

Jacqueline Mittelholzer

## THE IDYLL AND THE WARRIOR (Recollections of Edgar Mittelholzer)

*The Idyll and the Warrior* is a moving account of the relationship between Edgar Mittelholzer and his second wife Jacqueline, up to the time of his tragic death on May 5<sup>th</sup> 1965. It provides the reader with a vivid account of the last five years of his life, and analyses his creative output during that period. The book also contains a play by Jacqueline – ‘**Fate and the Warrior**’ –based on her recollections of their life together.

Edgar Mittelholzer was living in London when Jacqueline met him in 1959. He had been married previously and had four children, but now was divorced and continuing to publish at least two novels a year. For the five years of their marriage, they lived in a rented cottage in the grounds of a larger house in Farnham, Surrey. Their son Leo was born in December, 1962, but tragically Edgar was to take his own life just two and a half years later.

Jacqueline writes: “His death was in a sense violent, certainly horrific. He has been described as having this streak of violence, which found its outlet in demanding that extreme measures be used against violent criminals. Certainly the conflict between softness and harshness was even stronger in him than in most people... I would like to suggest that his earlier self may have shown his sympathy and understanding more clearly. He may have been more like the Edgar I encountered first – ‘the Idyll’ more than ‘the Warrior’.”

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By Jacqueline Mittelholzer