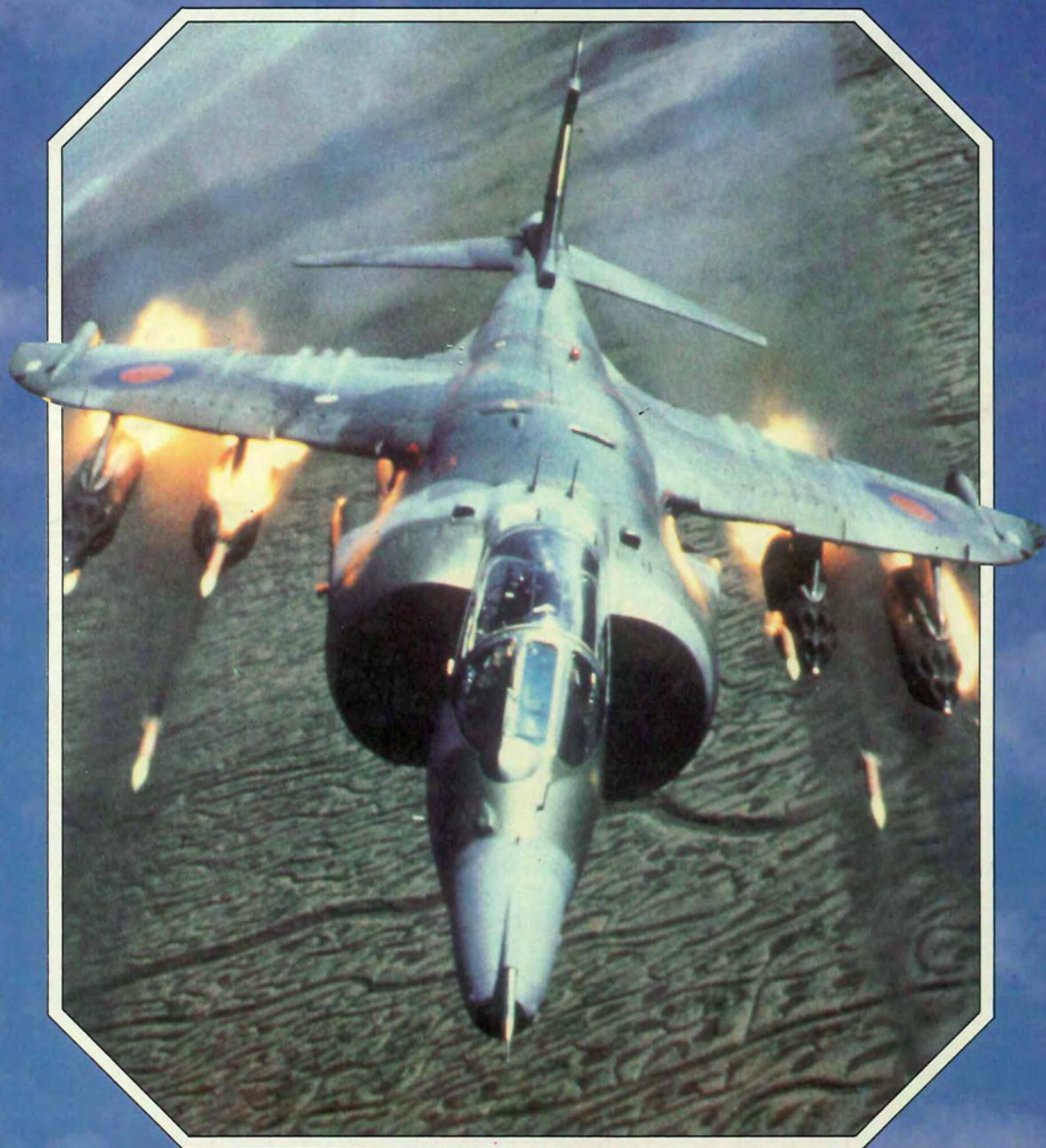


St Michael

MODERN COMBAT AIRCRAFT

From Fighters to Battlefield Helicopters



BILL GUNSTON

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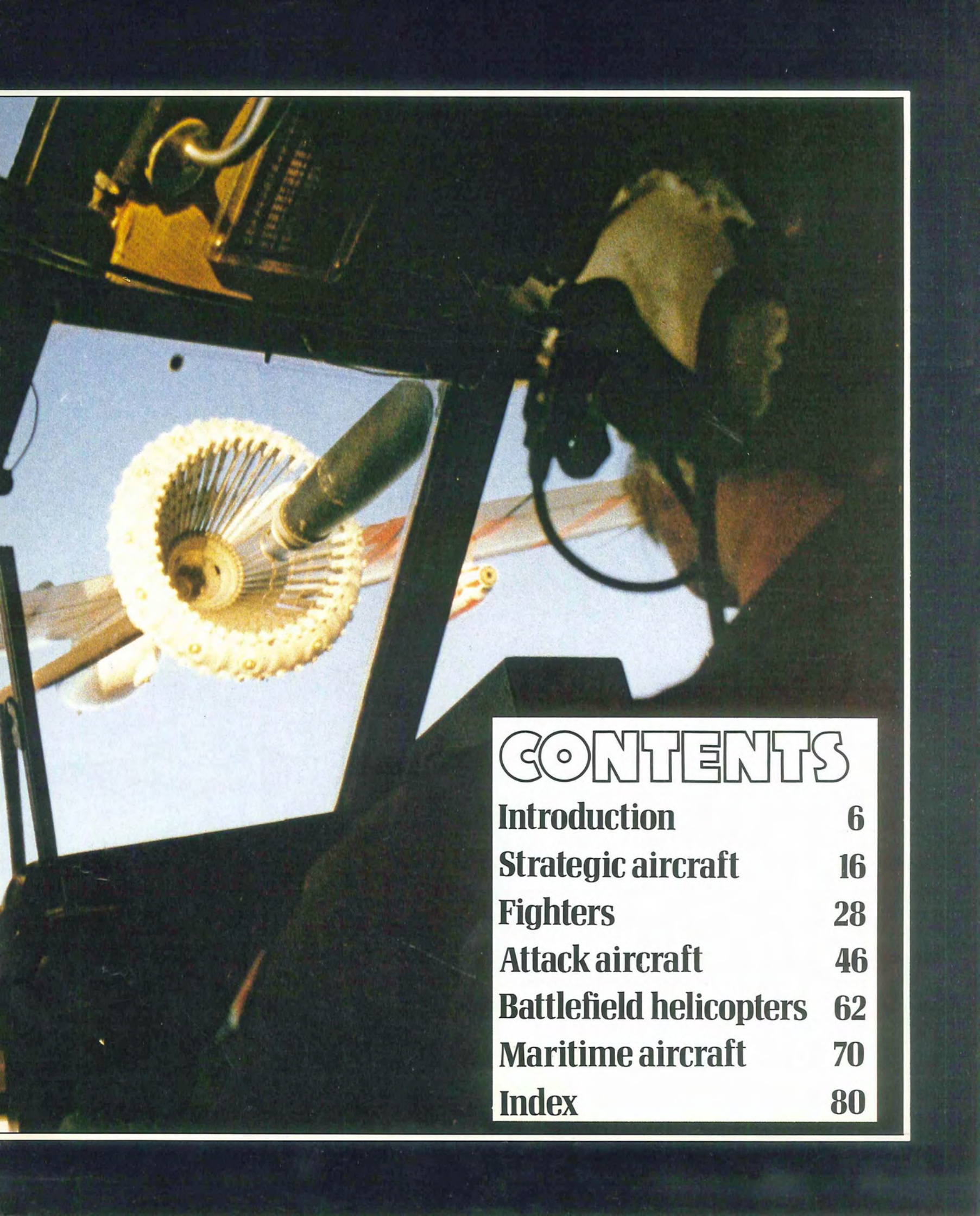
ENDPAPERS Successor to the U-2, the long-span Lockheed TR-1 carries advanced sensors which study hostile territory to a depth of 55 km (35 miles) without crossing the frontier. The first 18 are based at RAF Alconbury in England.

PAGE 1 Most Lockheed S-3 Viking anti-submarine aircraft are embarked aboard US Navy carriers, but squadron VS-41 'Shamrocks' is the ASW (anti-submarine warfare) training unit, based at North Island, San Diego.

PAGES 2-3 In early 1965 the British government cancelled the Hawker P.1154 supersonic jump jet and replaced it with the long-runway McDonnell Phantom bought from the USA. Rolls-Royce succeeded in having the British Phantoms redesigned with Spey engines, but these did not bring the expected gain in performance.

THIS PAGE The Falklands campaign in 1982 took place 12100 km (7,520 miles) from Britain. Fortunately Wideawake airfield on Ascension Island was available roughly at the half-way point, but air-refuelling Victor tankers were essential for the Vulcans, Nimrods and C-130s. Here a C-130 is about to take on fuel over the South Atlantic; one flew a record 28-hour mission.





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There has probably never been so much interest in military aircraft, and this entertaining and informative book describes and illustrates many of the world's most sophisticated and technically advanced fighters, bombers and attack aircraft.

Written by Bill Gunston, former Technical Editor of 'Flight International' and an Assistant Compiler on 'Jane's All the World's Aircraft', this carefully researched book concentrates on those front-line aircraft currently serving in Western and Warsaw Pact air forces: for example, the astonishing American F-15 Eagle and F-16 Fighting Falcon; the remarkable Russian MiG-25 Foxbat and MiG-23 Flogger; the British Harrier which proved so successful in the Falklands campaign; and the French Super Etendard and Mirages. Bill Gunston discusses the various aircraft, describes their weaponry, and includes technical details on their development and performance.

Containing a selection of outstanding action colour photographs, this indispensable book on military aircraft will appeal to aviation enthusiasts everywhere.



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Front cover photograph: A British Aerospace Harrier ground-attack aircraft during rocket practice (Photo: Richard Cooke).
Back cover photograph: UH-60A Black Hawks in exercise Bright Star '82 (Photo: United Technologies Sikorsky Aircraft).
Front Cover: Background Photograph Art Directors Photo Library