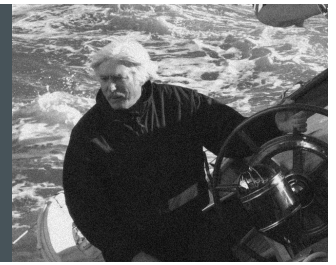
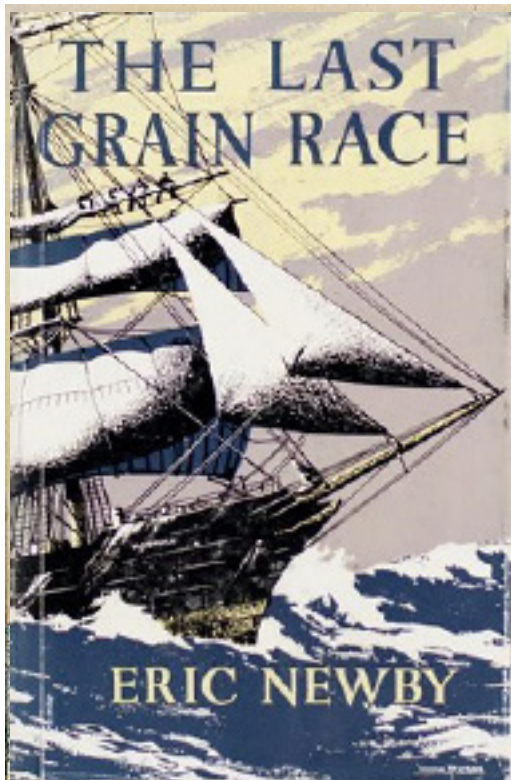


# Tom Cunliffe



Tom's  
Book of the month recommendation  
October 2021

The Last Grain Race  
by  
Eric Newby



*First published by Martin Secker & Warberg Ltd in 1956, it has been through many editions since. It is now out of print, but is freely available second-hand over the internet*

Eric Newby wrote many great travel books, but for my money you can't beat his 'The Last Grain Race'. It is required reading for all who go to sea.



*Eric Newby on board Moshulu*

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In 1938 aged eighteen, Eric Newby signed on the 4-masted barque *Moshulu* for a round voyage to Australia from the UK. She was one of the largest sailing ships ever built, at around 320ft on the waterline and 3,200 gross tons. Constructed in Glasgow in 1904, she was sold in 1935 to Gustaf Erikson of Mariehamn in the Swedish Åland Islands.

Erikson operated a fleet of these mighty vessels, eking out a profit from the bulk grain cargoes which still suited them by hiring youngsters as low-paid crew or apprentices. The ships were undermanned and run on a shoestring, but were in all other respects thoroughly seamanlike.

The Last Grain Race is funny, passionate and crammed with fo'c'sle reminiscences from a time that is almost within our reach, but which can never return. It has become a classic that has influenced thousands of young men and women to go to sea for better or worse.

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