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Report on Bartolomeu Dias

Bartholomeu Dias was born in 1450 in Faro District, Portugal. He died on May 29, 1500 at the age of 50 years old, at sea, near Cape of Good Hope. He was a Portuguese navigator and he led the first European expedition to round the Cape of Good Hope. He is usually considered the greatest of the Portuguese pioneers who explored the Atlantic Ocean during the 15th century. Not very much is known of his early life. His fleet consisted of three ships: his own ship, São Cristóvão, the São Pantaleão under his associate João Infante, and a supply ship under his brother Pêro

# Later life

He returned to Portugal in December 1488. He was later employed to supervise the construction of two other vessels used for Vasco da Gama’s 1497 expedition to India. He was allowed to sail with da Gama’s expedition only as far as the Cape Verde Islands. Dias later sailed with Pedro Álvares Cabral, part of the expedition that landed on the coast of Brazil on April 22, 1500. Dias died the next month when his ship was lost at sea near the Cape of Good Hope during a storm.

Family

Dias had two sons, António Dias de Novais and Simão Dias de Novais. His grandson, Paulo Dias de Novais became the first governor of Portuguese Angola and, in 1576, the founder of São Paulo de Luanda. His wife’s name is unknown. No marriage records of his son's wives have been found. His last know descendants were his two great granddaughters who died childless.

Dias’ expedition around South Africa

In January, 1488, two of his ships set sail. Almost immediately, they were caught in a storm and blew away from the coast. They spotted landfall on February 3, 1488, about 300 miles east of present-day Cape of Good Hope. They found a bay at present-day Mossel Bay and much warmer waters of the Indian Ocean. The members came to an agreement that they would permit him to sail back in three days. They planted a padrão on March 12, 1488, which marked the easternmost point of Portuguese exploration. This was just a short summary of his expedition.

# **CONCLUSION**

To this day, not very much is known about Dias. He had a successful family. He was also able to make may trips. He died at a young age. He had to make many hard decions for him and for the people settling with him. His voyage showed that the Atlantic and Indian oceans flowed into each other.

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