





THE LEGENDARY M M ALAM DEPARTS FOR HIS ETERNAL ABODE

ISLAMABAD 18 MARCH, 2013: Air Commodore (Retd) Muhammad Mahmood Alam, Sitara-i-Jur'at (with Bar), a veteran of 1965 and 1971 wars and world renowned ace pilot of PAF, after prolonged illness, breathed his last at PNS Shifa (Hospital), Karachi today. He was 78.

Air Chief Marshal, Tahir Rafique Butt, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force has expressed his grief on the sad demise of the iconic legend and a national Hero M M Alam. The Air Chief further said that any chronicles on the World's Aviation Hall of Fame or accomplishments of Pakistan Air Force would remain incomplete without the mention of Air Commodore (Retd) M M Alam. A daring fighter pilot, Top Gun of his own class, war hero, scholar par excellence, a patriotic Pakistani and a committed professional, M M Alam was an icon and a role model not only for the PAF airmen but also for the Muslims across the world.

M M Alam, was born on 06 July 1935 in a well educated family of Calcutta, British India. Having completed his secondary education from Government High School, Dhaka, in 1951, M M Alam joined PAF in 1952 and was granted commission on 2nd of October, 1953.

During his service career, Alam underwent many courses including Fighter Conversion Course, F-86F Familiarization Course, Fighter Leader Course, PAF Staff College Course, Orientation Training Course-USA and Royal College of Defence Studies Course – UK.

His major appointments included Air Gunnery & Tactical Instructor at Fighter Leader School, Officer Commanding No 11, No 5 and No 26 Squadrons, Director Operation Research, Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Flight Safety) and Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Plans) at Air Headquarters. He also served in Syria on deputation.

During Indo Pak war in 1965, Squadron Leader M M Alam, while Commanding No 11 Squadron at Sargodha, shot down 02 and damaged 03 Indian Air Force aircraft on 6th September, 1965. On this act of outstanding bravery and heroism, he was awarded with Sitara-i-Jur'at (gallantry award). 7th September 1965 is the day when M M Alam rewrote the history of Air Warfare by setting new records while defending Pakistan's Airspace against the aggressors.

He shot down **05** Hawker Hunter fighters of Indian Air Force, in air-to-air combat by shooting down five Indian aircraft in less than sixty seconds, the first four within a span of 30 seconds only. For such an awe inspiring feat of gallantry, M M Alam was again awarded Sitara-i-Jur'at (with Bar). Govt of Pakistan also paid him a befitting tribute by naming one of the prominent roads in Gulberg, Lahore after his legendary name.

His funeral prayers would be offered at PAF Base Masroor, Karachi at 1700 Hrs today. He would be buried with full military honours at PAF graveyard Masroor Air Base.