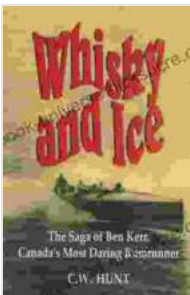


The Saga of Ben Kerr: Canada's Most Daring Rumrunner

In the annals of Canadian history, few figures loom larger than Ben Kerr, the legendary rumrunner who defied prohibition and became a folk hero. His exploits along the treacherous waters of the Atlantic Ocean and the Great Lakes cemented his status as one of the most daring smugglers of all time.



Whisky and Ice: The Saga of Ben Kerr, Canada's Most Daring Rumrunner by C.W. Hunt

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 4101 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 192 pages



Early Life and Bootlegging Roots

Benjamin "Ben" Kerr was born in 1896 in the small town of Bathurst, New Brunswick. Growing up in a family of fishermen, he developed a keen understanding of the sea and a fearless spirit that would serve him well in his future endeavors.

With the advent of prohibition in Canada in 1918, Kerr saw an opportunity to make a fortune. He began by smuggling liquor across the border from

the United States into his home province. As his operation grew, he expanded his network to include suppliers in the Caribbean and rum distilleries in Cuba.

The Rum-Running King

Kerr quickly became known as the "Rum-Running King" for his audacity and success. He employed a fleet of fast boats, known as "rumrunners," to transport his illicit cargo under the cover of darkness. His vessels were equipped with powerful engines, hidden compartments, and ingenious devices to evade detection by the authorities.

Kerr's ingenuity extended beyond the design of his boats. He developed a network of safe houses, secret landing points, and corrupt officials who facilitated his operations. He also enlisted the support of local fishermen and communities, who profited from the influx of contraband and the economic opportunities it created.

Battles with the Law

Despite his cunning and evasiveness, Kerr's rum-running empire could not escape the attention of the law. He faced numerous arrests and prosecutions, but he always managed to outsmart his pursuers. His charismatic personality and clever legal maneuvers earned him the admiration of the public, who saw him as a rebel fighting against an unjust law.

One of Kerr's most famous battles with the law occurred in 1928, when he was captured with a massive cargo of rum aboard his vessel, the J.K.L. Rather than face prosecution, Kerr jumped overboard and swam ashore, disappearing into the wilderness.

The End of an Era

Prohibition in Canada came to an end in 1934, marking the decline of the rumrunning era. Kerr continued to operate his smuggling operation for some time, but he eventually transitioned to more legitimate pursuits.

In 1952, Kerr was pardoned for his past crimes by the Canadian government. He became a respected businessman and philanthropist, serving as Mayor of Bathurst from 1954 to 1957.

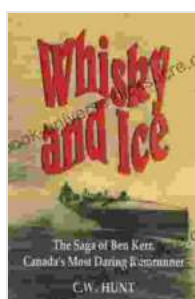
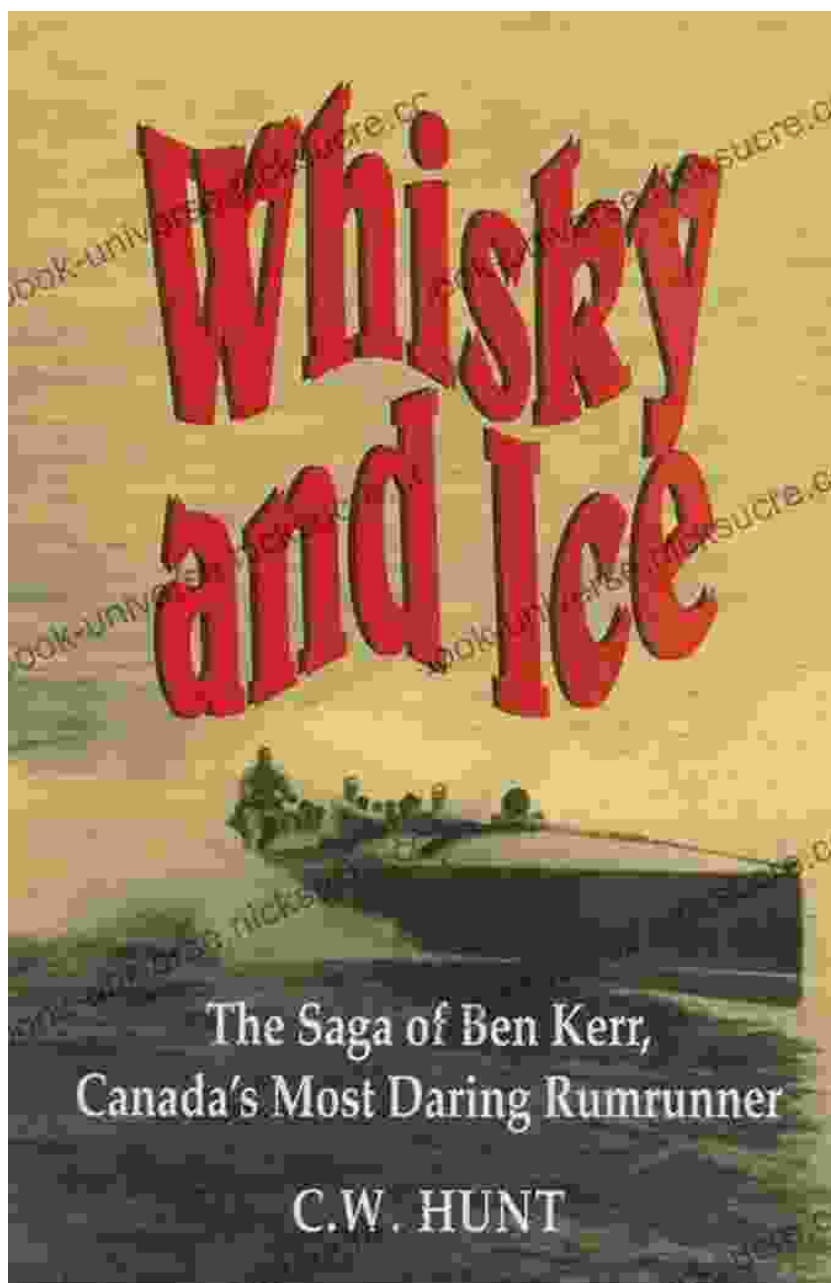
Legacy and Folklore

Ben Kerr's legacy lives on in Canadian history and folklore. He is remembered as a daring adventurer, a resourceful entrepreneur, and a symbol of defiance against unjust authority. His story has been immortalized in books, films, and songs, ensuring that his legend will continue to inspire generations to come.

The Saga of Ben Kerr is a captivating tale of adventure, ingenuity, and triumph over adversity. As one of Canada's most daring rumrunners, he left an indelible mark on the country's history and became a folk hero to this day. His exploits continue to fascinate and inspire, reminding us of the resilience and audacity of the human spirit.

Further Reading

- Benjamin Fritz Kerr
- The Rumrunners
- The Rum-Runner: The Ben Kerr Story

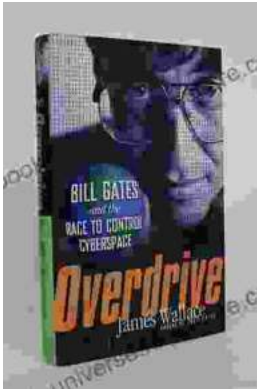


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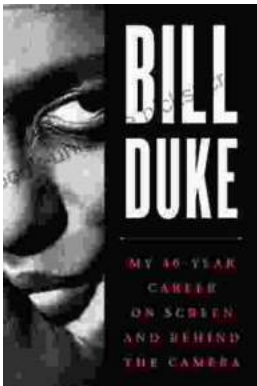
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