

## 3 Commando Brigade In The Falklands No Picnic Pen Sword Military

The 1982 British campaign to recapture the Falkland Islands was a naval operation of relatively short duration. Nevertheless, many of the British lessons learned are applicable to the U.S. Army. No notice deployment, assignment as part of a naval landing force, and combat operations beyond the range of land based close air support are all reasonable missions for light divisions. This study analyzes one aspect of the British experience--the use of fire support by 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines. Through historical review, the study examines the use of mortars, artillery, naval gunfire, and close air support to complement ground maneuver. The purpose behind the study is to highlight the effectiveness with which 3 Commando Brigade utilized fire support during an island invasion, slightly more than one year before the U.S. Army experience in Grenada. Conclusions focus on three areas. In the first area, fire support relationships, the study contends that the British marriage of maneuver and fire support is exceptionally strong and that the strength is largely attributable to the utilization of the artillery battery commander at maneuver battalion headquarters. In the second area, fire support for naval operations, the importance of Army interoperability with naval gunfire and air support is developed. In the third area, fire support effects, the study asserts that the mental effects of fire support were a major contributor to British victory.

While many books have been written on the Falklands War, this is the first to focus on the vital aspect of logistics. The challenges were huge; the lack of preparation time; the urgency; the huge distances involved; the need to requisition ships from trade to name but four.??After a brief discussion of events leading to Argentina's invasion the book describes in detail the rush to re-organise and deploy forces, despatch a large task force, the innovative solutions needed to sustain the Task Force, the vital staging base at Ascension Island, the in-theatre resupply, the set-backs and finally the restoring of order after victory.??Had the logistics plan failed, victory would have been impossible and humiliation inevitable, with no food for the troops, no ammunition for the guns, no medical support for casualties etc.??The lessons learnt have never been more important with increasing numbers of out-of-area operations required in remote trouble spots at short notice. The Falklands experience is crucial for the education of new generations of military planners and fascinating for military buffs and this book fills an important gap.

Formed from members of Free Forces who had escaped from German occupation, 10 (Inter-Allied) Commando was one of the most unusual units in WW2. All members had to pass the Green Beret commando course at Achnacarry in Scotland and the book begins by describing this training. With no less than six national troops, plus X Troop drawn from exiled Jews, 10 Commando never fought as an entity but loaned troops for specific operations, such as One Troop (French) taking part in the Dieppe Raid, 2 Troop (Dutch) fighting at Arnhem, 5 Troop (Norwegian) raiding the Lofoten Islands etc. At other times groups played a key intelligence role questioning POWs, translating captured documents, conducting reconnaissance patrols and intelligence gathering on the D-Day beaches. The history of X Commando, made up of escaped Jewish individuals is especially interesting. The book also reviews the growth of post-war national Commando forces.

The 1982 British campaign to recapture the Falkland Islands was a naval operation of relatively short duration. Nevertheless, many of the British lessons learned are applicable to the U.S. Army. No notice deployment, assignment as part of a naval landing force, and combat operations beyond the range of land based close air support are all reasonable missions for light divisions. This study analyzes one aspect of the British experience--the use of fire support by 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines. Through historical review, the study examines the use of mortars, artillery, naval gunfire, and close air support to complement ground maneuver. The purpose behind the study is to highlight the effectiveness with which 3 Commando Brigade utilized fire support during an island invasion, slightly more than one year before the U.S. Army experience in Grenada. Conclusions focus on three areas. In the first area, fire support relationships, the study contends that the British marriage of maneuver and fire support is exceptionally strong and that the strength is largely attributable to the utilization of the artillery battery commander at maneuver battalion headquarters. In the second area, fire support for naval operations, the importance of Army interoperability with naval gunfire and air support is developed. In third area, fire support effects, the study asserts that mental effects of fire support were a major contributor to British victory.

From 2008, the Royal Marine Commandos were deployed in Afghanistan on Operation Herrick 9, with the goal of seeking out the Taliban in their lairs and hitting them hard through lightning-fast helicopter strikes and raids deep into their territory. Over seven months, thirteen dramatic airborne assaults were conducted against established Taliban positions in Helmand Province, involving daily firefights in the harsh conditions of the Afghan desert. The raids were fierce and heavy enemy resistance was often encountered. On one mission, the Marines seized a u50 drugs haul after helicopters including Chinooks, Sea Kings and Lynx inserted over 500 commandos into their landing sites at the site, which intelligence had suggested was a base for narcotics production. On other raids, Marines had to battle terrible conditions, mud and rough terrain in order to secure areas and reassure the local people that the Taliban had been driven out. Along with their troops on the ground, the Marines of Herrick 9 came under attack from rocket launchers, grenades, RPGs and snipers, often fighting through the night in true, bold, unflinching commando style. 3 Commando Brigade, Airborne Assault is the story of this intense period in time, told by the Marines themselves. The fear, tension and excitement as well as the difficulties faced on the tour are described by the men in the air and on the ground.

2006 in Helmand saw British forces engaged in the most ferocious fighting since the Korean War. For much of the time they were hanging on by their fingertips, holed up in remote platoon houses, outnumbered, facing relentless assault and nearly overwhelmed. Only the Chinooks kept them in the game. But that meant their crews putting down in hot LZs, exposing their aircraft to withering attack from an enemy for whom downing one of the big helos would be the ultimate prize. They had been lucky. So far. Then they launched their biggest operation yet: a complicated, high-risk airborne assault that launched a fleet of heavily armed helicopters into the Afghan Heart of Darkness. And then a report came over the net that one of the Chinooks was down . . . In Immediate Response, Major Mark Hammond, a Royal Marine flying with the RAF, tells the gripping inside story of the Chinook squadrons' war for the first time. It's a visceral, unputdownable combination of hi-tech and old-fashioned grit; an action-packed story shot through with a mix of aviation fuel and cordite ...

When the Royal Marines Commandos returned to a chaotic Helmand in the winter of 2008, they realised that to stand any chance of success they would need to pursue an increasingly determined Taliban harder than ever before. This time they were going to hunt them down from the air. With the support of Chinooks, Apaches, Lynx, Sea Kings and Harriers, the Commandos became a deadly mobile unit, able to swoop at a moments notice into the most hostile territory. From huge operations like the gruelling Red Dagger, when 3 Commando Brigade fought in Somme-like mud to successfully clear the area around the capital of Helmand, Lashkar Gar, of encroaching enemy forces, to the daily acts of unsupported, close-quarters 360-degree combat and the breath-taking, rapid helicopter night assaults behind enemy lines - this was kind of battle that brought Commando qualities to the fore. As with the Sunday Times bestselling 3 Commando Brigade, ex-Marine Lieutenant Colonel Ewen Southby-Tailyour brings unparalleled access to the troops, a soldier's understanding of the conflict and a visceral sense of the combat experience. This is the real war in Afghanistan as told to him by a hand-picked band of young fellow marines as they encounter the daily rigours of life on the ground in the world's most intense war zone.

From the end of 1941 to 1945 a pivotal but often overlooked conflict was being fought in the South-East Asian Theatre of World War 2 - the Burma Campaign. In 1941 the Allies fought in a disastrous retreat across Burma against the Japanese - an enemy more prepared, better organised and more powerful than anyone had imagined. Yet in 1944, following key battles at Kohima and Imphal, and daring operations behind enemy lines by the Chindits, the Commonwealth army were back, retaking lost ground one bloody battle at a time. Fighting in dense

jungle and open paddy field, this brutal campaign was the longest fought by the British Commonwealth in the Second World War. But the troops taking part were a forgotten army, and the story of their remarkable feats and their courage remains largely untold to this day. The Fourteenth Army in Burma became one of the largest and most diverse armies of the Second World War. British, West African, Gurkha and Indian regiments fought alongside one another and became comrades. In *Forgotten Voices of Burma* - a remarkable new oral history taken from Imperial War Museum's Sound Archive - soldiers from both sides tell their stories of this epic conflict.

In March 1941, the Royal Navy scored one of the greatest one-sided victories against the Italian Fleet the Regia Marina at Matapan. It brought to an end six months of remarkable success for the Royal Navy in the Mediterranean. When France fell and Italy declared war on Britain, Admiral Dudley Pound had wanted to evacuate the Mediterranean altogether and concentrate on home defence. Churchill overruled him, regarding such a move as the death knell of the British Empire. His decision made the Mediterranean theatre the focus of British land operations for four years, reliant on the Navy. In Admiral Andrew Cunningham, Churchill had a fleet commander in the Mediterranean who would miss no chance of hounding the enemy. Affectionately known as A.B.C. by his men, Cunningham was salty in his language, intolerant of fools and a master of tactics. In *'The Battle of Matapan 1941: The Trafalgar of the Mediterranean'*, Mark Simmons explores the remarkable victories of Taranto and Matapan, as seen through the eyes of the men who manned the ships and flew the aircraft of the Mediterranean fleet.

The Hundred Days that saw the British response to General Galtieri of Argentina's invasion of the Falklands are for many British people the most remarkable of their lives. It describes the dark days of early April, the feverish response and forming of the Task Force, the anxieties and uncertainties, the naval and air battles that preceded the landings by 3 Commando Brigade and 5th Infantry Brigade. The extraordinary battles such as Goose Green, Mount Tumbledown, Wireless Ridge etc are narrated fully but succinctly. This is a very balanced overview of a never-to-be-repeated but triumphant chapter in British military history.

*"Please God, Which Side is Up?"* is the memoir of an ordinary family man, who relates here snippets of his life from his invalid childhood in Scotland to training as a commando in the Royal Marines, to working as a journalist in Africa in the unsophisticated '50s and '60s; and latterly as a public relations specialist in South Africa - so that his grandchildren may know something about him and the life he has lived. It has not been an ordinary life... The author relates with sincerity - and sometimes disarming candour - his experiences and adventures as a boy dancing with the "ghosties" on Culloden Moor; serving with the elite 3 Commando Brigade in Malta; covering the chaotic, exciting and often comic events in Kenya during the Mau Mau Rebellion - or in Ian Smith's collapsing Rhodesia; and promoting the historic flight of a highly flammable hydrogen balloon over the mighty Drakensberg mountains in South Africa. This is a warm and whimsical story that will transport you to the countries and (frequently weird) situations that he encountered in his rich and interesting life. These memoirs reflect his inquisitive, often provocative, stance on life - its beauty and its people, as well as the idiocy of some of our world leaders and governments - all of it begging the rhetorical question: "Please God, which side is up?"

*'Between Friday and Monday we never slept at all. Everyone's face was one mass of sand ... The guns were so hot, all the paint had gone'* Bombardier Ray Ellis Had the Allies lost in North Africa, Rommel's Afrika Korps would have swept through the Middle East, cutting the vital supply line through the Suez Canal to Australia and India, and taking the oilfields of the Persian Gulf. Britain would have been isolated, without oil, and unable to fight. These historic battles of 1940-1943 were fought over vast distances on rugged terrain, with supply lines often stretched to breaking point. It was here that David Stirling formed the SAS to perform audacious sabotage missions, and the Long Range Desert Group collected intelligence from behind enemy lines. This is the story of the Allies' first victory against Hitler's army, told in the voices of the men who were there, which proved that the seemingly unstoppable Germans could be beaten.

*Nine Battles to Stanley* is a soldier's account of the ground fighting on South Georgia and the Falklands.??What makes this book unique is the fascinating and objective way the author describes the experiences, view points and comparative qualities of both sides to the conflict. Fresh light is shed on the whole campaign even the best known battles at Goose Green (where Col. H. Jones won his VC) and the night attack on Mount Tumbledown.

For more than the last decade the UK Royal Marines as well as other cap badges and regiments have seen an increase in overseas Operations. This book takes us through overcoming adversity, accepting situations for what they are, going with what you have got and getting the job done from early in the year 2000 on operations in N. Ireland and Sierra Leone, it hears first hand from those that were there on the invasion into Iraq in 2003 all the way up to the extreme violence and realities of war in Afghanistan 2011 from the men and women who were actually there.

This is the story of Brigadier Peter Young (1915-1988), a highly decorated soldier who was one of the founding members of 3 Commando, rising during WWII from 2 Lt to Brigadier in the space of 6 years. His battle honours include Vaagso, Dieppe, Sicily, Italy, Normandy and Burma. A career soldier, he returned to his parent regiment, the Beds and Herts, after the war and subsequently spent time in Palestine where he commanded the 9th Regiment of the Arab Legion under Glubb Pasha. After Suez he returned to England, retiring from the Army in 1959. He founded the War Studies Department at RMA Sandhurst during the 60s, intending to create there an intellectual centre along the lines of a university faculty for the study of military history and to that end gathered around him some of the finest military historians of the day including Richard Holmes, David Chandler and John Adair amongst others. He was instrumental in the forming of The Sealed Knot and is revered in re-enactment circles. To publicise a book he had written about the English Civil War he organised a publicity stunt which evolved rapidly into the first re-enactment society: The Sealed Knot. An avid war-gamer, his name is legendary in war-gaming circles. 'The Brig' is still a well-known personality even among those too young ever to have met him.

Who exactly are the Royal Marines Commandos? Based on interviews with members of the Corps, ex-Marine Nigel Foster shows what it is really like to serve in one of the toughest military units in the world. He vividly recreates the Marine experience in all its aspects, from the training of recruits and life in the legendary 3 Commando Brigade to the Corps' highly effective special forces role. He also describes the Marines in action in the second Gulf War and in Afghanistan, and looks forward to their future as the nature of warfare changes.

Rob Nicolson, former Marine Commando returns in his second adventure after *'Room 39 and The Cornish Legacy.'* Praise for this book *'A real page turner-Amazon. Nicolson's Gold.* Major Lanyon told Rob Nicolson it was just a private job and he would 'not be working for the firm' MI5. Rob does not trust Lanyon never mind his Guards tie and Saville Row suit. He had nearly got him killed last time on another 'easy' job. But a thousand pounds tax free for a couple of days work in Liverpool, sorting some old books had its attractions. It would never cost that in expenses, Rob was 'spending the surplus in his mind already.' Yet Rob was right to be wary, he would soon be tangling with the Fenian Brotherhood, on the hunt for the lost treasury of the Confederate States, said to be worth millions but where was it? Rob is forced to put

his life on the line to protect Britain's oldest and most closely guarded secret. But is the secret a trap in itself into which Rob could fall?

“Brilliantly researched, utterly gripping history: the first full account of a remarkable group of Jewish refugees—a top-secret band of brothers—who waged war on Hitler.”—Alex Kershaw, New York Times best-selling author of *The Longest Winter* and *The Liberator* The incredible World War II saga of the German-Jewish commandos who fought in Britain's most secretive special-forces unit—but whose story has gone untold until now June 1942. The shadow of the Third Reich has fallen across the European continent. In desperation, Winston Churchill and his chief of staff form an unusual plan: a new commando unit made up of Jewish refugees who have escaped to Britain. The resulting volunteers are a motley group of intellectuals, artists, and athletes, most from Germany and Austria. Many have been interned as enemy aliens, and have lost their families, their homes—their whole worlds. They will stop at nothing to defeat the Nazis. Trained in counterintelligence and advanced combat, this top secret unit becomes known as X Troop. Some simply call them a suicide squad. Drawing on extensive original research, including interviews with the last surviving members, Leah Garrett follows this unique band of brothers from Germany to England and back again, with stops at British internment camps, the beaches of Normandy, the battlefields of Italy and Holland, and the hellscape of Terezin concentration camp—the scene of one of the most dramatic, untold rescues of the war. For the first time, X Troop tells the astonishing story of these secret shock troops and their devastating blows against the Nazis. “Garrett's detective work is stunning, and her storytelling is masterful. This is an original account of Jewish rescue, resistance, and revenge.”—Wendy Lower, author of *The Ravine* and National Book Award finalist *Hitler's Furies*

Please note that the content of this book primarily consists of articles available from Wikipedia or other free sources online. Pages: 29. Chapters: Layforce, British Expeditionary Force, List of British Brigades in World War II, Middle East Command, 3 Commando Brigade, Gideon Force, Women's Auxiliary Air Force, The Rats of Tobruk, Persia and Iraq Command, British Far East Command, No. 43 Commando, Transjordan Frontier Force, Far East Combined Bureau, V Force, Far East Prisoners of War, Caribbean Regiment, Nepal during World War II, Solomon Islands Labour Corps, British Army Aid Group. Excerpt: Layforce was an ad hoc military formation of the British Army consisting of a number of commando units during the Second World War. Formed in February 1941 under the command of Colonel Robert Laycock, after whom the force was named, it consisted of approximately 2,000 men and served in the Middle Eastern theatre of operations. Initially tasked with conducting raiding operations to disrupt Axis lines of communication in the Mediterranean it was planned that they would take part in operations to capture the Greek island of Rhodes. As the strategic situation in the theatre turned against the Allies, however, the commandos were largely diverted from their original role and were used primarily to reinforce regular troops throughout the Mediterranean theatre. Elements of the force saw action in Bardia, Crete, Syria, and Tobruk before they were disbanded in August 1941. Afterwards its personnel either returned to their former units or went on to serve with other special forces units raised in the Middle East. In February 1941, a force of commandos under Colonel Robert Laycock were sent to the Middle East to carry out raids in the eastern Mediterranean. This force became known as 'Layforce' after their commander and initially they were drawn from 'A' Troop from No. 3 Commando, No. 7, No. 8 (Guards), and No. 11 (Scottish) Commandos, with additional personnel being drawn from No....

Covering the legendary Lofoten and Dieppe raids, the D-Day landings and the capture of Flushing, James Dunning recounts the history of No. 4 Commando, an elite wartime special service unit, from formation in 1940 to disbandment five years later. The author, himself, a 'Fighting Fourth' veteran, describes how 500 volunteers, despite initial problems, prejudices and frustrations, developed into one of the most feared fighting formations of the Second World War. The extraordinarily tough and unorthodox training undertaken by No. 4 Commando prepared them for the raids of 1941 and 1942, their protracted involvement on D-Day and for 83 days' action in the struggle for Normandy. Their last major operation was the storming and capture of the vital port of Flushing in November 1944. This readable and authoritative history of the unit reveals their important role in the Second World War.

The gritty tale of a team of Royal Marine Commandos on a special mission in Iraq. A terrorist training cell is preparing child suicide bombers. The story begins with the last training mission at sea with a nuclear submarine, the last party, and the last girl. We follow the almost comical problems that they face to go to war. Once there the team jumps from a helicopter into a black lake at night in an unknown and hostile environment. After lying in wait they find and intercept the terrorists, a fire fight ensues, they are surprised to find the children and the lead character is shot whilst trying to protect them. He watches as he is left behind by his friends, the enemy know he's there and been left for dead, going through various emotions and struggling to stay focused on surviving, finally cornered by his adversary, now outgunned and surrounded Mike has to fight for his life with what is around him, a fight to the death ensues. Will they return safely to celebrate with a 'Breakfast at Babs'

For more than the last decade the UK Royal Marines as well as other cap badges and regiments have seen an increase in overseas Operations. This book takes us through overcoming adversity, excepting situations for what they are, going with what you have got to get the job done from early in the year 2000 on operations in N. Ireland and Sierra Leone, it hears first hand from those that were there on the invasion into Iraq in 2003 all the way up to the extreme violence and realities of war in Afghanistan 2011 from the men and women who were actually there.

The Royal Marines In the 90sEvansA detailed study of Britains elite Commando corps. Color photos and a fact-packed text cover every aspect of todays Bootnecks - the Royal Marines of 3 Commando Brigade. Contents include: operational history, selection training, Arctic operations, amphibious assault, uniforms, weapons and logistics. Europa Militaria 21. Sftbd., 7 1/2x 1 1/4, 64 pgs., 12 color ill.

"...the level or research, the quality of graphics, and the readability are exceptional. [...] It is a subject area not covered often and it

is a worthy addition to the bookshelves of readers with an interest in early Southwest Pacific air campaigns of World War Two." — Sir Henry Beverley Lieutenant General RM The official document Amphibious Warfare Handbook No. 10a: The Organisation, Employment and Training of Commandos is a unique piece of postwar Royal Marines Commando doctrine, never before published, or quoted at length. Prepared in 1951 at the height of the Korean War by the Chief of Amphibious Warfare and the Commandant General Royal Marines, this seventy-page aide memoir is, in essence, the distillation of major lessons learned by the British wartime Combined Operations Headquarters regarding amphibious warfare, raiding, cliff assaults, sabotage, intelligence-gathering, specialized infantry work, guerrilla warfare and Commando tactics. In addition, it offers its readership a delineation of the characteristics, skills and qualities required of a Royal Marines Commando. Published to mark the seventieth anniversary of its official issue, this rare example of bespoke Commando doctrine is a timely and highly relevant addition to a growing body of work on The Corps of Royal Marines. Currently undergoing significant institutional changes by means of the Future Commando Force (FCF) program, the Royal Marines are having to challenge their existing operating concept, force structures, doctrine, and organizational design to meet the emerging defense challenges of the 21st century. It serves to remind those currently evolving the FCF concept of General Sir John Hackett's advice, namely, "To see where we are going, we must know where we are, and to know where we are, we need to discover how we got here."

British artillery played a major role in the land campaign to retake the Falklands from the Argentineans. The study of the Falklands Campaign provides an outstanding opportunity to analyze modern artillery in limited warfare. Faced with numerous challenges, both operationally and logistically, the professionalism and dedication of the British artillerymen proved extremely important to the success of the overall operation. Leaders employed the 105mm light guns in manners that utilized its strengths to deliver effects on the enemy and offer freedom of movement for friendly maneuver units. Specifically, during the assault towards Stanley, the British were able mass its artillery in a manner that overwhelmed the enemy. To accomplish this, the British overcame many operational and logistical challenges to ensure that artillery was positioned to support the fight and that it had on hand sufficient ammunition to complete the mission. More importantly, when called to fire, the artillery batteries were ready, willing, and able. Their fires proved critical in allowing the infantry units to close on the enemy...In the end, the final lesson, as spoken by the Commander of 3 Commando Brigade, Brigadier Thompson, was that artillery was the most important battle-winning factor. In the conduct of the campaign, British artillery usage provides three main lessons important to the U.S. Marine Corps Artillery community. First, it validated the need to have a lightweight gun in the inventory in order to support operations in areas of limited mobility. Second, the British practice of positioning the most senior artillerymen with the maneuver units proved to be an effective method of providing advice to the commander, conducting fire support planning, and making hasty adjusting to execution of plans. Finally, the campaign revealed the need to train artillerymen in realistic conditions in order to prepare them for the impact of combat operations.

This book has been created with the Beginner, Student and Professional Player in mind to promote responsibility, care and a sense of pride in your instrument. With the guidance of this book you will soon learn a recommended practice of maintenance. Together with full colour photographic illustrations there is detailed information on how to carry out cleaning routines. There is also a full colour section detailing keys and pads on the instrument with sections on advice about storing the instrument and selecting a good repairer. Packed with information this book has been carefully prepared over some 3 to 4 years, checked for content by accomplished players of the Royal Marines Band Service and are in use by the trainees of the Royal Marines School of Music. This book is aimed at being cost effective in the long run by encouraging care and pride in your instrument, keeping it in good condition and out of the hands of the repairer for longer periods of time, thus reducing the risk of problems due to the lack of care!

In the early morning hours of 25 June 1950, mechanized and ground units of the North Korean Peoples' Army (NKPA) rolled across the 38th Parallel into the neighboring Republic of Korea (ROK). Within 48 hours, President Harry S. Truman placed U.S. forces in Japan on alert. Within a week's time, elements of the U.S. Eighth Army, then on occupation duty in Japan, were rushed to South Korea to stem the North Korean invasion. As army soldiers, and later Marines of Brigadier General Edward A. Craig's 1st Provisional Marine Brigade, fought the NKPA to the outskirts of the port of Pusan, the United Nations undertook a series of votes that not only condemned the North Korean invasion, but brought thousands of allied troops to the assistance of the beleaguered ROK. Among the troops assigned to the Korean theater was a hastily assembled unit of Royal Marines stationed in Great Britain and Malaya, where they were already engaged in a guerrilla war against Communist terrorists. The deployment of Royal Marines to Korea came as the government of Prime Minister Clement R. Attlee announced its intention in the British Parliament to add to the forces being sent to Korea. While there was some disagreement with this decision among the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, Field Marshal Viscount William Slim, and Chief of the Air Staff, Marshal Arthur W. Tedder, both of whom argued that "Britain was already engaged in active operations in Malaya as important ... in countering communist expansion as in Korea," Admiral Lord Fraser of North Cape, the First Sea Lord, strenuously advocated for the dispatch of a brigade-sized force of Royal Marines to operate in unison with the U.S. Navy as a commando raiding force. Within two weeks of Lord Fraser's decision, on 16 August 1950, a 300-man Royal Marine unit was formed and took the name 41 Independent Commando. "Independent" in the unit designation meant the commanding officer had sole responsibility for the unit and did not have to consult higher British headquarters on operational and logistical matters. The commandos were drawn mostly from active duty units and individual Marine reservists preparing to depart for service in Malaya as part of 3 Commando Brigade. Under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Douglas B. Drysdale, a seasoned Marine veteran who had served with distinction as a member of 3 Commando in the Far East during World War II, 41 Independent Commando began preparations for service in Korea. The Marines assembled at the Royal Marine Barracks at Bickleigh, Devon, site of the commando school, where they received the customary inoculations and issue of uniforms prior to their deployment to the Far East. Initially, 41 Commando drew from three separate contingents. The first, organized from volunteers and reservists in the United Kingdom, was flown from Bickleigh to Japan in civilian clothes to conceal the ultimate destination and employment. The second group comprised volunteer sailors and Marines drawn from the British Pacific Fleet. This group already had begun an intensive period of training even before the main body of Royal Marines arrived from Great Britain and had been organized into a rifle section known as the Fleet Volunteers. The third group came from a reinforcement draft destined for 3, 40, 42, or 45 Commando in Malaya and was on board the British troopship HMT Devonshire, which had been diverted to Japan in early August. Vice Admiral C. Turner Joy, Commander, Naval Forces, Far East, and Admiralty officials in London and Washington, D.C. decided the Royal Marines would operate with the U.S. Navy and Marines. War Behind Enemy Lines tells the unvarnished story of British Special Forces in the Second World War. While the SAS and SBS

remain household names today, there were a plethora of lesser known units, large and small, that played their part before departing the scene. Of special note was the Long Range Desert Group (LRDG) formed in North Africa who imparted their skills to David Stirlings SAS in the early days. The Special Boat Sections and Squadron and other Royal Marine units inflicted great damage. Popskis Private Army used heavily armed jeeps effectively in Italy while the Jedburghs parachuted in to assist the French Resistance. In Burma, the Chindits, under the controversial Orde Wingate, conducted deep penetration patrols against the Japanese, suffering heavy casualties from enemy action and disease. Drawing on personal accounts as well as official records, the author paints a vivid picture of the operations and contribution of these and other units. He also analyses, using his own experience, the reasons for the resulting successes and failures. There is unlikely to be a more comprehensive and authoritative account of the Golden Age of British Special Forces.

Exciting World War II action The exploits of Britain's wartime commandos Covers fighting in Norway, Italy, France and Germany John Durnford-Slater raised and trained the first Commando unit in 1940, became an outstanding leader of special operations and witnessed some of the most daring exploits of World War II. Commando is his remarkable story. 3 Commando sprang into being in 1940 in order to harry Axis forces in pinprick raids that were impossible for regular army units. In the summer of 1940 John Durnford-Slater led the men of 3 Commando in an exploratory operation on Guernsey. A raid on the Loften Islands, off Norway, followed in 1941 and, between 26 and 28 December 1941, the commandos launched their raid against Vaagso. 3 Commando took part in the raid on Dieppe and this was followed by operations in Sicily and Italy, France and, ultimately, Germany itself. The destruction wrought by the commandos was such that Hitler ordered all personnel captured in such raids executed. The commandos' spirit, however, remained undaunted and this is reflected in John Durnford-Slater's exciting and forthright memoirs. Now placed in context by David List's details of 3 Commando's operations, and David Buxton's notes on casualties and awards, this stirring book, long heralded as a classic, now makes its first appearance as a paperback. John Durnford-Slater was appointed 'to raise and command' 3 Commando in 1940. He was later responsible as Deputy Commander of the Special Service Group for all Commando companies taking part in the invasion of France.

'The 3 Commando Brigade's six month deployment in Helmand Province was among the finest pieces of soldiering I have come across' General Sir Richard Dannett, Chief of General Staff In October 2006, the Royal Marine Commandos took up their six month tour of duty in war-torn Helmand Province, southern Afghanistan - the toughest and hottest war zone on earth. After the tactical retreat of their predecessors, the Paras, the Marines knew they would have to take a different approach to have any chance of success. So they took the war to the enemy. Roving and aggressive, the Commandos forced the insurgent Taliban on to the back foot. As a result, they were involved in daily fire fights of an intensity not encountered by British troops since North Korea. 3 Commando Brigade is a thrilling first-hand account of that dogged, heroic pursuit of the Taliban by the ordinary Marines, sailors and soldiers responsible. It is a story of valour, fortitude, supreme physical and mental fitness, and unrivalled professionalism under the most testing of circumstances. The account explodes from the first page with Operation Glacier, a graphic, no-holds-barred account of a Commando attack on a key Taliban base south of Garmsir - a battle that ends with the dramatic recovery of a Corporal's body from alongside the fort by Apache helicopters. From this opening salvo the action never lets up, offering a startlingly honest account of the war in Afghanistan as told by the junior officers, corporals and marines on the ground.

On 1 April 1982 Major Mike Norman, commander of Naval Party 8901, was looking forward to a peaceful yearlong tour of duty on the Falkland Islands. But events turned out differently, for the next day the Argentines invaded and he and his forty-three Royal Marines found themselves fighting for their lives. They took up defensive positions around Government House and on the approach to Stanley from Cape Pembroke to protect the Governor Rex Hunt and delay the advance to Stanley. They were prepared to die executing his orders. After a desperate battle in the gardens and even inside the house against superior numbers Rex Hunt ordered them to lay down their arms. As the surrender took place, an Argentine told a marine: The islands are ours now. The response was simple: We will be back. They were, and this is their story. The Royal Marines of Naval Party 8901 as well as some members of the previous detachment volunteered to join the Task Force and, some seventy-five days later, the men who witnessed the raising of the Argentine flag over the islands on 2 April saw the triumphant return of the Union Jack. Mike Normans dramatic account draws on his own vivid recollections, the log recording the defense of Government House, the testimony of the marines under his command and newly released files from government archives. It is a powerful and moving tribute to the marines who confronted the Argentines when they invaded and then fought to force them out.

For many people it was 3 Commando Brigade, commanded by Major General Julian Thompson, and made up of Royal Marines and Para's that recaptured the Falklands. Yet 5th Infantry Brigade played a key and until now little acknowledged role in this extraordinary saga. Cobbled together in haste (having been stripped of its assets to bring 3 Commando Brigade up to strength), it comprised principally of two Guards battalions (2nd Scots and 1st Welsh) and the Gurkhas. Many felt it was inadequately trained when it sailed from Southampton on the QE 2 and this view was given substance by early disasters such as the tragedy at Bluff Cove. Yet by the end, its contribution, of which Tumbledown is the best known, could not be denied. Why then was its commander (Brigadier Tony Wilson) so conspicuously ignored when the medals and decorations were handed out?

Major General Julian Thompson first wrote No Picnic when the momentous events of April - June 1982 were fresh in his mind. As Commander of 3 Commando Brigade, he was at the heart of the planning and conduct of the War. Under his direct command had been the Royal Marine Commandos and the two battalions of the Parachute Regiment who conducted the lion's share of the fighting. No-one therefore is better qualified to tell the extraordinary story of there-taking of the Falkland Islands from the Argentinians. The author, now a celebrated military historian, has revised his early book and added for this 25 Anniversary edition more of his own personal thoughts and impressions. It is all too easy to overlook

just how perilous and risky a venture this expedition to the depths of the Southern Hemisphere was. Victory and defeat hung in the balance. Even those who feel they know about this most remarkable of wars will learn more from reading this classic account.

Called to action on 2 April 1982, the men of 45 Commando Royal Marines assembled from around the world to sail 8,000 miles to recover the Falkland Islands from Argentine invasion. Lacking helicopters and short of food, they yomped in appalling weather carrying overloaded rucksacks, across the roughest terrain. Yet for a month in mid-winter, they remained a cohesive fighting-fit body of men. They then fought and won the highly successful and fierce night battle for Two Sisters, a 1,000 foot high mountain which was the key to the defensive positions around Stanley. This is a first hand story of that epic feat, but it is much more than that. The first to be written by a company commander in the Falklands War, the book gives a compelling, vivid description of the yomp and infantry fighting, and it also offers penetrating insights into the realities of war at higher levels. It is a unique combination of descriptive writing about front-line fighting and wider reflections on the Falklands War, and conflict in general. Gritty and moving; sophisticated, reflective and funny, this book offers an abundance of timeless truths about war. Postscript: Yomping was the word used by the Commandos for carrying heavy loads on long marches. It caught the public's imagination during this short but bitter campaign and epitomized the grim determination and professionalism of our troops.

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