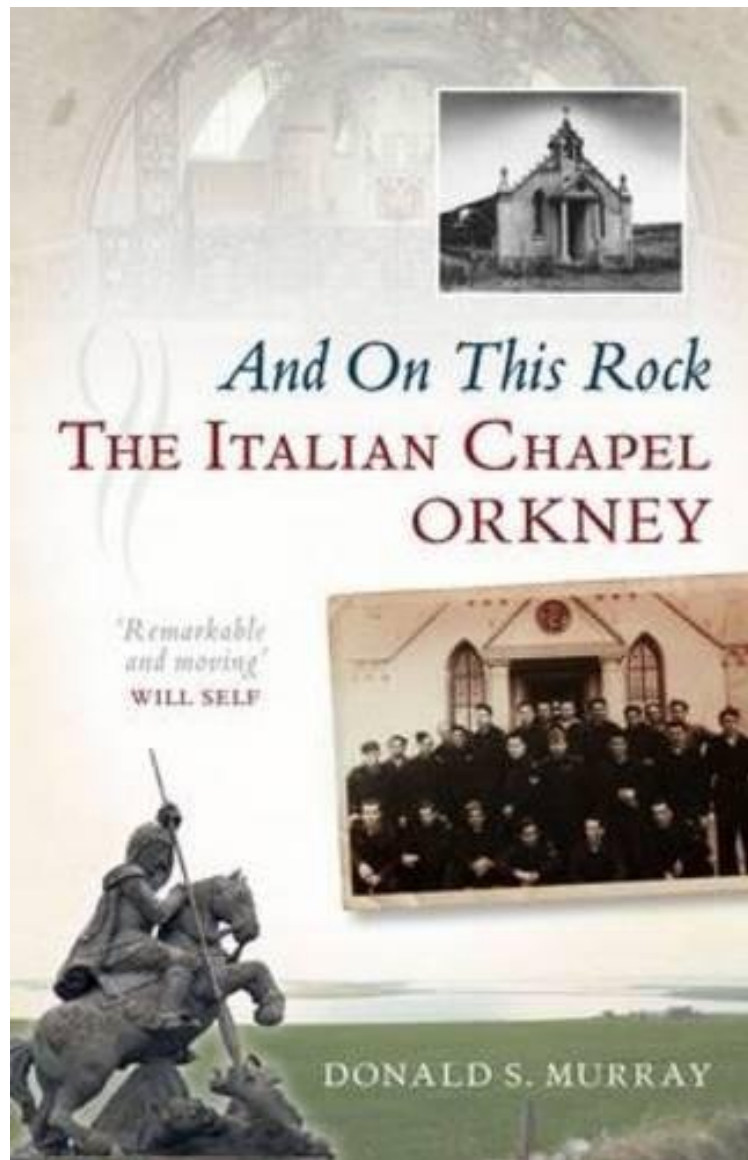


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And On This Rock: The Italian Chapel: Orkney

Donald S. Murray

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Donald S. Murray : And On This Rock: The Italian Chapel: Orkney before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised And On This Rock: The Italian Chapel: Orkney:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. orkney chapelBy G.I.ForbesThis is the story of one of the worlds most romantic buildings namely the Italian Chapel on Lambs Holm, Orkney Islands,Scotland.Built by 260 Italian POWs between 1942-6 from bits and pieces who had been sent to build the Churchill barriers to protect Scapa Flow from German submarines.(work continued after the war ended by volunteer prisoners who opted to stay on).What

makes the book are a) an excellent Text and b) magnificent pictures. Restoration work was carried out in 1965 and the 1990s and a 50 year anniversary in 1992 with invited ex POWs. A 10 star book.

Thousands of visitors go to the Italian Chapel in Orkney every year, witnesses to a series of remarkable acts of transformation. Among these are the Churchill Barriers nearby, straddling the ocean to link a number of Orkney's southernmost islands to its mainland. Constructed to protect Britain's naval fleet in Scapa Flow during World War Two, its builders included a group of Italian soldiers imprisoned in this bleak and windswept part of Scotland. In the course of this, they not only played a part in changing Orkney's way-of-life forever but also transformed a simple Nissen Hut, constructing through their labours a place-of-worship that still stands till this day a remarkable symbol of their identity and faith. And On This Rock tells the story of the strength and tenacity, laughter and tears of the men who built the Italian Chapel, showing how spirits defeated and despondent during years of exile were lifted by its creation. It does this with its own artistry and grace, using folk-tale and myth to provide a fitting counterpart to the wonder and beauty of the building that inspired it. Illustrated.

'A beautiful book in many ways' * New Shetlander * About the Author Donald S. Murray was born in Ness in the Isle of Lewis. A teacher, author and journalist, his poetry, prose and verse has been shortlisted for both the Saltire Award and Callum Macdonald Memorial Award. Published widely, his work has also appeared in a number of national anthologies and on BBC Radio 4 and Radio Scotland. He is the author of The Guga Hunters, also published by Birlinn. He lives and works in Shetland.