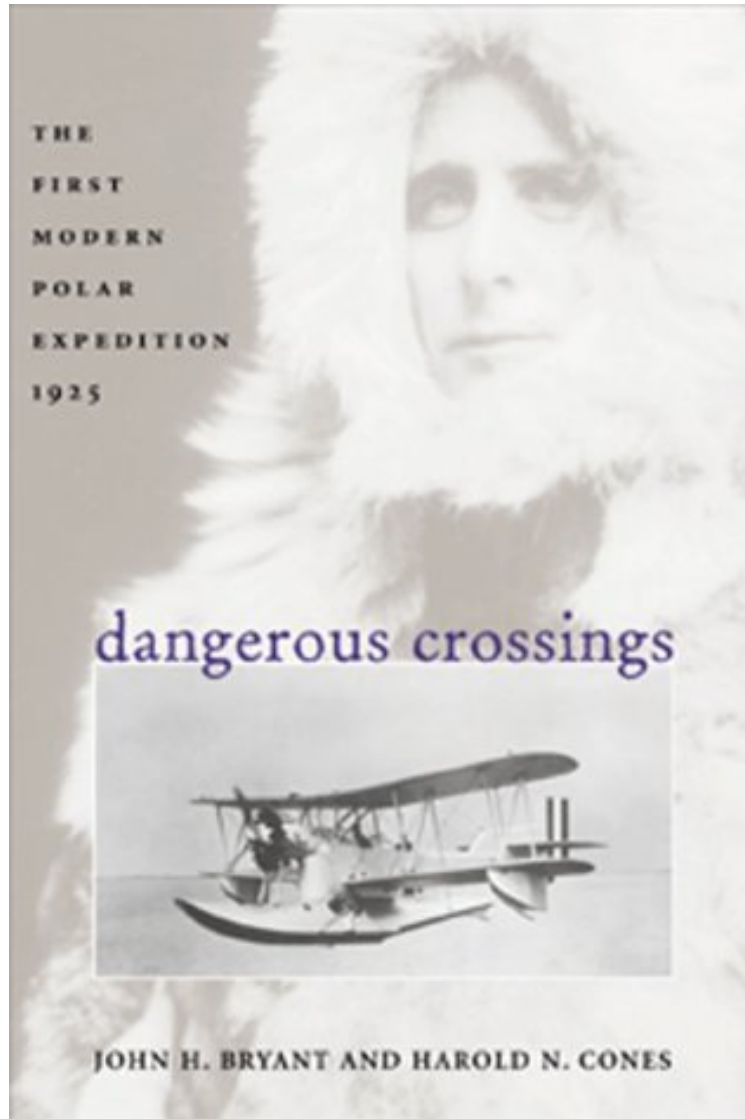


[Free read ebook] Dangerous Crossings: The First Modern Polar Expedition, 1925

Dangerous Crossings: The First Modern Polar Expedition, 1925

John H Bryant, Harold N Cones Ph.D.
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John H Bryant, Harold N Cones Ph.D. : Dangerous Crossings: The First Modern Polar Expedition, 1925 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dangerous Crossings: The First Modern Polar Expedition, 1925:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Early amateur radio contributions to radio communicationBy Neal BrownThis is a well written account of the 1925 MacMillan Arctic Expedition. The title is particularly apt as you read about crossing from Greenland back to Labrador. My interest was in learning more about John L. Reinartz who was one of the amateur radio operators on this expedition. His role and activities during the expedition indicate he was in

part following his own agenda of promoting use of higher radio frequencies. Not in this book is that Reinartz went on to be called back into the Navy to train radio operators for World War II, and that he led a highly successful professional career with over 20 patents and was near the end of his life honored by the Amateur Radio Relay League.

Examines how naval aviator Richard Byrd, explorer Donald MacMillan, and Zenith Radio founder Eugene McDonald successfully launched the first polar expedition using aviation and short-wave radio.

From Publishers Weekly An American expedition that left the coast of Maine in June 1925, skirted the Canadian coast, then headed for Greenland and points farther north, this lesser known voyage was undertaken to map the yet unexplored polar sea above Canada; whether there was an actual landmass there was still unclear. The focus of professors Bryant and Cones, coauthors of the standard history of Zenith Radio Corp., is on technology; the voyage was the first to use aircraft and shortwave radio, with the specific goal of enhancing success. Leader Donald B. MacMillan commanded the naval contingent; Navy Lt.-Comdr. Richard E. Byrd, who would later go on to Antarctica, was one of the fliers, clashing frequently with MacMillan and apparently spending years afterward amplifying his own contributions to the trip. Eugene F. McDonald Jr., second in command and an associate of Peary's, was at the time owner of the small Zenith Radio company. He voluntarily gave the expedition a number of shortwave radio sets that proved to be invaluable for communication in the land of the midnight sun. (McDonald's own humility is contrasted with radioman John L. Reinartz's devious behavior during the trip.) Perfect Storm-like moments, a lack of supplies, some conflict with Danish officials in Greenland, nascent corporate development and the extraordinary bravery of the personnel involved make this an unusually rich exploration narrative. But frequently intrusive source materials, diaries, logs, period accounts slow things down. This history won't do much on its own beyond the academic market, but it's ripe for a screenwriter's judicious condensation and extrapolation. 31 bw photos and 5 maps. (Oct.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist A specialized but valuable history of the first polar expedition to use both aircraft for extending observation and short-wave radio for around-the-clock communications. The organizers were arctic explorer Donald B. Macmillan, a friend of Peary's and a survivor of four years of isolation in Greenland, and Eugene F. McDonald, founder of Zenith Radio. They took two ships, three single-engine Loening amphibious planes, a motley crew including Richard E. Byrd and several navy pilots, and enough supplies to make both ships nearly founder on the way north. Once off Greenland, the expedition survived arctic weather and dishonest radio operators, established new flying and radio-communication records, and laid the foundations for modern polar exploration. The Loenings failed to kill anyone only because of miraculous airmanship and maintenance; McDonald's financial, moral, and personal courage should make modern "venture capitalists" blush; and Byrd managed to overclaim for himself and get into fights with everybody else. This expedition, usually just a chapter in large histories of arctic exploration, always deserved fuller coverage. Now it has it. Roland Green Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved