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3 DAYS IN JUNE

By
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It's been a long while since I read a book that has moved me as much as this recently published book has done. My respect and admiration for those members of the Armed Forces who are thrown into conflict has been increased even further by reading this meticulously researched account of the battle to capture Mount Longdon during the Falklands War in June 1982.

Most of the men involved in the battle were members of **3 Para** but there were members of other units fighting with the Paras such as the Royal Engineers. The gunnery expertise of the Royal Navy also gets highlighted too. Most of the British troops engaged in the battle were very young, some of them still in their teens. As the advance on Port Stanley was made the requirement to capture Mount Longdon was always going to be a very costly episode in a war that had already claimed many lives on both sides. The Argentine forces holding the mountain had had many weeks to dig in and fortify their positions building bunkers and digging trenches amongst the rocks on the mountain slopes. The attackers faced heavy machine guns to support rifles plus grenades and bombardment from artillery based in the Port Stanley area. The Argentine soldiers were also issued with night vision goggles which the Paras lacked. In fact, I was appalled to read the way the MoD had equipped our forces with second hand and inadequate cold weather gear and helmets with no more protection than those worn by cyclists.



The author was a member of 3 Para and he was shot in the head during the battle. He survived his injuries but lost an eye. James took years to write the book and his research involved conducting nearly 200 interviews with those with whom he fought. He even located some of the Argentines who were defeated in the battle and so the book tells their story too.

The Paras went into battle with bayonets fixed and much of the killing was done in the pitch black and hand-to-hand. I do not recommend this book if you have a delicate disposition or are offended by strong language. James tells it using the words of many of those who fought and lived. The book stands as a great tribute to those who gave their lives.

John Craig