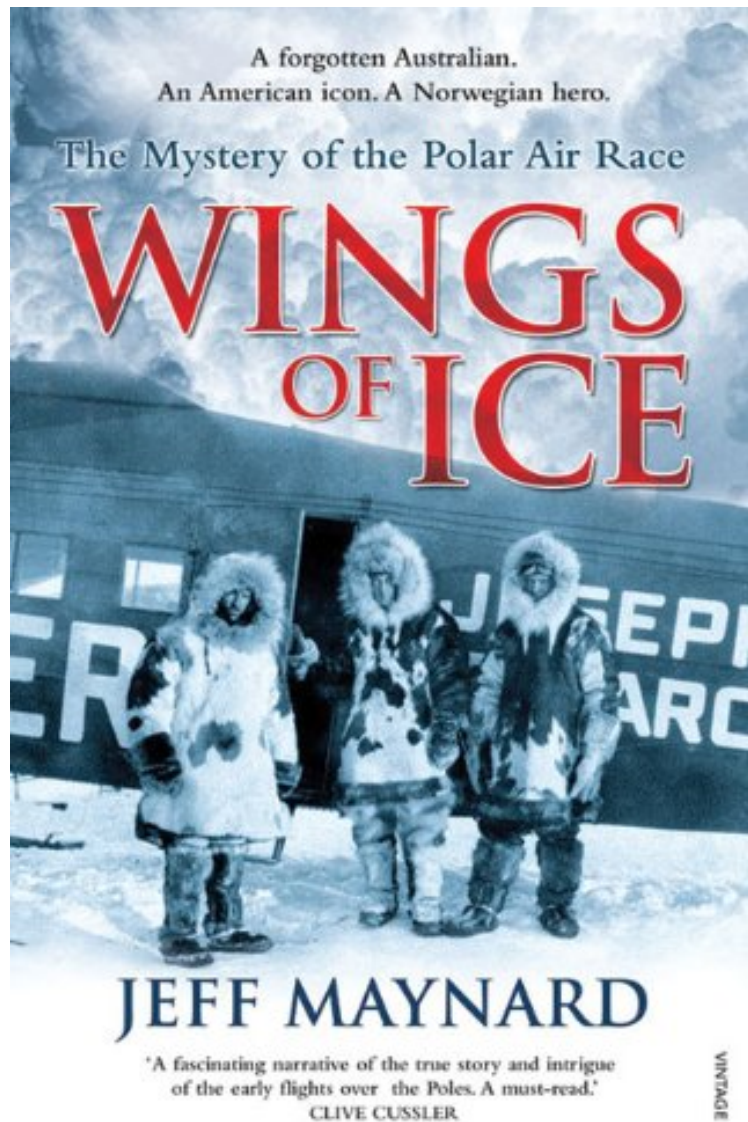


(Read free) Wings of Ice: The Mystery of the Polar Air Race

Wings of Ice: The Mystery of the Polar Air Race

Jeff Maynard

*ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#2754508 in Books Random House Australia 2010-04-22Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.50 x 1.00 x 6.00l, .80 #File Name: 1741669340304 pages | File size: 53.Mb

Jeff Maynard : Wings of Ice: The Mystery of the Polar Air Race before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Wings of Ice: The Mystery of the Polar Air Race:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Could have been...By SCGThis could have been an excellent book if not for the authors propensity for turning what was a fascinating story of exploring the far reaches of the earth into a work that seemed intent on doing nothing more demonstrating malevolence towards Admiral Byrd with other stories

mixed in. Suggestions based on facts stated in an objective manner would have been tolerable but after reading time and time again statements where the author fills a void with his opinion, years after the fact, seems quite petty. Admiral Byrd from what I learned from this book (when you ignore the conjecture inserted throughout) is a remarkable man and without his efforts, much of polar expeditions criticized would not have happened. Did he have faults? Of course, who doesn't? Byrd did in fact dream big, push limits and demonstrate the ability to plan, raise funding for, and organize complex expeditions while putting his life on the line in the process. The author may want to consider taking note of the wisdom of Ernest Edward Joyce, from Shackleton's Ross Sea party, who stated years later for those that judge too hastily that "talking is easy and everyone is wise after the event." Well said Mr. Joyce, rest in peace. For a good read of polar exploration with a whole lot less opining, I suggest 'The Lost Men' by Kelly Tyler-Lewis. A good read indeed. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Highly recommended By Susan E Extraordinary story of Polar exploration, and the first use of aircraft in this pursuit. The rivalry of the explorers and the dishonesty of at least one of them in claiming he was the first to fly over the North Pole a claim convincingly rebutted by the author make fascinating reading. Highly recommended. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Insightful Reading By Rebecca Fletcher People have argued for 80 years about whether Admiral Richard Byrd reached the North Pole or not in 1926. I've read a lot of opinions claiming that he did not, but this is the first book to make any sense of it all. Maynard has taken the facts, and told the story of the various people who were trying to beat Byrd to the Pole. More importantly, he has done a great job of detective work to go through Byrd's lost notebooks and explain exactly what when wrong, where Byrd turned back and why. It should really put an end to the controversy. The stories of Byrd's rivals and how one of them, Wilkins, also attempted to beat him to the South Pole, is really fascinating.

At the end of World War I large areas at the top and bottom of the globe were still vast, cold mysteries. Into these blanks on the map explorers flew, urged on by their sponsors to achieve "firsts," by their governments to claim new land, and by a public fascinated with moving pictures and radio broadcasts. In March 1926 Wilkins and Byrd, along with veteran explorer Roald Amundsen, were locked in a race to the North Pole. A year later, while Amundsen was involved in the bitter dispute that cost him his life, Byrd announced he would fly to the South Pole. Wilkins was hired to beat him. Late in 1928 they unloaded their planes on opposite sides of Antarctica and prepared for the last great race in polar history. It was a race that ensured Byrd's place as an American icon and during his life no one dared question his claims. It was only after his death that he was accused of being "the greatest fraud in polar history." Wilkins died in 1958 and disappeared from the history books after his wife locked away his records and diaries. Wings of Ice lays out clues then challenges the reader to solve an 80-year-old mystery, while bringing to light an untold story of courage, daring, and adventure.

From Booklist Maynard dives headfirst into the controversy surrounding Richard Byrd's record-setting flight over the North Pole and the two men who flew against him in this intriguing look back at the golden age of air exploration. While giving Byrd and Roald Amundsen their due, Maynard is primarily concerned with the long-overlooked career of their contemporary, explorer/scientist George Hubert Wilkins. Maynard uncovers the obstructions to biographers, reveals how greed and pettiness can trample a man's legacy after his death, delves deeply into Wilkins' extraordinary polar accomplishments, and places him squarely in the midst of the last great air race. From planes to dirigibles to submarines, Wings of Ice has more than enough excitement for a novel, even as Maynard's reliance on diaries, journals, and letters is evident in his extensive chapter notes. While Byrd fans will likely not appreciate this perspective, it is clear questions must be asked. Most significantly, Maynard returns Wilkins to a stage he once dominated. We shouldn't have forgotten him; how nice it is to have the great man back. --Colleen Mondor "A must read." Clive Cussler