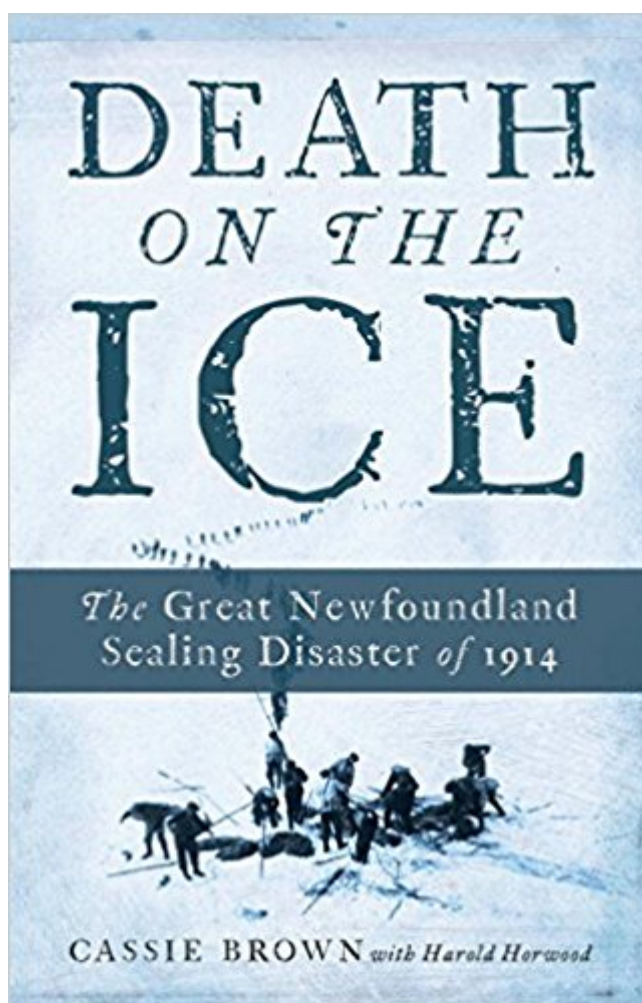


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Death On The Ice: The Great Newfoundland Sealing Disaster Of 1914



Synopsis

Each year, for generations, poor, ill-clad Newfoundland fishermen sailed out to the ice to hunt seals in the hope of a few pennies in wages from the prosperous merchants of St. John's. The year 1914 witnessed the worst in the long line of tragedies that were part of their harsh way of life. For two long days and nights a party of seal hunters—132 men—were left stranded on an icefield floating in the North Atlantic in winter. They were thinly dressed, with almost no food, and with no hope of shelter against the snow or the constant, bitter winds. To survive they had to keep moving, always moving. Those who lay down to rest died. This is an incredible story of bungling and greed, of suffering and heroism. With the aid of compelling, contemporary photographs, the book paints an unforgettable portrait of the bloody trade of seal hunting among the icefields when ships and men were expendable.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This was a first rate read. This story proves that real life is far more exciting than anything an author could make up. Thus historic event was a tragedy, and the author told the facts beautifully. I couldn't put this down, even reaching for it in the middle of the night. This was a thriller.

This is an important book to me because Jesse Collins was my great grandfather. I can remember my grandfather telling me this story and other stories of growing up in Newfoundland and living at sea. It was a difficult life. I appreciate someone writing this account of the disaster so that we won't

ever forget.

Unbelievable story of conditions that boys and men endured to try to make a few dollars and the greed of many of the ship captains. Made me glad I protested the mass killing of seal pups. Story of courage and greed. A must read for understanding the life of the Newfoundland people.

I read this book in High School and do remember being greatly astonished by this event. After reading it a second time 30 years later I was no less astonished or impacted. This book is a must read for all who are interested in Newfoundland culture. The author does a wonderful job of reporting the story and presenting the key figures in the historical account.

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