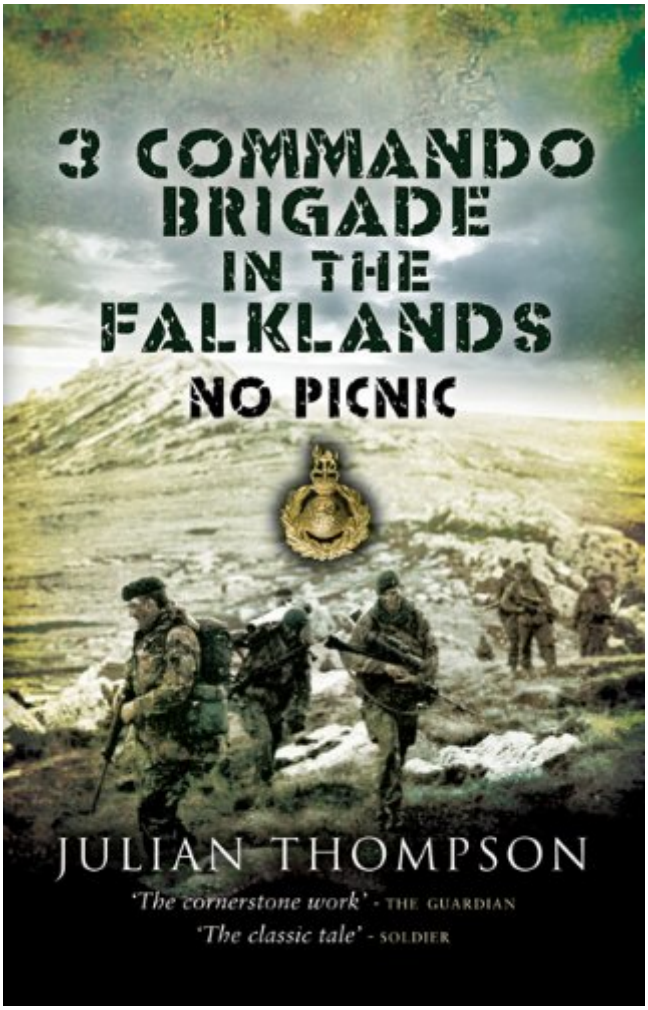
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3 Commando Brigade In The Falklands: No Picnic



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Synopsis

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.

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Customer Reviews

Julian Thomson orchestrated much of the action that took place in the Falklands War on the British side. That he and his cohorts were exceptional strategists and commanders cannot be denied. Job well done!Thomson’s account astounds me in three ways. First, the planning detail is extraordinary

amidst the assurity that there would be myriad times when commanders (lieutenants, sargents, corporals) on the ground must deviate from the hoped for. The plans are sound and the diaviations brilliant and brave.Second, the logistics to mount this offensive are beyond imagination. Fighting a war with an 8,000 mile supply line is mind boggling in and of itself. To supply and resupply troops under fire on the ground is even more so. Needing to "yomp" thousands of rounds of ammunition, weapons, food and gear across kilometers of unwelcoming terrain at night, in the rain or freezing snow, in gale force winds while soaking wet and suffering from diarrhea is what these stalwart Marines and soldiers did for weeks. Then there are the helicopters and their pilots and crews flying at night, in snow, rain and sleet three or four feet off the ground to resupply, casevac or deliver troops to forward positions while under artillery fire.Third is the bravery and courage of the British troops and their commanders. There are no words too praiseworthy.Four stars instead of five? Only because I got bogged down in Thomson’s details. Excellent for the student of war but a bit tiring for the lay reader. What a war! What a fight! What a noble victory!

This was an absolutely outstanding read. I read it hot on the heals of the Max Hastings/Simon Jenkins ’Battle for the Falklands’ - which I also enjoyed immensely. The Hastings/Jenkins book put the entire history of the conflict into a real context, while 3 Commando, through the eyes of Thompson was more of an insight into the actual campaign in regards to strategy, thought processes, limitations of the task force and the incredibly complex logistics of the campaign. Perhaps it will come in good time, but it would be fascinating to read about the contemporary political view, of the Falkland Islands, the Falklander’s, the current Argentine position on the ’Malvinas’ and the UK position as we move into the future. Three decades have passed. Somewhere in all of this reading, was the awful and sad realization that upwards of 1,000 young men paid with their lives - and to what end? It is a fascinating subject and Thompson’s account is top notch.

Would nice to know the strength of each unit....an organization chart of units....details of the "grunts" equipment and food and uniforms for the foul weather...what they did not have and what they did not use...what Intel was available before...what the civilians role and plight and contribution was...the Argentine battle plan and equipment...the spoils of war and what happened to it...more maps as we went along.

Having served in K Coy 42 Cdo RM I can only say read this book if you wish to know about the

Falklands war. On a personal level Julian Thomson was loved by the men in the brigade. This is also obvious on our FI reunions. The grunts respect is not given lightly.

To much minor detail

Extremely well written. This book, by Julian Thompson, its brigade commander, provides a fascinating account of the role played by and the battles fought by 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines during the Falklands War of 1982. It should form part of any contemporary military historian's book collection.

Incredibly insightful by the most influential officer on the ground.

Great book

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