the withdrawal of nearly all U.S. and NATO forces, culminating on **30 August 2021**, as the Taliban regained control of the country. [UK forces: operations in Afghanistan - GOV.UK](#)

#### **RAF Losses - Afghan War: 7 October 2001 to 30 August 2021**

The following is a list of RAF accidents and incidents in the war in Afghanistan. It covers helicopters - fixed-wing aircraft - UAVs.

- 1 14 October 2005:** A RAF Harrier GR7A was destroyed and another was damaged in a rocket attack by Taliban forces while parked on the tarmac at Kandahar. No one was injured in the attack.
- 2. 24 May 2006:** A Special Forces RAF Hercules, caught fire after setting down at a landing strip outside the town of Lashkar Gah in Helmand Province.
- 3. 2 September 2006:** A British Nimrod MR.2 aircraft caught fire after in-flight refuelling, exploded and crashed near Kandahar,, killing fourteen crewmembers.<sup>[170]</sup>
- 4. 14 May 2009:** A British Harrier GR9 jet crash landed at Kandahar airfield at about 10:30am local time. The pilot suffered only minor injuries when he ejected from the aircraft. There were no other casualties.<sup>[148][149]</sup>

**5. 20 July 2009:** A British RAF GR4 Tornado fighter jet crashed at Kandahar air base during take-off at 7:20 a.m. The two pilots were injured after ejecting from the aircraft.<sup>[144]</sup>

**6. 20 August 2009:** A British CH-47 Chinook (S/N ZA709) was shot down in the Sangin area of Helmand province. The crew survived.<sup>[143]</sup>

**7. 10 August 2010:** A British RAF CH-47 Chinook crashed in Helmand province in southern Afghanistan. "The helicopter due to technical problems crashed in Gereshk district at 04:00 a.m. local time, as a result one soldier sustained injury and died

**8. 11 October 2015:** A Westland Puma HC Mk 2 helicopter crashed while attempting to land at the NATO Resolute Support HQ in Kabul, killing 5 of the 10 people on board. Among the casualties were two British and two US airmen, as well as a French civilian contractor.<sup>[41][42][43]</sup>

	Date	Type	Deaths/Injured	Remarks
1	14 Oct. 2005	<a href="#">Harrier GR7A</a>		1 destroyed. 1 damaged
2	24 May 2006	<a href="#">RAF Hercules</a>		caught fire landing
3	2 Sept. 2006	<a href="#">Nimrod MR.2</a>	14 dead	caught fire/crashed
4	14 May 2009	<a href="#">Harrier GR9</a>	minor injury	crash landed
5	20 July 2009	<a href="#">GR4 Tornado</a>	both pilots injured	crashed during take-off
6	20 Aug 2009	<a href="#">CH-47 Chinook</a>	crew survived	shot down
7	10 Aug 2010	<a href="#">CH-47D Chinook</a>	1 dead?	crashed. tech problem
8	11 Oct. 2015	<a href="#">Westland Puma HC Mk 2</a>	5 dead	Crashed landed
			<b>19/20 died</b>	

[List of aviation accidents and incidents in the war in Afghanistan - Wikipedia](#)

## **17. The Second Gulf War- Iraq: 20 March 2003 - 18 December 2011**

### **RAF Operation TELIC: 19 March 2003 to 22 May 2011**

The operation was the RAF's largest single undertaking since Operation Granby in the First Gulf War **2 August 1990 to 28 February 1991**.

Operation TELIC, the codename for all UK military operations in Iraq, began on **19 March 2003** and officially ended on **22 May 2011**.

The first TELIC operation began with air strikes aimed at a compound where intelligence suggested Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein might be present.

The main ground invasion, often cited as the official start of the war, began the following day, on **20 March 2003** with a full-scale land invasion by the U.S.-led coalition forces (including the UK's 1st Armoured Division) taking place across the Kuwaiti border into Iraq.

About 126 RAF aircraft were involved in Operation Telic at its peak. It was the largest RAF undertaking since the First Gulf War.

**Aircraft:** The RAF's deployment included 67 fast jets and 59 other fixed and rotary-wing aircraft. Support aircraft like Victor Tankers, Hercules, Tristar, and VC10 were used for logistics.

**Combat Operations:** RAF combat aircraft flew over 2,500 sorties between **19 March** and **15 April 2003**. 919 munitions were released during that period.

**Casualties:** During the conflict, eight RAF Tornados were lost, and the UK Air Contingent suffered its only battle casualties when two airmen were killed in a friendly fire incident.

**End of Conflict:** The six-year British military mission came to an end on **30 April 2009**. Operation Telic, the codename for all UK military operations in Iraq, officially ended on **22 May 2011**. [Operation TELIC \(Gulf War II\) | Royal Air Force](#) [Operation Telic order of battle - Wikipedia](#) [UK's Operation Telic mission in Iraq ends - BBC News](#) [2003 invasion of Iraq - Wikipedia](#)

## **18. Libya - Operation Unified Protector: 23 March 2011 - 31 October 2011**

First Libyan Civil War: **15 February 2011 to 23 October 2011**.

UN's Operation Unified Protector started on **23 March 2011**. The operation was a NATO-led military intervention to enforce the UN Security Council Resolutions which mandated an arms embargo, a no-fly zone, and the protection of civilians during the Civil War in Libya.

NATO assumed full command and control of all military operations in Libya. The initial coalition members of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Italy, Norway, Qatar, Spain, UK and US expanded to nineteen countries.

Operation Ellamy<sup>[5]</sup> was the codename for the United Kingdom participation. The RAF was involved in enforcing the no-fly zone and conducting precision strikes against Gaddafi's forces using Tornado GR4s and Typhoons. RAF support also included air-to-air refuelling (VC10s) and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (Sentinel) missions. [Operation Ellamy - Wikipedia](#)

Operation Unified Protector formally concluded on **31 October 2011**. [2011 military intervention in Libya.<sup>\[6\]</sup>](#) [Operation Unified Protector - Wikipedia](#)

## **19. Anti-ISIS - Operation Shader: Start date 9 August 2014**

Operation Shader is the UK's long-running military campaign against ISIS in [Iraq and Syria](#), involving RAF airstrikes and surveillance.

The first operation took place on **9 August 2014**, with RAF Hercules aircraft air-dropping humanitarian supplies to the Yazidi people trapped on Mount Sinjar in Northern Iraq.

The first airstrike took place on **30 September 2014**, when a pair of Tornado GR4s attacked an ISIL heavy weapons position using a Paveway IV laser-guided bomb and an armed pickup truck using a Brimstone missile.

On **14 March 2017**, *Forces.net* reported that the RAF had conducted more than 1,253 airstrikes in Iraq, a number which remained second only to the United States.<sup>[25]</sup>

On **28 September 2024** the Ministry of Defence announced that British jets will cease strike operations over Iraq and Syria following the conclusion of the Global Coalition's military mission against Daesh, which will draw to a close over the next 12 months. [military intervention against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant](#).

**28 September 2025**: “A second known Daesh terrorist was positively identified by the crew of an RAF remotely piloted aircraft patrolling north of Hama in Syria on Sunday **28 September**. He was carefully tracked was successfully engaged by our aircraft and the terrorist was killed without any risk being posed to civilians”. [Update: air strikes against Daesh - GOV.UK](#)      [Operation Shader - Wikipedia](#)

[British Forces Air Strikes in Iraq and Syria: Monthly List](#). A chronological list of British forces air strikes to assist the Iraqi government in its fight against Daesh

[Update: air strikes against Daesh - GOV.UK](#)      [Combating Daesh | Royal Air Force](#)

[List of Royal Air Force operations - Wikipedia](#)

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