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'Blades of Grass' chronicles life of British adventurer George Hogg

Mark Aylwin Thomas tells his uncle's story in new biography

KIRKKONUMMI, Finland – “Blades of Grass: The Story of George Aylwin Hogg” ([published by AuthorHouse UK](#)) chronicles the life of British adventurer George Hogg, who became a hero in China for saving 60 orphaned boys he taught by taking them to the remote confines of Northwestern China in Shandan during the Sino-Japanese War.

In addition to covering Hogg's personal adventures, author Mark Aylwin Thomas draws from Hogg's written accounts to offer insights into everyday life in China before the Chinese Communist Revolution.

Thomas, Hogg's nephew, shares the same middle name as his uncle, whom Thomas became fascinated with after attending a 1988 memorial event in China. Since then he has acted in the role of his uncle in a six-part miniseries for Chinese television, and he has been the guardian of his uncle's papers and legacy.

An excerpt from “Blades of Grass”:

[Marshall of the guerrilla Eighth Route Army] Zhu De urged him on ... by encouraging him in the idea to find Rewi Alley, whose centre of operations was now based in Baoji, west of Xi'an, and asked him to write about all he saw, honestly and clearly, to tell the world what was going on inside China.

“Blades of Grass”

By Mark Aylwin Thomas

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About the Author

Mark Aylwin Thomas, who was born a few months after George Hogg's death, was raised in England and has lived in Finland since 1974. “Blades of Grass” is his first book.

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