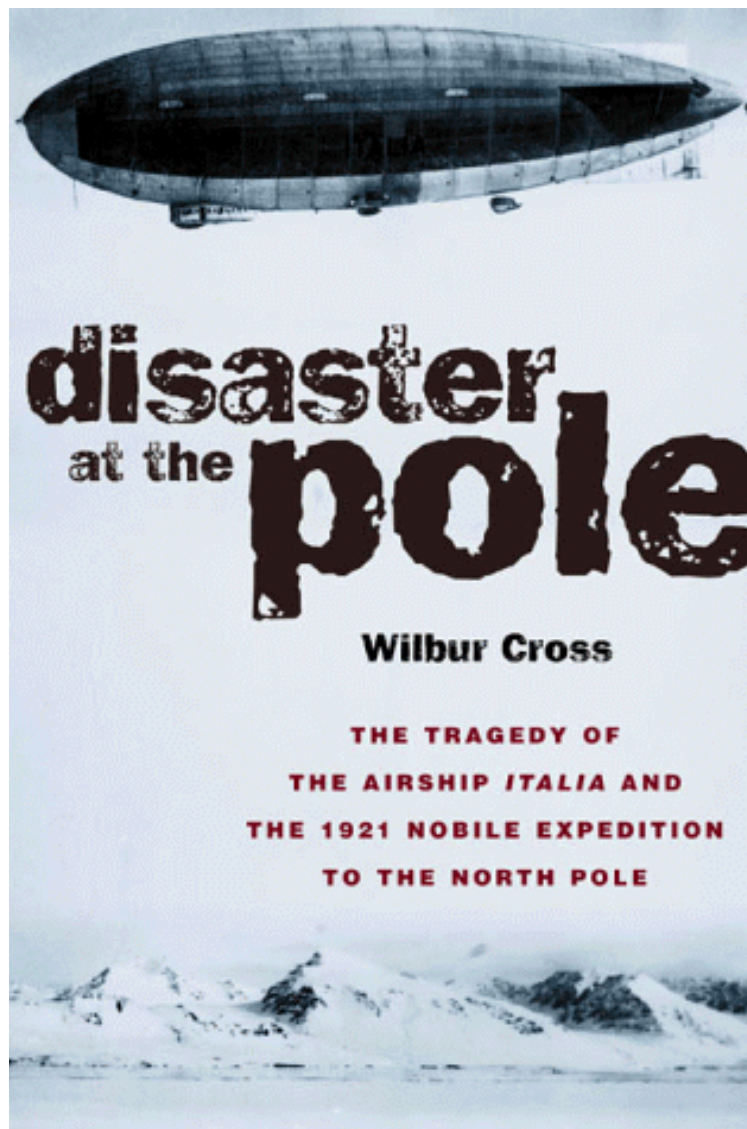


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Disaster at the Pole: The Tragedy of the Airship Italia and the 1928 Nobile Expedition to the North Pole

Wilbur Cross

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Wilbur Cross : Disaster at the Pole: The Tragedy of the Airship Italia and the 1928 Nobile Expedition to the North Pole before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Disaster at the Pole: The Tragedy of the Airship Italia and the 1928 Nobile Expedition to the North Pole:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic!By goodgollyjoshI read a lot of polar expeditions and this

one rates up there with the best of them. Poor Nobile, he got such a bad rap from this trip. The author does a good job of explaining why and it makes you feel for the guy. He seemed like a stand up character. Would loved to have shook his hand, too bad he died the year I was born. I found the book interesting because it was the first of it's kind, a "lighter than air" craft trip to the pole. I have read many with boats obviously, and read one that was with a hot air balloon so this one stands alone because of it's uniqueness. Highly recommended!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An incredible airship trip to the North Pole.By Kenneth AllenI had recently read the 1st edition of this true story, from the library. As the Germans had their brilliant Zeppelin commander, Dr Eckner, the Italians had their General Nobile. Both were intent on doing things with airships that some thought impossible. In the case of Nobile, it was the 2nd trip of a Italian made airship to the North Pole with many scientific studies to be completed enroute and to even possibly land at the Pole and then to return home. The disastrous weather conditions in returning finally caused a crash landing on an ice flow and the frustrating attempts to keep alive and be rescued. It is difficult to put this book down and is well worth the read.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Steven KosmiderGood book in good condition

The true story of the harrowing wreck of the dirigible Italia during a polar expedition and the heroic rescue attempts to save her and her crew.

From Publishers WeeklyThis is an intriguing, at times even heart-stopping, account of an almost-forgotten aviation disaster: a race to fly a dirigible to the North Pole, land the airship and then return to civilization. Led by Umberto Nobile, the Italian aeronautic engineer and airship designer who had crossed the North Pole in a dirigible just two years earlier, the crew of the airship Italia suddenly crashed and was stranded in the frozen north as an international team of rescuers tried, initially unsuccessfully, to save the few survivors. Cross, a former editor at Life magazine, spent more than 30 years researching the crash and its aftermath (interviewing the few living survivors, including Nobile, who had kept copious records, even while fighting against starvation at the North Pole); however, the detail never overwhelms an exciting, well-wrought story. What makes this work stand out among other tales of harrowing heroism is its political intrigue and Cross's deft handling of this added complexity. His presentation of Nobile's overtly unwilling participation in the Fascist reign of Benito Mussolini, as well as the power struggles among the Fascisti for control of what was seen as the next great aviation powerhouse, adds a sad depth and pertinent humanity to Nobile's personal and professional ordeal. His "very real human flaws were greatly accentuated by the circumstances" of living in Italy during the 1920s and 1930s. (Oct.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalIn 1925, the renowned Italian aeronautical engineer and explorer Umberto Nobile flew over the North Pole in a dirigible, at the time a considerable feat both of engineering and scientific inquiry. All went well, and in 1928 Nobile attempted to repeat the feat, this time planning on stopping at the pole and landing parties. Unfortunately, Nobile was no longer in favor with the increasingly strident Fascist government and faced many political and physical obstacles. However, he managed to get the expedition airborne and reached the pole safely. On the return leg, the airship foundered in foul weather, stranding the survivors on the icecap. A bizarre tragedy ensued, with searchers from many nations looking for Nobile while the Italian support ship conspicuously failed to participate. A nearly forgotten episode comes to life in this popular history by Cross, a prolific author and former editor at Life. Interesting but probably not vital to public library collections.DEEdwin B. Burgess, U.S. Army Combined Arms Research Lib., Fort Leavenworth, KS Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.From BooklistCross, an adventure writer, recounts the true adventure story of the wreck of the dirigible Italia during an expedition to the North Pole in 1928. Political intrigue in the Mussolini regime serves as backdrop for the 49-day drama of confused international rescue efforts that ended in the ruined reputation of the airship's designer, General Umberto Nobile. An engineer and scientist, Nobile pioneered the development of lightweight airships but was constantly at odds with the Mussolini regime. He undertook the 1928 expedition to best a previous achievement by landing at the Pole and returning to base camp. However, the expedition ended when the dirigible struck an ice pack in the Arctic Ocean. Nobile was rescued, but several of his crew perished. Cross interviewed Nobile and other survivors and offers a detailed account of the harrowing wreck, survival on ice floes, and heroic rescue attempts. Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen was among the rescuers who never returned. Cross conveys the political tensions, contentious personalities, technical difficulties, and weather challenges that figured in this polar tragedy. Vanessa BushCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved