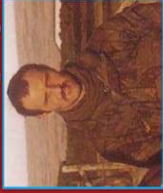


## Cpl Stewart McLaughlin - Campaign for formal recognition



On 4<sup>th</sup> July 2014, several hundred of Corporal Stewart McLaughlin's former comrades and supporters are marching in London to deliver a petition to Downing Street.

**One hundred thousand** signatures are needed on a Government E-petition to ensure Corporal McLaughlin's case is discussed in Parliament.

**Please sign this petition in support of Corporal Stewart McLaughlin and the campaign to get him the formal recognition that he earned in the service of his nation:**

### **E-petition title and link:**

Corporal Stewart McLaughlin – campaign for formal recognition of outstanding gallantry and leadership in the Falklands War.  
[petitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/60561](http://petitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/60561)

### **YouTube:**

**Corporal Stewart McLaughlin - Campaign for formal recognition.**

### **Twitter:**

**@s26mac**

**Thank you for your support.**

**PLEASE SEE REVERSE FOR FURTHER READING**



Please scan with mobile device

The following was written by Lieutenant General Hew Pike (3 PARA Commanding Officer, 1982) following a meeting with the family and comrades of Corporal Stewart McLaughlin.

### **Corporal Stewart McLaughlin**

Corporal McLaughlin was a section commander in 5 Platoon, B Company during the battle for Mount Longdon on the night of 11/12 June 1982. His Company Commander records that "Prior to his death, he led his section like a demon on the rocks of Mount Longdon". The manner in which he inspired his soldiers was indeed exemplary. Highly respected by them, it is a measure of his skilled and courageous leadership that although one of his men was badly wounded in both legs, all survived the battle. He himself was killed by heavy mortar fire whilst being evacuated to the Regimental Aid Post, already severely wounded in the back, on the morning after the battle.

As the leading Company in the Battalion's night assault, B Company were heavily engaged by the enemy from the outset. Throughout the long night action, McLaughlin was noticed by many, moving around under fire, rallying others, helping with the redistribution of ammunition, talking to other section commanders. At one point he ran forward under fire to pull a wounded man back into cover by grabbing his webbing, his example reassuring those around him that he did not seem fazed by anything and if they too were hit, he would get them back to relative safety. In another local action, he positioned his section along an embankment to bring suppressive fire to bear on enemy gun positions that were holding up 4 Platoon on their left. However, the well-protected enemy fire continued to bear heavily on this platoon, and it was clear to McLaughlin that another approach was needed. This was very much the pattern of the night: try one tactic, get held up, go round another way and try again. McLaughlin realised that it was only a matter of time before the section incurred casualties, so he shouted, "I'll count one, two, three then we all go!" About a minute later he did the countdown, stood up in the middle of the fire, opened his arms with rifle in his right hand, and shouted to the section, "Come on, lads, I'm bullet proof, follow me!" He then ran forward toward the gunfire, followed by the rest of the section, who all reached the cover of the rocks unscathed. Members of his section commented later that it was the bravest thing they had ever seen. During such engagements as these, McLaughlin was observed assisting another soldier under fire in open ground with his 84mm Carl Gustav anti-tank weapon, which misfired several times, after which McLaughlin grabbed a 66mm rocket launcher and neutralised the enemy bunker before assaulting it single handed, using grenades and killing three of the enemy. Throughout B Company's phase of the battle for Mount Longdon, Corporal McLaughlin's influence and presence were consistently strong. Even after A Company had taken up the battle eastwards along the mountain ridge, McLaughlin was to be seen bringing forward armfuls of belt ammunition and offering his support, despite being under constant fire from enemy artillery and mortars based around Port Stanley.

Greatly trusted by his men, Corporal McLaughlin's leadership throughout a terrible battle, of which his young soldiers had no previous experience, inspired confidence in all and sustained those who might otherwise have faltered. His tenacious determination was infectious, and those who were around him that night know only too well his impact on the outcome, his actions being absolutely instrumental in sustaining momentum.

This outstanding and very courageous leader is strongly deserving of formal recognition.

*Hew Pike*

22 Sep 2013 HWR Pike, CO 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion The Parachute Regiment, 1982