



Operation Urgent Fury: Ronald Reagan's War On Grenada

Patrick Goggins

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On October 25, 1983, thousands of American Army Rangers, Paratroopers, Marines, Delta Force, and Navy Seals, with massive air and naval support, and armed with the world's most advanced weaponry, descended on an impoverished Caribbean island the size of Nantucket. How is it that the world's mightiest superpower would attack the smallest country in the western hemisphere?

"Operation Urgent Fury" traces the sometimes colorful events leading up to the conflict, and pulls together archival accounts of the invasion, some never before published. There is the eccentric Grenadian Prime Minister, who spent most of his time raising UFO awareness, and there is the officious Army staff officer, arriving after the invasion was effectively over, who would later go on to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The lessons of the invasion are sobering. The U.S. military hierarchy came out of it looking incredibly inept. Most of the nineteen U.S. soldiers killed in action were victims of accidents and friendly fire.

While Grenada was, as one report puts it, "A minor episode in the sweep of American military history," let us not forget that it came only two days after Islamic terrorists bombed military barracks in Beirut, killing 299 Marines. In that light, the Grenada invasion seems less a war of liberation and more a deadly distraction meant to divert the fickle attention of the public. America was once the champion of great causes. Invading Grenada, America was acting more like a schoolyard bully.



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