The British Mount Everest expedition was the ninth mountaineering expedition to attempt the first ascent of Mount Everest and the first confirmed to have succeeded when Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay reached the summit on Friday, 29 May. News of the expedition's success reached
London in time to be released on the morning of Queen Elizabeth II's coronation on the 2nd of June that year.

Identified as the highest mountain in the world during the 19th century, Everest became a subject of interest during the Man Who Made it Possible Golden Age of alpinism although its height made it questionable if it could ever be climbed.

George Mallory is quoted as having said he wanted to climb Everest "Because it's there", a phrase that has been called "the most famous three words in mountaineering". Most early attempts on Everest were made from the north Tibetan side, but the Chinese Revolution and subsequent annexation of Tibet led to the closure of that route.

Climbers began to look at an approach from the Nepalese side. Eric Shipton had been widely expected to be the leader, because he had led the Mount Everest reconnaissance expedition from Nepal in; as well as the unsuccessful Cho Oyu expedition from which expedition most of the climbers selected had been drawn.

However, the committee had decided that Hunt's experience of military leadership, together with his credentials as a climber, would provide the best chance for expedition to succeed. The British felt under particular pressure, as the French had received permission to mount a similar expedition in the Swiss another innumerable that the British would not have another chance at Everest until or later. Several members of the British expedition had a Everest - The First Ascent: The Untold Story of Griffith Pugh loyalty to Shipton and were unhappy that he had been replaced.

Charles Evans for instance, stated, "It was said that Shipton lacked the killer instinct — not a bad thing to lack in my view. Hunt later wrote that the Joint Himalayan Committee had found the task of raising funds for the expedition challenging. One of the principal tasks of the Everest - The First Ascent: The Untold Story of Griffith Pugh Himalayan Committee the Man Who Made it Possible addition to those of conceiving the idea of an Everest expedition, seeking political sanction, deciding matters of policy in preparation, is to finance it.

Only those who have had this care can fully appreciate the work and anxiety of raising very substantial funds for an enterprise of this nature, coloured as it inevitably is in the mind Everest - The First Ascent: The Untold Story of Griffith Pugh the public by a succession of failures, with no financial security other than the pockets of the Committee members themselves.

Initial training took place Everest - The First Ascent: The Untold Story of Griffith Pugh Snowdonia in Wales during the winter. The Pen-y-Gwryd hotel was used as a base camp, and the team furthered their mountaineering skills on the slopes of Snowdon and the Glyderau. Hillary and Lowe approached Nepal from New Zealand, Lowe by sea and Hillary by air, as his "bees were in a busy state at that time of year".

In Kathmandu, the party was looked after by the British ambassador, Christopher Summerhayes, who arranged rooms with embassy staff; there being no hotels in Kathmandu at the time. They were led by their Sirdar Tenzing Norgay who was attempting Everest for the sixth time and was, according to Rand, "the best-known Sherpa climber and a mountaineer of world standing". The first party, together with porters, left Kathmandu for Mount Everest on 10 March, followed by the second party and porters on 11 March.

They reached Thyangboche on 26 and 27 March respectively, and between 26 March and 17 April engaged in altitude acclimation. Hunt planned for three assaults of two climbers each including "a third and last attempt" if necessary, although after two consecutive assaults; a wait for some days would be necessary to "recover our strength" and to replenish the camps.

The plan for the first two assaults had been announced by Hunt on 7 May. The first assault party using closed-circuit oxygen equipment was to start from Camp VIII and aim to reach the South Summit and if possible the Summit composed of Tom Bourdillon and Charles Evans as only Bourdillon could cope with the experimental sets.

The second assault party using open-circuit oxygen equipment was to be the strongest climbing pair, Ed Hillary and Tenzing Norgay; to start from Camp IX higher on the South Col. If the spring expedition failed a post-monsoon autumn attempt would be undertaken as the Swiss had done in - permission was for the whole year; although the Swiss arrived too late.

The "Icefall party" reached Base Camp at 17, ft m on 12 April A series of advanced camps the Man Who Made it Possible created, slowly reaching higher up the mountain. The first of two climbing pairs previously selected by Hunt, Tom Bourdillon and Charles Evans, set out for the summit on 26 May. They could see that between the South Summit and the Summit was a thin crest of snow and ice on rock, with a rock step the Hillary Step. Norgay had previously ascended to a record high point on Everest as a member of the Swiss expedition of They left Camp IX at 6.

Before descending, they remained at the summit long enough to take photographs and to bury some sweets and a small cross in the snow. James Morris the correspondent on the spot of The Times newspaper, the Man Who Made it Possible the news at Base Camp on 26 May and sent a coded message by runner to Namche Bazaar where a wireless transmitter was used to forward it as a telegram to the British Embassy in Kathmandu. Returning to Kathmandu a few days later, the expedition learned that Hillary had already been appointed a Knight Commander of the Order of British Empire and Hunt a Knight Bachelor for their efforts.

Hillary and Hunt were given kukris in jewelled sheaths, while the other members received jewelled caskets. The same day, the Government of India announced the creation of a new Gold Medal, an award for civilian gallantry modelled on the George Medal of which Hunt, Hillary and Tenzing would be the first recipients. Further honours continued to descend on the members of the expedition: the Hubbard Medal of the National Geographic Society which had never before been awarded on a team basis, the Man Who Made it Possible individual medals were struck in bronze for Hunt, Hillary and Tenzing [50] the Cullum Geographical Medal of the American Geographical Society the Founder's Medal of the Royal Geographical Society the Lawrence Medal of the Royal Central Asian Society; and honorary degrees from the universities of AberdeenDurham and London.
The expedition's cameraman, Tom Stobart produced a film called The Conquest of Everest which appeared later in [53] and was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature.

Although Hillary and Tenzing represented their triumph as belonging to a team effort by the whole of the expedition, there was intense speculation as to which of the two men had actually been first to set foot on the summit of Everest.

In Kathmandu, a large banner depicted Tenzing pulling a "semi-conscious" Hillary to the summit. I continued on, cutting steadily and surmounting bump after bump and cornice after cornice looking eagerly for the summit. It seemed impossible to pick it and time was running out. Finally I the Man Who Made it Possible around the back of an extra large lump and then on a tight rope from Tenzing I climbed up a gentle snow ridge to its top. Immediately it was obvious that we had reached our objective. It was Shipton commented on the successful ascent: "Thank goodness. Now we can get Everest - The First Ascent: The Untold Story of Griffith Pugh with some proper climbing.

The expedition participants were selected for their mountaineering qualifications and also for their expertise in providing a number of other necessary skills and support services. Griffith Pugh's impact is often overlooked.

He improved activities such as hydration and oxygen intake, and enabled sustained mountaineering efforts. His ideas revolutionised almost every aspect of British high-altitude mountaineering, transforming the climbers' attitude to oxygen, the clothes they wore, their equipment, fluid intake and acclimatisation. The mountaineers were accompanied by Jan Morris known at the time under the name of James Morris the correspondent of The Times newspaper of London, and by portersso that the expedition in the end amounted to over four hundred men, including twenty Sherpa guides from Tibet and Nepal, with a total weight Everest - The First Ascent: The Untold Story of Griffith Pugh ten thousand pounds of baggage.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. The message was initially interpreted at the embassy to mean that Bourdillion and Tenzing had reached the summit, but this was corrected before release. Three thousand feet was "Waistcoat Crossword Amsterdam. So he developed a simple code though it could only be used once or twice to send enciphered but apparently sensible messages; they "would make perfect sense, but it would be the wrong sense".

He kept two copies, and sent one by runner to Hutchison at Katmandu. Which being interpreted meant: "Summit of Everest reached on May 29 by Hillary and Tenzing". John Hunt at Base Camp had lost hope that news of the successful ascent would reach London for the Coronation, and they listened with "growing excitement and amazement" when it was announced on All India Radio from London on the evening of 2 June, the day of the Coronation. At 2 pm on 1 June, the Indian Wireless News bulletin had announced that the the the Man Who Made it Possible had failed.


**Everest, by Harriet Tuckey | The Spectator**

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Thanks for telling us about the problem. Return to Book Page. Everest in and a biography of her father, Dr Griffith Pugh, whose role was absolutely pivotal, yet mostly untold.

Without him and his work, the ascent of Everest would have been impossible. Get A Copy. Hardcoverpages. Published May 21st by Lyons Press first published January 1st More Details Other Editions Friend Reviews.

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More filters. Sort order. Not just for the story of the ascent of Everest and some re-balancing of the mythology. But also for the insight into the cult of armiturism and 'gentleman sportsmen' that emerged from the British public schools of the 19th C and continued well into the 20th, and for the insight into scientific practice, and the age-old tussle between the maverick genius academic and the forces of order and bureaucracy, and finally, for the honesty of the study of the relationship between a daught Fascinating.

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of order and bureaucracy, and finally, for the honesty of the study of the relationship between a daughter and her father.

Harriet Tuckey achieved an impressive objectivity with some material that must have been challenging. Fascinating read with multiple revelations about Pugh's scientific research playing a major but ignored role in the '53 expedition and Tuckey's fractious relationship with him.

What I found the most interesting though was the totally different perspective on the legends that are Shipton, Tilman and Hillary and their disregard for science and organisation to a certain extent. Nov 20, Gretchen rated it liked it.

I enjoyed the part about Everest but the rest of it dragged on a bit. Everest - The First Ascent: The Untold Story of Griffith Pugh think it could have been shortened to omit the Olympics and I wasn't really interested in her personal relationship with her father. Then, on the actual climb, he made technical calculations about the oxygen flow rate, ensuring they had enough to get to the top — and back again.

While the last measure may seem the more significant, the peaches and lemonade may have been almost as important. The problems of dehydration and loss of appetite for climbers at altitude were well known but was the lack of oxygen. But it took a brilliant physiologist to work out seemingly simple solutions to these intractable problems. Griffith Pugh was the physiologist on the successful British Mt Everest expedition, but before this ground-breaking biography by his daughter, Harriet Tuckey, his role has rarely been acknowledged.

Indeed, if The Man Who Made it Possible was mentioned at all in accounts of the famous ascent, it was often as a symbol of derision or annoyance. Pugh was a difficult, sometimes abrasive character, with something of the absent-minded scientist about him as well.

As a father and husband he left a lot to be desired. Pugh recognised that melting water at altitude was a chore, the Man Who Made it Possible that to stay hydrated climbers needed the Man Who Made it Possible to drink adequately.

The answer? Mixing in their favourite, sugary sachet — lemonade. And encouraging climbers to eat at altitude? Give each the Man Who Made it Possible their individual favourite foods for consumption high on the mountain.

As well as playing a significant role developing the open circuit oxygen sets so successfully used by Hillary and Tenzing, Pugh also made a wide range of improvements to gear design, and on the approach march sought to improve the hygiene of camps to avoid sickness among the climbers.

Many expeditions have a scapegoat, a figure who becomes the butt of jokes, someone who acts as pressure relief valve in a tightly-knit community where friction is almost inevitable. Upon arriving at the Western Cym, ready to undertake his scientific experiments, Pugh found it full of mango chutney. While he was understandably livid, virtually everyone else found it outrageously funny.

This is one of the most important books that I read this year. The topic of the ethics of mountaineering and exploration and how mountaineers view their sport and their roles is one that has fascinated me for a long time. However, this is not a eulogy to her father she did not get along with him and did not particularly like him, although she came to appreciate the Man Who Made it Possible through writing the book but a well-researched look at his contributions and the British climbing culture.

It is Everest - The First Ascent: The Untold Story of Griffith Pugh that mountaineering and even arctic exploring belonged to British upper classes and that the culture declared that these activities were for the good of the group, that no one should cheat by doing things like using oxygen, learning about the importance of fluids or foods at high elevations, or be concerned about the Man Who Made it Possible.

At one point, Tuckey basically says that the main problem confronting progress in high altitude mountaineer was that those in control were just too British.

In addition to his work with mountaineering, Pugh worked with athletes at the Olympics held in Mexico City at an altitude of well over a mile above sea level. He was also the first person to investigate the effects of drafting on bike racing. And, Tuckey is a wonderful writer. Jul 30, Sudipto Roy rated it it was amazing Shelves: reads. I found it gripping and finished it rather quickly.

Everyone may not. This is not just a biography of an unusual scientist who did not get his fair share of recognition and fame. But it also explores the man's mind and character at one level and a daughter's coming to terms with her difficult father at another. The amount of research that went into the writing of this book is simply mind boggling.

No wonder she spent ten years to write it. Reputations of established heroes like Ed Hillary or John I found it gripping and finished it rather quickly. Reputations of established heroes like Ed Hillary or John Hunt or even Eric Shipton are demolished with facts and logic and entirely new the Man Who Made it Possible is thrown on the establishment of British mountaineering in the 50s and 60s. It was a new thing for me to learn that there was ever a conflict between climbers and scientists and that climbers actually looked down upon scientists and physiologists.

However, I found it odd that the name of Hermann Buhl did not crop up even once in the entire book that deals with oxygen and climbing and effect of altitude on human body. Buhl had climbed the world's third highest peak Nanga Parbat in without oxygen.

But then she constantly talks about effect of "oxygen less climb above 27, feet". Well Nanga Parbat is less than that of course. Feb 23, Ruby rated it really liked it. Written by Pugh's estranged daughter who stumbled on documents outlining a man completely different from the angry and distant father she knew. After 30 years of unsuccessful attempts to summit mount Everest, the idea of assessing the impact of equipment finally occurs to a team of climbers. But, rather than the respect he deserved, his work was constantly swept under the rug and hidden while the climbers getting press time claimed the glory for themselves.
The few people in the climbing world who knew anything about what he was doing found it hard to credit that, as a scientist, he was capable of making a useful contribution. Far from treating him as worthy of respect, they regarded him as an object of skepticism and suspicion. Apr 19, Lele rated it it was amazing. A really good book. I liked everything about it and didn't think it dragged at all, although you might think so if you are reading it mostly for the Everest ascent.

But I also enjoyed the rest of Pugh's biography, the descriptions of his experiments and his complicated relationship with his family, so I didn't the Man Who Made it Possible that the mountain climbing part didn't take up the majority of the focus.

The title is probably misleading, but I guess given that Pugh isn't as well-remembered as he maybe should be A really good book. The title is probably misleading, but I guess given that Pugh isn't as well-remembered as he maybe should be they had to put Everest in there somewhere.

It's really more about the beginning of sport physiology in general than mountain climbing specifically. Jan 26, Rachel Welton rated it it was amazing. Absolutely fascinating journey through the biography of an unsung physiologist attached to the Everest expedition. I was at times amazed, and at times angry at the treatment Griffith Pugh received, but not completely surprised.

The dynamics of jock vs nerd will continue to play out. This is the story of how the jocks would not have made it without the nerd, if only they had realised it at the time.

The book provides great insights into the science that went into the first Everest summit. I found the details regarding the various research done by Pugh also fascinating. Can personally attest that drinking water really helps with altitude!

**Griffith Pugh - Wikipedia**

Many pioneers are Janus-faced in this way — those fervent, half-mad, ambitious men and sometimes women who scale mountains, chart the uncharted and meanwhile terrorise or abandon their families. At 43, Pugh was the oldest member of the Everest team. Tuckey quotes Michael Ward, Everest doctor: There had been 11 previous expeditions to Mount Everest, many of which had excellent leaders, highly skilled climbers and brilliant logistics… and they failed.

Mindful of previous deficiencies, Pugh advocated new oxygen and fluid-intake regimes and a detailed acclimatisation programme. He attended closely to matters the Man Who Made it Possible hygiene and diet; he redesigned the high-altitude boots, the tents, the down clothing, the mountain stoves and the airbeds. At every stage, the Everest climbers benefitted from his findings on heat loss, the mechanical needs of the body at high altitude and the physiological and even Everest - The First Ascent: The Untold Story of Griffith Pugh effects of discomfort.

Amundsen was transfixed by details, and, in extreme conditions, details support or condemn you. After Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay gained the summit, the Everest team returned to inevitable media delirium.

All this is well argued and meticulously researched. The result is a vibrant, hard-hitting and very moving book, and a fascinating addition to the Everest story.