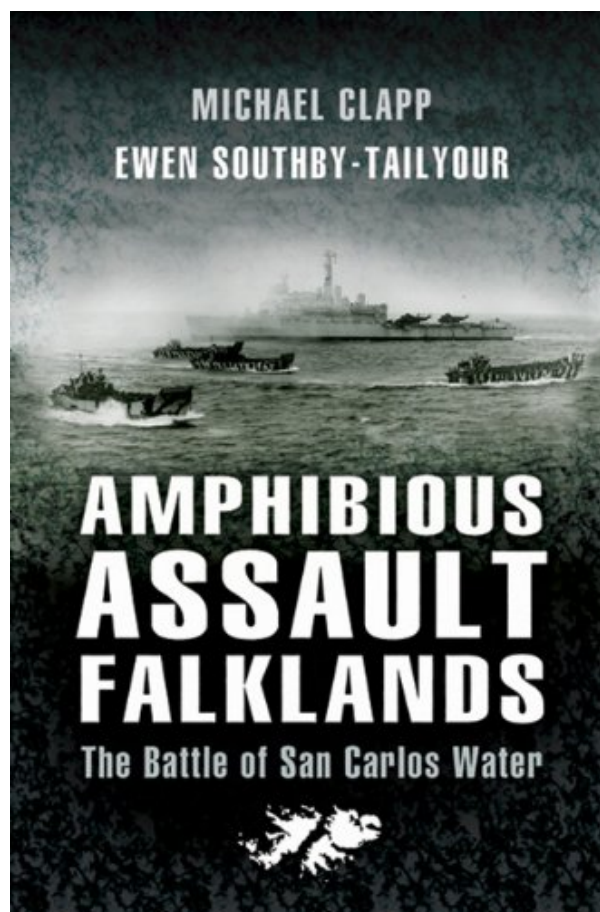
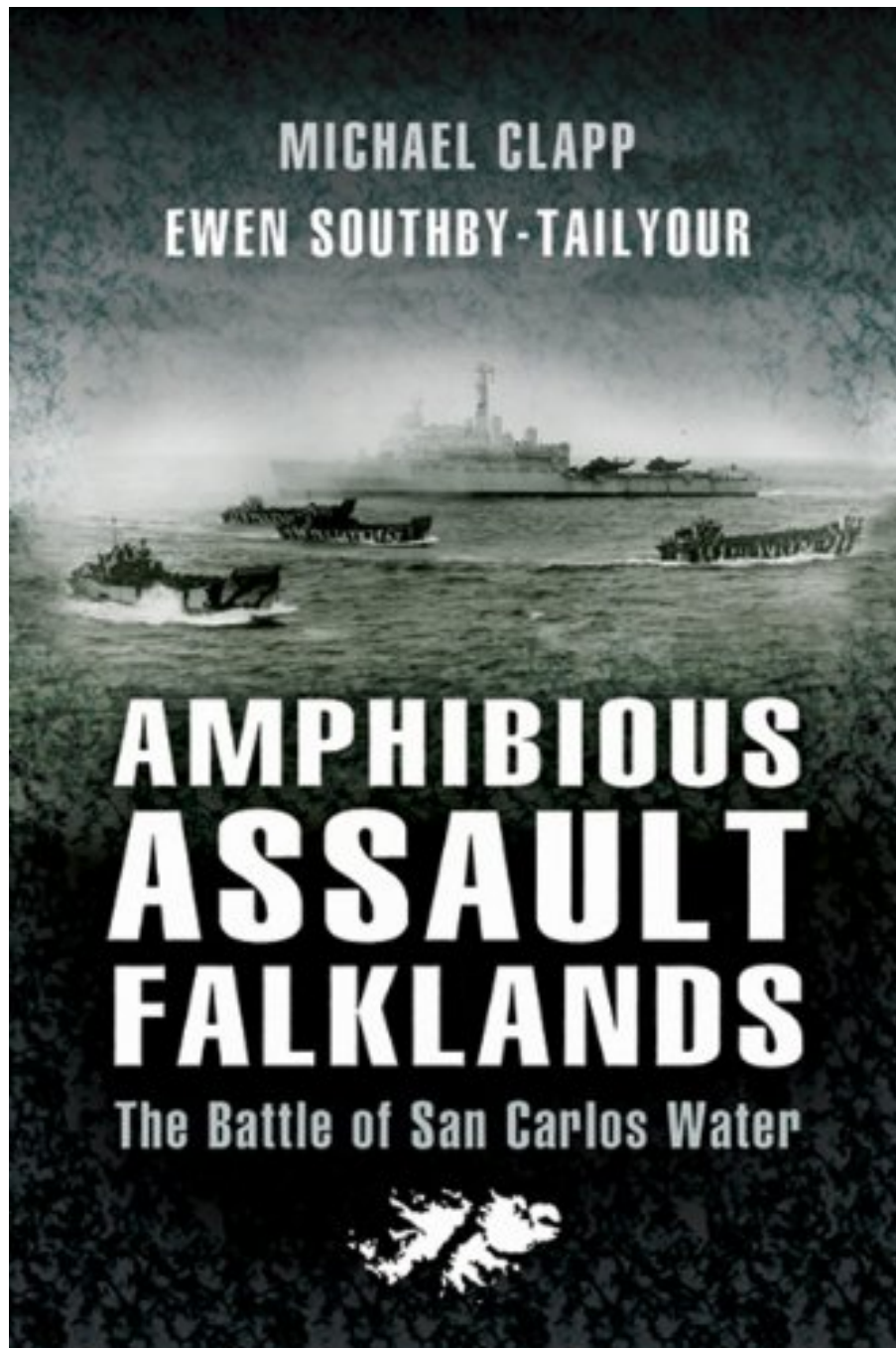


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BATTLE OF SAN CARLOS WATER BY
MICHAEL CLAPP, SOUTHBY-TAILYOUR
EWEN**



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From the Back Cover

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About the Author

Michael Clapp is an author and historian.

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About the Author

Michael Clapp is an author and historian.

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A Good Look at the Nuts and Bolts of the Falklands War

By Mac McCormick III

Amphibious Assault Falklands: The Battle of San Carlos Water by Commodore Michael Clapp tells the story of the amphibious operations of the Falklands War. It very much feels like a rebuttal of criticisms leveled at Clapp in particular and to a lesser extent Julian Thompson and Jeremy Moore. This should not be the first book you read about the Falklands; I would not suggest this book if you haven't already read about and have some general knowledge of the Falklands war, because the book assumes that you are already familiar with it. There is a lot more to amphibious warfare than sailing up to a foreign shore and depositing troops on a beach; this book presents the realities that make it so difficult.

It focuses not on the foreign policy leading up to the war or the battles on the islands, but rather how the campaign was organized, how the men and equipment were sent to the Falklands, how they were landed on the Falklands, and how they were supplied and supported once there. Clapp looks at the doctrine of amphibious warfare and how prepared the Royal Navy was for it prior to war given their duties within NATO. He explores the command structure that was put into place and the difficulties that structure created and fostered. He explains how men and equipment were put en route to the Falklands as quickly as they were, the problems that created, and how the problems were sorted out (and explains how some problems never were sorted out). He describes and justifies the decision making process that resulted in the selection of San Carlos Water as the landing location. Finally, in great detail, he explains how the troops were landed and supplied and how they were supported. A lot of space is given to the attack on the Sir Galahad, detailing how and why it happened.

Amphibious Assault Falklands is not an exciting book. It isn't a general reading book, it's more of a book for military history enthusiasts. It does have a tendency to get dry and bogged down, but it's hard to avoid when you get into some of the details that Clapp does. At the end of the day, this book is about doctrinal, logistical, and command structure issues. Many readers may find this dull, but understanding the three are key to understanding how such an operation like the amphibious assault on the Falklands works.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Miraculous story of a logistical nightmare

By Jeremy A. Thompson

Mike Clapp deserves a lot of the credit for Britain's success in the Falklands war. Any guy who can lead a team that organizes the transport of a light division, with an old force of half forgotten landing ships, and integrate them with so many merchant vessels and then land them on an unknown shore nearly 8000 miles from home is worth his weight in gold. Plus, they did it in 7 weeks from a standing start. This is a story of logistics, rather than the war, told with humanity and a lot of technical detail. It is compelling and well written, and its main audience must be serious students of war, rather than the casual reader.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

A singularly credible account.

By Ned Middleton

2007 sees the 25th anniversary of the Falklands War of 1982. In the UK at least, it seems as though everyone and each of our television channels is reliving that war in one way or another. Some authors and commentators are simply climbing onto the bandwagon with material which, to put it simply, is suspect. NOT SO!, with this book.

Michael Clapp was "Commodore Amphibious Warfare" during the Falklands War and co-author Ewen Southby-Tailyour was a serving Royal Marine Officer during that same conflict and whose knowledge of the waters of the Falklands was so invaluable before during and even after the landings. It was Southby-Tailyour who warned the officer in charge (Not!, the Commanding Officer I hasten to add) of the party of Welsh

Guardsmen on board the "Sir Galahad" to get ashore before they were attacked and offered assistance to this end. That officer, incidentally, refused the request and the Sir Galahad was later attacked with great loss of life.

Those, then, are the credentials of the two men who have collaborated in the writing of this book. It is an important historic document.

The Captain of any ship is "Master" of that ship. He also commands all the ship's boats and is ultimately responsible for ensuring the safe embarkation and disembarkation of all on board. From ships lifeboats (even life-rafts) to assault craft, considerable training and expertise is required in getting passengers safely away and safely ashore. Never more so than when under fire from a belligerent enemy.

In early 1982, a hastily assembled Royal Navy Task Force was steaming towards the Falkland Islands which had been invaded by a foreign force. The British troops on board the various ships were tried and tested veterans of Northern Ireland but had no experience of what was to come. Worse still, apart from the Commandos, most had little or not experience in going to war by sea.

The responsibility for putting them safely ashore rested with their Royal Navy `chauffeurs' and that responsibility came down to Michael Clapp. In this book he reveals - with considerable honesty, the full story of the events that led to the resultant victory on land. In so doing he had to adopt old, forgotten methods in a bid to find common ground for all concerned. It upset some - but then nobody likes change foisted upon them, especially senior officers. Point is, it worked!

The reasons why San Carlos Water was chosen is fully explained and, with hindsight, is probably the one single factor - more than any other, that led to the eventual victory.

I can identify with a no-nonsense, straight-talking officer who cares not what feathers he may ruffle when given an important task. It says much for his style and the decisions he took that nobody - senior officer or below, has ever challenged his honesty or the importance of this book.

For those with an interest in the Falklands war of 1982, this is essential reading.

NM

(Retired British army major)

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