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TERRIBLE HARDSHIPS OF BRITISH EXPLORERS

One Party of Scott Expedition Lived Over Six Months in Snowdrift

Suffered Tortures With Light Clothing and Short of Provisions—Amundsen's Letter Planted at South Pole Found on Body of Heroic Commander—Britain Stunned at the Tragedy, and Families of Victims Will Be Cared For—Amundsen Describes in Graphic Manner the Terrible Ice Fields Where Disaster Occurred.

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(Special Cable to Central News, Ltd.)

The following is the second installment of the despatch written and signed by Lieutenst E. R. G. R. Evans, R. N. who was Captain Scott's second in command:

Christ Church, New Zealand, Feb 10—"On November 5, Surgeon Atkinson brought his party to Hut Point and there received the welcome news that the entire northern party consisting of Lieutenant Campbell, Surgeon Levick, Mr. Priestly the geologist, and Seamen Abbot, Browning and Dickinson had returned in safety to the expedition's base at Cape Evans on the seventh of November.

"Campbell's party which had been picked up at Cape Adare and landed for a short sledge journey in January 1912, returned to Terra Nova Bay on February 17, expecting to be picked up by the Terra Nova. The ship as detailed in last year's despatches met with ice conditions approaching the coast that were quite insuperable and was forced to leave Lieutenant Campbell and his party to make their own way back to Cape Evans, some 200 miles away. The journey could not be attemped until the sea was properly frozen over. Disappointed at the non-appearance of the ship, Campbell set to work on the first of March to prepare to winter, duly considering the resources at his disposal.

Lived Six Months in a Snow Drift.

"He selected for the home of his party a snow drift and into this they cut and burrowed, eventually completing a igloo the dimensions of which were thirteen feet by nine. This they insulated with sea weed. Whilst the igloo was in course of construction every seal that appeared was killed, for the shortage of food and fuel was the most serious problem that had to be faced.

"Campbell and his companions led a primitive existence here for six and a half months. Their diet was seal meat and blubber eked out with a few biscuits and a very small quantity of cocoa and sugar. They only had their summer sledding clothes to wear and these were soon saturated with blubber which penetrated to the skin. Their meteorological record shows winds which were almost constantly of gale force. Temperatures were not recorded, their thermometer having been broken. Sickness in the shape of acute enteritis attacked the party and weakened them to such an extent that a start for Cape Evans was not made until September 30.

"Even then the condition of Petty Officer Browning gave cause for grave anxiety but on arrival at Cape Roberts the party fortunately but unexpectedly found a food depot left by Griffith Taylor. The change to biscuits restored Browning to health in a remarkably short time.

"The northern party's trouble ended now and they made good progress to Cape Evans. This party was fortunate in picking up Professor David's specimens on Depot Island. The most remarkable feature of this journey was that the entire party lived through an Antarctic winter and actually sledged 230 miles on the stores and equipment left for one month's sledging. The appearance of seal after the winter had once set in proved after all a fortunate chance.

"At Cape Evans the scientific work of the expedition was continued throughout the winter. In this sad report, it would be out of place to expand into a detailed description of the special work which was carried out, but in fairness to those concerned it should be said that the results equalled those of last year.

Brought Letter Left at the Pole.

"While awaiting the arrival of the Terra Nova an ascent of Mount Erebus was made by a party consisting of Priestley, Debenham, Gran, Abbot, Dickason and Hooper for geological and surveying purposes, the party being away for a fortnight. When the ship arrived the records, collections and specimens were packed and with the best part of the expeditionary equipment were placed on board. The records include a letter from Captain Amundsen to the King of Norway brought back from the South Pole by the southern party. The shore party embarked with dogs, a sufficiency of foodstuffs and clothing was left at Cape Evans and forty eight hours later the Terra Nova left winter quarters. She proceeded toward Hut point and landed eight men who erected a large cross on Observation Hill overlooking the great ice barrier where our gallant leader and his brave comrades of the southern party sacrificed their lives to the honor of their country after the achievement of the great object of this expedition.

"Before leaving the antarctic the ship called at Cape Royds, Granite Harbor and Terra Nova Bay to pick up depots of geological specimens. We have established provision depots at Cape Evans, Hut point, and Terra Nova Bay.

Passed Iceberg 21 Miles Long.

"It is interesting to note that on the return voyage to New Zealand in latitude sixty-four degrees, fifteen minutes south, longitude 159 degrees, fifteen minutes east the Terra Nova passed close to an iceberg which was no less than twenty-one geographical miles in length. On February 2, in latitude 62 degrees, ten minutes south, longitude 152 degrees, during thick weather, the ship was beset with icebergs and at slow speed steamed for six miles along the face of one huge berg. She was in a narrow channel out of which she could not work owing to the close grouping of detached icebergs which lay on either hand. We have passed hundreds of icebergs, some of which from their exceptional size may drift to lower latitudes before disintegration and become a danger to navigation. Undoubtedly this is a bad year for ice. The Terra Nova has usually been clear except for isolated bergs in much higher latitudes.

"All the surviving members of the expedition are in excellent health.

"After a month in New Zealand for refitting, the Terra Nova will proceed to Cardiff, Lieutenant Pennell (commanding), Lieutenant Rennick, Surgeon Levick and the Biologists, Nelson and Lillie returning in the ship.

"Commander Evans, Lieutenant Campbell, Lieutenant Bruce, Surgeon Atkinson, Secretary Drake and Messrs Wright, Priestley, Debenham, Cherry, Carrard and Gran will return by mail steamer."

(Sg'd.) "E. R. G. R. EVANS,
"Commander Royal Navy, Commanding Expedition."

Amundsen's Views of the Disaster.

Chicago, Feb. 11—A thrilling picture of the probable manner in which Robert F. Scott and four of his companions met death on the ice barrier close to the earth's southern extremity was painted verbally by Captain Roald Amundsen, discoverer of the South Pole, who was in Chicago today.

"It is hard to say just what happened," said the Norwegian explorer, "but we can imagine, perhaps, although it is horrible. We know, of course, that it happened about the 79th parallel and that they were down on teh barrier and not the plateau. And just about there our positive knowledge stops.

"Certainly they were exhausted and starving. It may be they had some scurvy among them, who can say? At any rate, they were not in a fit condition to meet the terrible blizzard when it came.

"Not that blizzards are unusual; Scott was prepared for them, for he was no amateur. One may always expect blizzards in that country. But there they were, those forlorn fellows, struggling along without even ponies to draw their sledges, for they had sent back their last ponies when they had reached a point 150 miles from the pole journey southward.

An Awful Stretch of Ice.

"They were drawing their own sledges, weakened though they must have been. They had no dogs, and that was a mistake, I am afraid. And always before them there stretched that awful waste of ice. Can you see it? It is flat ice stretched across the country in long, glassy undulations—stretching away so far and white that the eye cannot bear to follow it.

"And across the frozen surface sweeps the wind—furiously. The great flat expanse offers a terrific sweep for the blast and there is no protection except what man is able to build for himself."

Captain Amundsen passed a hand across his eyes.

"And they died," he said, softly. "Of course, Evans had died already. He fell on the ice. But the others must have died within a short time of each other. Oates went bravely, you know, out into the blizzard that his sickly condition might not hinder the others. That was a great sacrifice, but it did no good.

"I cannot read that last message of Captain Scott's without emotion. I never met him personally, but I know he was a brave man.

"And to think," added the captain in a hushed tone, "that while those brave men were dying in the waste of ice I was lecturing in warmth and comfort in Australia."

Captain Amundsen denied that he had suggested that the men who met death might have fallen into a crevasse.

"It is rediculous," he asserted, "to think that five men would fall into a crevasse."

Shackleton Nearly Met Same Fate.

Prof. H. J. Cox, weather forecaster, who had listened to the Norwegian adventurer's narrative, broke in: "Shackleton nearly met the same fate, you know."

"Yes," said Amundsen, "Shackleton had a hard time getting back. He nearly met death." He turned back just in time, in the very hour, in fact, to save his life. And he was only 111 miles from the pole.

"Can you think of the disappointment in that case? Only 111 miles from his goal. Yet it is a long distance. When there are railroad tracks and Pullman cars and comfort and good cheer, 111 miles is nothing. There in the frozen south it is thousands of miles."

Captain Amundsen made it plain that the fate of Scott and his aides would not deter him in his plans for a north polar expedition beginning next year.

"Why should I hesitate?" he asked. "These affairs are very sad, but they are really uncommon. It is not what one may expect as perhaps some of you may think. No, I shall start and I believe I will be successful."

"What do you care about the north pole now, captain?" was asked.

"Nothing," said the explorer swiftly. "I do not seek the pole. I may not even reach it. I do not care whether I do. These stories that I am to actually seek the pole are untrue. I am going north only on a scientific expedition—chiefly to study air and ocean currents. If I am close to the pole and conditions are favorable I will go there; not otherwise. The story that I will take an aeroplane is untrue. It is ridiculous."

Captain Amundsen sent the following telegram anent the Scott tragedy:

"Commander Terra Nova, Lyttleton (N. Z.):

"Deep sorrow loss comrades. Congratulations success expedition."

"Kinsey, Christ Church (N. Z.):

"Convey deep sorrow Mmes. Scott and Wilson loss husbands. Magnificent battle."

Britain's Heart Stirred.

London, Feb. 11—Grief and pride in the simple narrative of high courage, endurance and sacrifice given in Captain Robert N. Scott's farewell message to the world, written while he was doomed to death with his companions in the Antartic ice and snow, are close competitors for dominance in the feelings of the British public today.

"It is a white and not a black mourning we wear for these gallant souls, who have done and dared so greatly," is the prevailing note in the comment.

The closing words of Captain Scott's epic: "Had we lived I should have had a tale to tell of the hardihood, the endurance and the courage of my companions which would have stirred the heart of every Englishman. These rough notes and our dead bodies must tell the tale, but surely, surely, a great and rich country like ours, will see that those who are dependent upon us are properly provided for," have had an electric effect.

Steps are on foot already to respond to his appeal to the nation by assuring a comfortable future for those dependent on the men who, while awaiting certain death, could still write that they did not regret their journey.

Scott Not Like Cook.

Captain Scott's interest in the welfare of his men was emphasized by practically the last business he transacted before he left to join the expedition in New Zealand. This was the sale of his story: He declined to make any private profit from the transaction and decided that the total receipts should go to increase the financial reward of the men who had undertaken to share with him the dangers of the Antarctic region. It was, therefore, that all sums paid by newspapers throughout the world for the story of the adventure should be distributed among the members of the crew as a surprise bonus on their return to England.

Mrs. Scott is assured of a good pension from the British government. A memorial service for Captain Scott and his companions is to be held in St. Paul's Cathedral on Friday. Many flags in all parts of London are dying today at half staff.

Telegrams from all parts record the profound regret, mingled with pride, felt throughout the British Empire, while messages of sympathy have reached the government in considerable numbers from foreign states.

London, Feb. 11—Details of the disaster in which Captain Scott and four of his men perished in the Antarctic, are brought here in special despatches of the Central News Service. Captain Oates evidently set out from the ten it which the four men had all but succumbed to starvation and exhaustion, to brave death alone in the blizzard which had overwhelmed them.

After a brave struggle for weeks, with his hands frost bitten, Oates declared to his comrades that he was going to set out in the storm and did not know when he would come back. He left the tent and he was never seen again. He evidently knew he was setting out to meet his death along.

The others later tried to push on, but were forced into camp again on March 21, after nine days' struggle in the blizzard. Food and fuel were both exhausted.

Probably realizing that his party was doomed, Captain Scott entered in his diary four days later, on March 25:—"A Message to the Public." In this he declared that the disaster was not due to faulty organization, but to misfortune. He said nobody in the world could expect to successfully encounter such temperature and storms as as they had met on the barrier, which so retarded their progress. When they arrived within eleven miles of One Tone Depot, they had fuel for only one hot meal, and food for two days.

The doomed explorer wrote apologetically of his "rough notes." He said these and the bodies must tell the tale. He appealed to his countrymen for the care of those dependent upon the perishing explorers.

According to the special despatches, the "Terra Nova" relief party which found the bodies, read a simple burial ritual over them. A cairn was erected over the bodies.

The relief expedition then set out in search for the body of Captain Oates, but, although they covered more than twenty miles, they discovered no trace of his body. It was with great difficulty that the party brought back all of the records, including Amundsen's letter to the King of Norway, and a large quantity of geological specimens.

March 25, 1912, the date of Captain Scott's last message to the public, is believed to have been written only four days before death overtook the party.

Terrible Shock to Peary.

Washington, Feb. 11—Rear-Admiral Robert E. Peary, U.S.N., retired, said when he received the news of the death of Capt. Scott and his companions:

"The news comes to me as a terrible shock. Mrs. Scott and the wives and relatives of the brave men who perished with Capt. Scott and the whole British nation have my deepest, sincerest and most heartfelt sympathy and condolence."

Capt. Ronald Amundsen, who led in the race to the pole as against Capt. Scott and other competitors, paid a glowing tribute to Scott in the address he recently made here before the National Geographic Society, on receiving the society's gold medal commemorating his achievements. Amundsen then said that a friendly rivalry had existed between Scott and himself, but that they always had in mind the best interests of scientific research, in which both were engaged.

He felt that the two British explorers, Shackleton and Scott, had done much to assist him by preliminary research in the Antarctic regions.

London, Feb. 11—The tragedy of Captain Robert F. Scott's Antarctic expedition was referred to today in the House of Commons by Premier Asquith. Speaking with evident emotion, he said:—

"We all at this moment, are under the deep impression created by the reading of the last message to the world left by Captain Scott, one of the most moving and pathetic utterances in the annals of discovery. We can only say that his last appeal will not fall on deaf ears."

Scott's widow and baby, the little chap whose only thought of his father, for two years absent, was to take his photograph to bed with him at night and "keep daddy warm," were already idolized by the British people.

National Appeal for Funds.

London, Feb. 11—The committee of the British Antarctic expedition will issue a national appeal for a fund to provide for the relatives of the dead explorers. Among those signing the appeal is Lord Strathcona. The admiralty tonight issued an official expression of its profound regret at the loss of the heroic officers saying: "The circumstances under which Captain Scott and his comrades lost their lives prove with that constancy and resolution they carried out the duty for which they volunteered. The lords and commissioners of the admiralty consider that their loss should be regarded as if they had been killed in action, and their story will long be remembered with honor by the navy."

Nothing has been decided as to what steps the government or the admiralty will take, but full confidence is felt that ample provision will be made.

The Lord Mayor of London has asked the first lord of the admiralty, Mr. Churchill, whether he will open a fund. Mr. Churchill's reply has not yet been given, but the lord mayor says: "If it should be found necessary to open a fund, the Mansion House will rise worthily to an occasion which affects us all."

King George to Attend Memorial Service in St. Paul's Cathedral.

London, Feb. 12—King George announced today that he personally would attend the memorial service for Captain Robert F. Scott and his comrades to be held in St. Paul's cathedral.

Expected Scott Back Last March

Christ Church, N. Z., Feb. 12—Commander Evans said today that reckoning by the progress of the supporting parties, Captain Scott should have returned to Hut Point by March 17. Regarding the shortage of food, he said that Scott had enough to last a month beyond the date of his expected return.

Glowing Eulogies.

London, Feb. 12—Captain Scott's touch-appeal to his countrymen, written when the hand of death was upon him, has especially stirred the public imagination and is the principal theme of editorial comment of the morning papers.

The heroism of Captain Oates in going out to die rather than be a handicap on his companions, also is the subject for these highest tributes of admiration by newspapers. The Morning Post says:

"We never have heard of greater heroism than this, not even among the ancients, who made an art of dying nobly, while Captain Scott's unique dying journal should teach all of us how to live and how to die. We do not think it probable this journey will ever be made again, at least in the practical future. It has been made twice in one winter and these white storm vexed uplands of the Antarctic will resume the loneliness in which they have existed since the birth of the world. But they have not existed for humanity in vain since they have been the occasion for this great heroism."

The Standard considers Scott's journal one of the most amazing documents of the world's history. "That it should have been written at all is wonderful," says the Standard. "That it was written in such a tone of temper is more wonderful still. The record is complete, and leaves no uncertainty and suspense such as existed over the fate of the Franklin expedition. A merciful veil is drawn over that terrible death scene in the frozen hut with the Antarctic blizzard shrieking a vague requiem, but over the rest of the story there is no mystery."

The Daily Telegraph has opened a fund for a national memorial to Captain Scott and his dead comrades. Among the first subscribers are Rear-Admiral Peary and Baron Rothschild.

Pension for Widow.

London, Feb. 12—Mrs. Scott will receive a pension of £200 a year from the admiralty which has decided that Captain Scott and Petty Officer Evans, both of the royal navy, be treated as being killed in action. If an officer is killed in action, the widow's pension is £100 a year more than half pay of his rank.

Dr. Wilson leaves his wife and mother, Lieutenant Bowers, his widowed mother and two sisters, Captain Oates, his mother, and Evans his wife and three children.

Premier Asquith, in a few words touched with deep emotion in the commons, said:—"Scott's appeal will not fall on deaf ears. That appeal was one of the most moving and most pathetic utterances in the annals of discovery. The speech of a brave, enduring man, face to face with the tragic end of a career of devoted service. The government will make a treasury grant to those dependent on the gallant men who laid down their lives without a murmur for the honor of their country, and advancement of scientific knowledge."

Toronto Doctor is Safe and Well.

Toronto, Feb. 12—Dr. C. S. Wright, son of Alfred Wright, of 60 Crescent Road, who was a member of Captain Scott's expedition to the South Pole, is well known among the younger people of Toronto, and the news that he is safe and well will cause rejoicing among his many friends. Dr. Wright was a brilliant student, and his record at the university is one of which anyone might be proud. In 1904 he was head boy at Upper Canada College, and in 1908 he won the 1851 exhibition, a scholarship for research work. This scholarship made it necessary for him to go to another university, and he chose Cambridge. After studying for two years at the famous Cavendish laboratory there under Prof. Sir J. J. Thomson, he happened to read about the projected Scott Antarctic expedition. He immediately applied for permission to accompany it, and was appointed as one of the physicists. There were two physicists with the expedition. Their work was of the usual meteorological and magnetic variety, and they were to make a survey of the currents and conditions of the upper atmosphere by sending up balloons carrying registering instruments. Dr. Wright also intended to devote considerable attention to an investigation of the crystal structure of the ice from the point of view of its age and past history.

The last letter which Mr. Alfred Wright received from his son arrived last April, and is as follows:

March 2, Cape Evans.

"Dear Dad,—Hope the ship gets back to carry this letter to you. Before I finished writing, the dogs came back from Hut Point to say that Lieut. Evans was down with the scurvy and that the dogs had brought him in the last 30 miles (he was of the second return party) and that I was to go down and take Dr. Atkinson's place in charge of the relief dog team, meeting the last or polar party. I at once rushed off to Hut Point with Cherry, and the carpenter is to go instead, so as to avoid breaking up all the magnetic and other work.

"When we got there it started to blizzard, and didn't stop for six days, making a total of 12 out of 13 consecutive days.

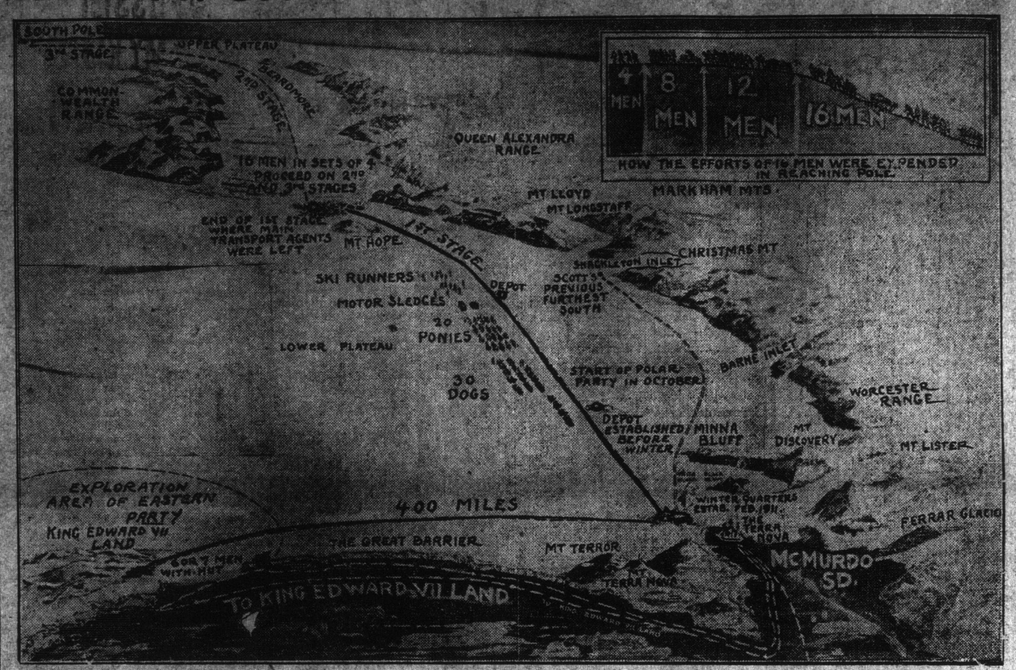
"The Western geological party got safely back and did some good work—coal and fossils found. Apparently some of the limestone I brought back from the Beardmore also may contain fossils, which will be very nice. The Eastern party were picked up at Cape Adare in January, and landed at Evan's Cove, and it is there the Terra Nova will seek for them.

"The polar party are due in about two weeks, if they have fair luck, though nine days is none too soon to expect them. In any case, even if they don't return at all, there can hardly be the slightest doubt that they have reached the Pole. They were all well in 87 degrees 37 minutes, 143 miles from the Pole and seven weeks grub to do the 286 miles; i.e., they need only do six miles a day to get outful rations. They will probably, however, average twelve miles at least.

"Yours, with love,
"CHARLES."

DR. C. S. WRIGHT.

HOW CAPT. SCOTT AND PARTY REACHED SOUTH POLE



This diagram explains the route and plans of the expedition. McMurdo Sound is where Amundsen and Scott met. It is thought that Scott and his men were well on their way back to McMurdo when they met disaster.

MRS. SCOTT EN ROUTE TO MEET HER HUSBAND

Is Aboard Steamer for New Zealand, and May Not Know His Fate.

Honolulu, Feb. 11—Mrs. Robert Scott, traveling toward New Zealand on the steamer Aorangi to meet her husband, probably knows tonight of his death, although the short range of the Aorangi's wireless, which reaches only 300 miles, protects her grief from the world.

The wireless offices here have a stack of messages, received by cable for Mrs. Scott, but all efforts to get an answer from the Aorangi, since news of Captain Scott's death was received, have been unavailing. This does not mean, however, that the vessel's wireless has not picked up some of the messages sent out.

The Aorangi will reach New Zealand via Tahiti and Samo, on Feb. 27, and barring chance communication with some passing liner no news may be received from her before that time.

MRS. SCOTT AND HER LITTLE SON

Capt. Scott's widow and baby, the little chap whose only thought of his father, for two years absent, was to take his photograph to bed with him at night and "keep daddy warm," were already idolized by the British people.

SACKVILLE FIRE DOES $1,500 DAMAGE

Sackville, N. B., Feb. 12—(Special)—At 10.30 this morning an alarm of fire was sounded for a blaze in H. I. Wry's tailor shop. Fire Chief Smith happened to be in Mr. Wry's store at the time and through quick action on his part soon had the chemical engine at the scene and not more than three minutes elapsed before it was working on a very stubborn fire which was raging among the cloth and clothing; in fact the whole lower store of Mr. Wry's establishment appeared to be on fire at once.

Too much praise cannot be given the fire department for the able way in which they handled this serious looking fire and prevented it from spreading. Mr. Wry's loss is about $1,000, mostly covered by insurance. Mrs. Amasa Dixon's loss is about $500, covered by insurance.