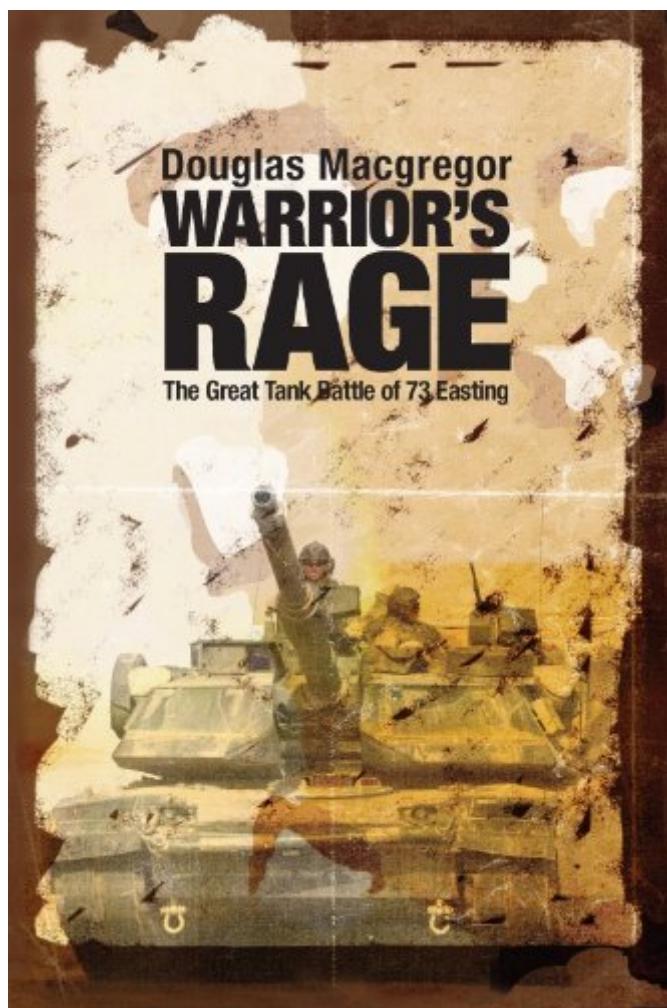


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# Warrior's Rage: The Great Tank Battle Of 73 Easting



## **Synopsis**

On 26 February 1991, cavalry troops of the Cougar Squadron, the 2nd Squadron of the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, charged out of a sandstorm during Operation Desert Storm and caught Iraq's Republican Guard Corps in the open desert along the North-South grid line of a military map referred to as the 73 Easting. Taken by surprise, the defending Iraqi armor brigade was swept away in salvos of American tank and missile fire in what became the U.S. Army's largest tank battle since World War II. Douglas Macgregor, the man who trained and led Cougar Squadron into battle, recounts two stories. One is the inspiring tale of the valiant American soldiers, sergeants, lieutenants, and captains who fought and won the battle. The other is a story of failed generalship, one that explains why Iraq's Republican Guard escaped, ensuring that Saddam Hussein's regime survived and America's war with Iraq dragged on. Certain to provoke debate, this is the latest book from the controversial and influential military veteran whose two previous books, *Breaking the Phalanx* and *Transformation Under Fire*, are credited with influencing thinking and organization inside America's ground forces and figure prominently in current discussions about military strategy and defense policies. Its fast-moving battle narrative, told from the vantage point of Macgregor's Abrams tank, and its detailed portraits of American soldiers, along with vivid descriptions of the devastating technology of mounted warfare, will captivate anyone with a taste for adventure as well as an interest in contemporary military history.

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

I purchased this for research on a paper I wrote in my Senior Leaders Course. This is probably one of the most fantastic stories most people don't know about or don't remember about the Gulf War. Most Americans will never know the story of these brave men and the absolute destruction they unleashed upon the Iraqi Republican Guard. I remember watching everyday on TV when I was in 8th grade; thinking 'this was supposed to be MY war, I missed it'. Unfortunately, the lightning fast tactics employed to push the Iraqis out of Kuwait were halted prematurely; but freeing all of Iraq was not the mission our bureaucrats had in mind for our armed forces. One can only speculate on what might have happened had Coalition Forces been allowed to push all the way to Baghdad. I might have been "cheated" out of MY war yet again....but here we are, still there after all these years later. What makes the read even "cooler" is that young Captain McMaster, G Troop Commander, is now General McMaster and the new US National Security Advisor. Nice to see a true warrior make it to the top.

This book is classic MacGregor! And I'm glad it was. First, the book dispells any notion that the Gulf War was easy; that the enemy quit without a fight. MacGregor puts you at 73 Easting and lets the reader experience lethal combat in the desert. Second, MacGregor demonstrates the clear distinction between warriors and battlefield bureaucrats. America had warriors at 73 Easting. Finally, MacGregor illustrated the strategic consequences of tactical timidity. MacGregor fearlessly exposed the long term and errant consequences that tactical victory has had in shaping our Army's leaderships' views on what constitutes strategic thinking.

Good account of modern armored combat. Very interesting to read this in conjunction with McMaster's view of the same battle. Differences between the two accounts seem to come from the honest variation inherent in different perspectives and duty positions. Especially valuable for insights into the way an armored unit is commanded in a highly fluid situation. Both McMasters and Macgregor feel compelled to disguise the name of their battalion commander, apparently because

they were critical of some aspects of his leadership. In truth, however, the commander doesn't always come off all that poorly. It would be interesting to read HIS side of the story as well. The bottom line is that, whoever deserves credit, it was a notable victory. Understanding how it came about is valuable. Even more useful I'd be able to read accounts of the same firefight from different perspectives.

Absolutely accurate, engaging and entertaining. I was a member of the 2/2 Armored Cavalry Regiment in Bamberg, Germany with Howitzer Battery. We were assigned directly behind Eagle troop as we went to war. How close we were to Eagle troop at the Battle of 73 Easting is debatable since we were wanting to stay within 2 kilometers of Eagle troop but we could not see them for the Shamal a kind of wet sand storm that cut down visibility and really hindered the Iraqi Republican Guard more than us. MacGregor gave us the greatest going to combat speech before we took off to battle a couple of days earlier. I wish someone had recorded that speech it needs to be in the book. You get a sense of his passion, drive and humor in the book but if you go to combat you want MacGregor and H. R. McMaster leading you. We had great confidence in MacGregor and were prepared to fight an armored Soviet invasion and ended up fighting the Iraqi Republican Guard who were simply outclassed, out fought and outsmarted by our leaders. We were 2 or 3 steps ahead whether we knew it or not at the time. Losing Nels Moeller was pretty hard on everybody because everyone felt they could help prevent it somehow if they had known the situation. Anyway God bless his family and the entire family and families of the 2/2 Armored Cavalry Regiment. Machine a. k. a.

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If you served in the military for more than one tour of duty, you are familiar with the tendency of the general officers to prepare for the "last" war, instead of the "next" war. This man's rage stems from being so completely shackled by his superior officers, that his command was prevented from promptly, properly, and efficiently waging war! That is unforgivable misfeasance, when the lives of American soldiers are at stake. This story is about a command that had practiced all their lives to fight a lightning-fast war of maneuver, with the best equipment on the planet. However, when the balloon went up, their overseers were so frightened (almost to the point of cowardice) of allowing them to fight as they had trained, that they nearly created a disaster. He draws a picture of an old boys club at the top of the military, where one gains rank by being obsequious toward higher-ups, not by meritorious service to the mission and the troops who carry it out. It will cramp your stomach too!

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