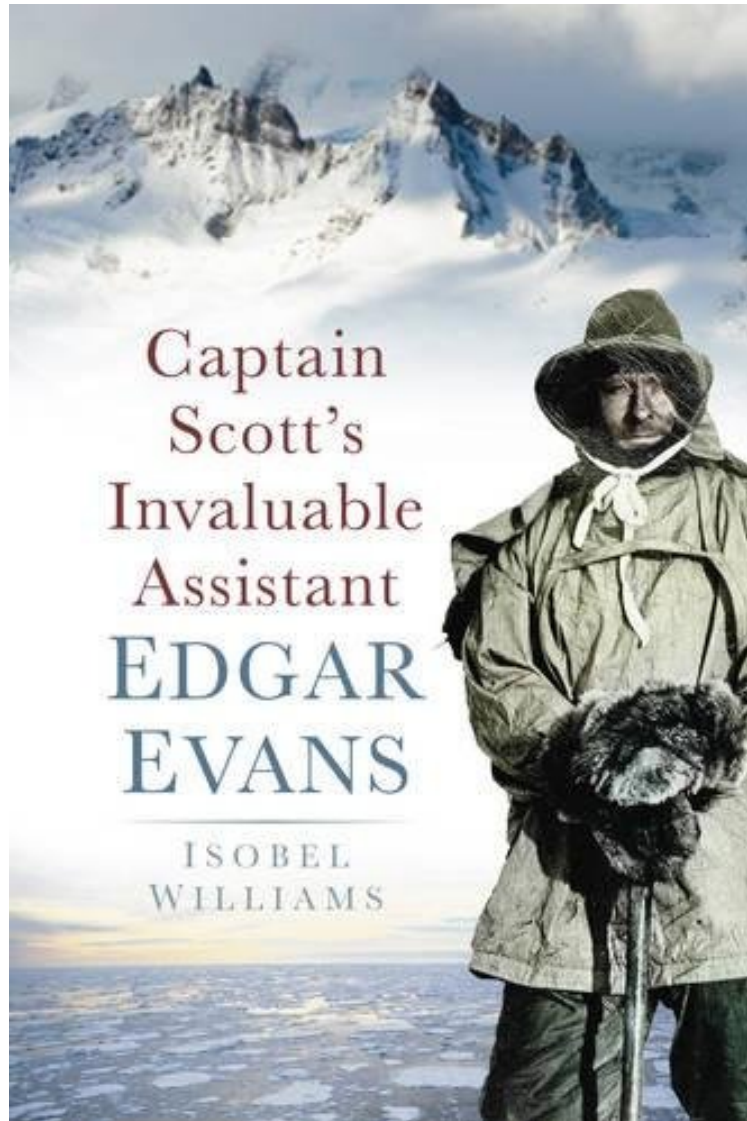


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Captain Scott's Invaluable Assistant Edgar Evans

Isobel Williams

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Isobel Williams : Captain Scott's Invaluable Assistant Edgar Evans before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Captain Scott's Invaluable Assistant Edgar Evans:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Righting an Antarctic Injustice By Bill Ross This biography of Edgar Evans is a fascinating and detailed look at the life of a man who, at the time of his death, was arguably one of the most experienced Antarctic explorers of his day. Besides recounting Evans' life story, the book addresses a long-ago injustice done to him posthumously by a sensationalist press - that he was the first of the five to die because he wasn't "upper crust" and therefore more likely to give up when other men would have prevailed. If that were the case then

surely the other four would have found the strength to press on the final few miles to the next food cache. The description of Edgar's early days as a boy seaman going through training could have been talking about my experience after enlisting in the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) in the early 1960's except for the fact that we probably had somewhat better accommodation and food; his days were structured remarkably like mine as I went through 13 weeks of basic training. Throughout, the book describes a very human man who rose (and sometimes sank) to the occasion. Like most sailors Edgar over-did it with the rum now and then, which is not too surprising given that it was one of the perks of being in the RN (as it was in the RCN). But you don't get promoted to Petty Officer 1st Class without demonstrating a good degree of competence, and Edgar showed throughout both Antarctic expeditions that he was more than up to the challenge. A very interesting read, and one I highly recommend to anyone with an interest in exploration and explorers. Bill Ross Toronto, Canada 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Edgar Evans the "Welsh Giant". His story. By F.J.C.M. This is a biography of Petty Officer Edgar Evans, who was one of Captain Scott's team on the final push for the Pole in 1912. It is a rattling good story. It is of particular interest because it shines a light on English social attitudes before the First World War. Evans was the only non-officer member of the team. He was the first to die on the terrible journey back from the pole. At the time the press and some members of the public attributed his collapse and death to a lack of moral fibre and education compared with his companions who were all officers. They were "Gentlemen"; Evans was not. Furthermore, the death of Scott and the other three members of the party were blamed on the delay caused by Evans' death. Dr Williams puts the record straight. She describes Evans' background, and his upbringing in South Wales, which was tough. Scott chose him for the final push because of his strength and ability. In the light of modern knowledge his death was probably due to a combination of a septic wound, dehydration and starvation. A sad story but very interesting and a very good read.

The first biography of one of the lower-deck members of Scott's fatal Antarctic expedition

About the Author Isobel Williams is the author of *With Scott in the Antarctic*.