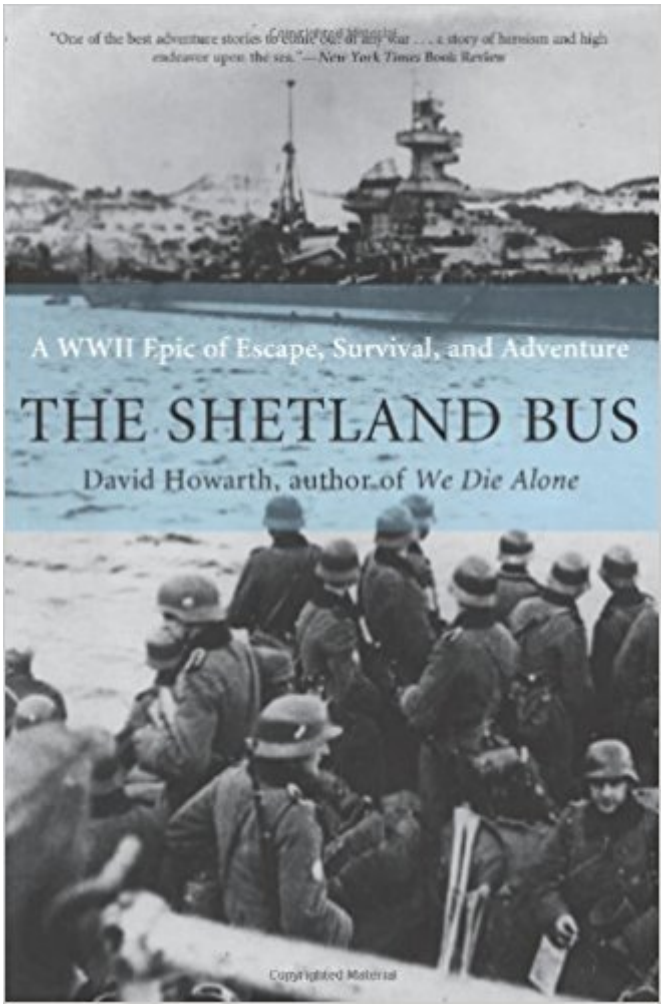
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Shetland Bus: A WWII Epic Of Escape, Survival, And Adventure



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Synopsis

From the author of We Die Alone, The Shetland Bus recounts the hundreds of crossings of small boats from the Shetland Islands to German-occupied Norway to supply arms to the Resistors and to rescue refugeesÃ¢â ¬â •all under constant threat by German U-boats and winter storms.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Released in 1951 and 1957, respectively, these titles offer little-known chapters in the history of World War II. Sledge Patrol tells how a handful of Danes and Norwegians on dog sleds patrolled a 500-mile perimeter of the Greenland coast to keep watch for Nazi invaders. When the day came, the men eluded the Germans using their hunting skills and knowledge of the Arctic terrain and managed to get back to base by walking the 56 miles without any equipment in some cases not even coats to bring word of the German presence. The "Shetland Bus" was the nickname given to the Norwegian fishing fleet, which was used to shuttle refugees secretly to freedom and bring supplies and intelligence to the Allied forces. Howarth, a British naval officer, was among the leaders of the Shetland Bus operation, so this history is based on firsthand experience. Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

An especially good job of describing, without any heroics, the vicissitudes undergone by the survivors of these expeditions. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Having some Norwegian blood in my veins, I've always been frustrated by how little coverage is available of World War II in Norway. I first was introduced to David Howarth's writings through his "We Die Alone," and it kept me on the edge of my seat. I was hoping to get the same thrills from "The Shetland Bus," but came away mildly disappointed.It's not a bad book. I think the problem is the author is telling parts of the story from his own perspective and parts from others, and he isn't enough of a journalist or writer to give full voice to the tales of the others. Having helped coordinate the anti-Nazi boat traffic between Shetland and Norway, he does a great job of explaining the organizing and supplying of a diverse group of men who really didn't want to be organized or directed, but needed the supplies. However, in his telling of their stories as they make the dangerous trips back and forth to Norway, the stories seem to lose their zip and become an exercise in accounting of materials sent and encounters with the Germans evaded. And, of course, with the most heartbreaking ones -- those where the ships were lost -- he can only speculate as to what went wrong and how they went down.I'm grateful to Mr. Howarth that he took the time to write this book, but I can't help thinking a co-author or better editor might have helped make it more compelling. It's a story that's worth reading, but I wish there truly was more life in it.

Incredible story of the Shetland Island part in the resistance against the German occupation of Norway during WWII. I had previously read Howath's book "We Die Alone" Now I understand how he was able to get interviews with those who participated in that story.I am not sure how much difference the missions made as the Germans occupied Norway until the end of WWII. You can't discount the bravery of the men who ran the boats under extremely difficult conditions and they definitely made a difference in the spirit of the Norwegians during this difficult time. I have been reading Ann Cleeve's Shetland mystery series and she mentioned the "Shetland Bus" as some of the background she used in one of the mysteries.

I found this book to be very interesting and compelling. We were going to spend a week in Scotland and also visit Shetland as part of the trip that had been planned for late May into early June. I had waited to read this book until just before we left for the visit. I can not think of taking a boat out on a almost 400 mile one way trip in the dead of winter in those waters with only four to five hours of day light. We were able to visit the locations of their first and second bases. Remote is the word that comes to mind.This is not a new book and the people we met knew of the history of The Shetland Bus.

I found this story fascinating and enlightened me about what individual people do in the face of tyranny, to bring about that future world they only can dream about. This silent, oft-forgotten heroism in the winters of the Arctic Sea is a great read and as a sailor I have great respect for what these men endured. Good book. The title, The Shetland Bus is a master of understatement.

Very interesting book about the WW II. It presented the reader with another dimension of the war. I would recommend this book to whoever is interested in the WW II as it gives the insights of the struggle for freedom of plain citizens along the military, somewhat aside of the main arena.

Well written chronicle of the war effort against occupying Germany between Norway's underground and Great Britain's military. A handful of Norwegian fishing vessels armed and sailing the winter night arctic seas between a British Naval base in the Shetland Isles off Scotland and the German patrolled coast of Norway. Materials, refugees and trained underground fighters wer transported back and forth at great risk during the early 1940's. This was a little-known effort between these two countries that greatly stressed the people involved. These dangerous and difficult adventures did not mean a great deal in the big scheme of the war until the Norwegian underground played a key part in delaying Germanys efforts to produce atomic weapons. This German set-back helped end the war in Europe and allowed America to be the first nuclear power and to turn their attention to the war in the Pacific.

A detailed account written by the man who was second in command at the base in the Shetland Islands. Of the 100 or so Norwegian fisherman who composed this fleet, more than half were lost. They were extremely brave and determined men who provided transportation for saboteurs entering the country and people who were emigrating from Nazi terror. They also transported many guns, ammunition and explosives to be used by the Norwegian underground. So much of WWII has been written concerning combat on the European continent that it is well that other venues of the war are covered and not forgotten.

A detailed look by one of the men involved in the RN effort to maintain connections with occupied Norway. Using Norwegian fishing trawlers and crews, weapons, supplies, and agents were shuttled between the Shetland Islands of Scotland and coastal Norway. The simplicity of the method was perfected by the ingenuity of the participants including the author. Like all other endeavors, the plan came at a cost. Several boats and crew simply disappeared in the vastness of the ocean leaving

only speculation to their fates. An excellent account; well worth the time to explore.

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