

= Robert Falcon Scott =

Captain Robert Falcon Scott CVO RN ( 6 June 1868 ? 29 March 1912 ) was a British Royal Navy officer and explorer who led two expeditions to the Antarctic regions : the Discovery Expedition , 1901 ? 1904 , and the ill @-@ fated Terra Nova Expedition , 1910 ? 1913 . On the first expedition , he set a new southern record by marching to latitude 82 ° S and discovered the Polar Plateau , on which the South Pole is located . During the second venture , Scott led a party of five which reached the South Pole on 17 January 1912 after Roald Amundsen 's Norwegian expedition . On their return journey , Scott 's party discovered plant fossils , proving Antarctica was once forested and joined to other continents . A planned meeting with supporting dog teams from the base camp failed , although Scott had ordered his team to do so , and at a distance of 150 miles from their base camp and 11 miles from the next depot , Scott and his companions died from a combination of exhaustion , starvation and extreme cold .

Before his appointment to lead the Discovery Expedition , Scott had followed the conventional career of a naval officer in the Royal Navy . In 1899 , he had a chance encounter with Sir Clements Markham , the president of the Royal Geographical Society , thus learning of a planned Antarctic expedition , and soon volunteered to lead this expedition . Having taken this step , his name became inseparably associated with the Antarctic , the field of work to which he remained committed during the final twelve years of his life .

Following the news of his death , Scott became a celebrated hero , a status reflected by the many permanent memorials erected across the nation . In the closing decades of the 20th century , Scott became a figure of controversy , with questions raised about his competence and character . Commentators in the 21st century have on the whole regarded Scott more positively , noting errors made by his team members , but attributing the expedition 's fate primarily to misfortune .

= = Early life = =

= = = Family = = =

Scott was born on 6 June 1868 , the third child out of six and elder son of John Edward and Hannah ( née Cuming ) Scott of Stoke Damerel , near Devonport . Although Scott 's father was a brewer and magistrate , there were naval and military traditions in the family , Scott 's grandfather and four uncles all having served in the army or navy . John Scott 's prosperity came from the ownership of a small Plymouth brewery which he inherited from his father and subsequently sold . His early childhood years were spent in comfort , but In later years , when Scott was establishing his naval career , the family would suffer serious financial misfortune .

In accordance with the family 's tradition , Robert and his younger brother Archie were predestined for careers in the armed services . Robert spent four years at a local day school before being sent to Stubbington House School in Hampshire , a cramming establishment preparing candidates for the entrance examinations to the naval training ship HMS Britannia at Dartmouth . Having passed these exams Scott , began his naval career in 1881 , as a cadet , aged only 13 years old .

= = = Early naval career = = =

In July 1883 , Scott passed out of Britannia as a midshipman , seventh overall in a class of 26 . By October , he was en route to South Africa to join HMS Boadicea , the flagship of the Cape squadron , the first of several ships on which he served during his midshipman years . While stationed in St Kitts , West Indies , on HMS Rover , he had his first encounter with Clements Markham , then Secretary of the Royal Geographical Society , who would loom large in Scott 's later career . On this occasion , 1 March 1887 , Markham observed Midshipman Scott 's cutter winning that morning 's race across the bay . Markham 's habit was to " collect " likely young naval officers with a view to their undertaking polar exploration work in the future . He was impressed by Scott 's intelligence ,

enthusiasm and charm , and the 18 @-@ year @-@ old midshipman was duly noted .

In March 1888 Scott passed his examinations for sub @-@ lieutenant , with four first class certificates out of five . His career progressed smoothly , with service on various ships and promotion to lieutenant in 1889 . In 1891 , after a long spell in foreign waters , he applied for the two @-@ year torpedo training course on HMS Vernon , an important career step . He graduated with first class certificates in both the theory and practical examinations . A small blot occurred in the summer of 1893 when , while commanding a torpedo boat , Scott ran it aground , a mishap which earned him a mild rebuke .

During the research for his dual biography of Scott and Roald Amundsen , polar historian Roland Huntford investigated a possible scandal in Scott 's early naval career , related to the period 1889 ? 90 when Scott was a lieutenant on HMS Amphion . According to Huntford , Scott " disappears from naval records " for eight months , from mid @-@ August 1889 until 26 March 1890 . Huntford hints at involvement with a married American woman , a cover @-@ up , and protection by senior officers . Biographer David Crane reduces the missing period to eleven weeks , but is unable to clarify further . He rejects the notion of protection by senior officers on the grounds that Scott was not important or well @-@ connected enough to warrant this . Documents that may have offered explanations are missing from Admiralty records .

In 1894 , while serving as torpedo officer on the depot ship HMS Vulcan , Scott learned of the financial calamity that had overtaken his family . John Scott , having sold the brewery and invested the proceeds unwisely , had lost all his capital and was now virtually bankrupt . At the age of 63 , and in poor health , he was forced to take a job as a brewery manager and move his family to Shepton Mallet , Somerset . Three years later , while Robert was serving with the Channel squadron flagship HMS Majestic , John Scott died of heart disease , creating a fresh family crisis . Hannah Scott and her two unmarried daughters now relied entirely on the service pay of Scott and the salary of younger brother Archie , who had left the army for a higher @-@ paid post in the colonial service . Archie 's own death in the autumn of 1898 , after contracting typhoid fever , meant that the whole financial responsibility for the family rested on Scott .

Promotion , and the extra income this would bring , now became a matter of considerable concern to Scott . In the Royal Navy however , opportunities for career advancement were both limited and keenly sought after by ambitious officers . Early in June 1899 , while home on leave , he had a chance encounter in a London street with Clements Markham , who was now knighted and President of the Royal Geographical Society ( RGS ) , and learned for the first time of an impending Antarctic expedition with the Discovery , under the auspices of the RGS . It was the opportunity for early command and a chance to distinguish himself , rather than any predilection for polar exploration which motivated Scott , according to Crane . What passed between them on this occasion is not recorded , but a few days later , on 11 June , Scott appeared at the Markham residence and volunteered to lead the expedition .

= = Discovery Expedition 1901 ? 1904 = =

The British National Antarctic Expedition , later known as the Discovery Expedition , was a joint enterprise of the RGS and the Royal Society . A long @-@ cherished dream of Markham 's , it required all of his skills and cunning to bring the expedition to fruition , under naval command and largely staffed by naval personnel . Scott may not have been Markham 's first choice as leader but , having decided on him , the older man 's support remained constant . There were committee battles over the scope of Scott 's responsibilities , with the Royal Society pressing to put a scientist in charge of the expedition 's programme while Scott merely commanded the ship . Eventually , however , Markham 's view prevailed ; Scott was given overall command , and was promoted to the rank of commander before Discovery sailed for the Antarctic on 6 August 1901 . King Edward VII , who showed a keen interest in the expedition , visited the Discovery the day before the ship left British shores in August 1901 , and during the visit appointed Scott a Member of the Royal Victorian Order ( MVO ) , his personal gift .

Experience of Antarctic or Arctic waters was almost entirely lacking within the 50 @-@ strong party

and there was very little special training in equipment or techniques before the ship set sail . Dogs were taken , as were skis , but the dogs succumbed to disease in the first season . Nevertheless , the dogs ' performance impressed Scott , and , despite moral qualms , he implemented the principle of slaughtering dogs for dog @-@ food to increase their range . During an early attempt at ice travel , a blizzard trapped expedition members in their tent and their decision to leave it resulted in the death of George Vince , who slipped over a precipice on 11 March 1902 .

The expedition had both scientific and exploration objectives ; the latter included a long journey south , in the direction of the South Pole . This march , undertaken by Scott , Ernest Shackleton and Edward Wilson , took them to a latitude of 82 ° 17 ' S , about 530 miles ( 850 km ) from the pole . A harrowing return journey brought about Shackleton 's physical collapse and his early departure from the expedition . The second year showed improvements in technique and achievement , culminating in Scott 's western journey which led to the discovery of the Polar Plateau . This has been described by one writer as " one of the great polar journeys " . The scientific results of the expedition included important biological , zoological and geological findings . Some of the meteorological and magnetic readings , however , were later criticised as amateurish and inaccurate .

At the end of the expedition it took the combined efforts of two relief ships and the use of explosives to free Discovery from the ice . His insistence during the expedition on Royal Navy formalities had made for uneasy relations with the merchant navy contingent , many of whom departed for home with the first relief ship in March 1903 . Second @-@ in @-@ command Albert Armitage , a merchant officer , was offered the chance to go home on compassionate grounds , but chose to interpret the offer as a personal slight , and refused . Armitage also promoted the idea that the decision to send Shackleton home on the relief ship arose from Scott 's animosity rather than Shackleton 's physical breakdown . Although there were later tensions between Scott and Shackleton , when their polar ambitions directly clashed , in public mutual civilities were preserved ; Scott joined in the official receptions that greeted Shackleton on his return in 1909 after the Nimrod Expedition , and the two were exchanging polite letters about their respective ambitions in 1909 ? 10

= = Between expeditions = =

= = = Popular hero = = =

Discovery returned to Britain in September 1904 . The expedition had caught the public imagination , and Scott became a popular hero . He was awarded a cluster of honours and medals , including many from overseas , and was promoted to the rank of captain . He was invited to Balmoral Castle , where King Edward VII promoted him a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order ( CVO ) .

Scott 's next few years were crowded . For more than a year he was occupied with public receptions , lectures and the writing of the expedition record , The Voyage of the Discovery . In January 1906 , he resumed his full @-@ time naval career , first as an Assistant Director of Naval Intelligence at the Admiralty and , in August , as flag @-@ captain to Rear @-@ Admiral Sir George Egerton on HMS Victorious . He was now moving in ever more exalted social circles ? a telegram to Markham in February 1907 refers to meetings with the Queen and Crown Prince of Portugal , and a later letter home reports lunching with the Commander @-@ in @-@ Chief of the Fleet and Prince Heinrich of Prussia . HMS Albemarle , a battleship commanded by Scott , collided with the battleship HMS Commonwealth on 11 February 1907 , suffering minor bow damage .

= = = Dispute with Shackleton = = =

By early 1906 , Scott had sounded out the RGS about the possible funding of a future Antarctic expedition . It was therefore unwelcome news to him that Ernest Shackleton had announced his own plans to travel to Discovery 's old McMurdo Sound base and launch a bid for the South Pole from there . Scott claimed , in the first of a series of letters to Shackleton , that the area around

McMurdo was his own " field of work " to which he had prior rights until he chose to give them up , and that Shackleton should therefore work from an entirely different area . In this , he was strongly supported by Discovery 's former zoologist , Edward Wilson , who asserted that Scott 's rights extended to the entire Ross Sea sector . This Shackleton refused to concede .

Finally , to end the impasse , Shackleton agreed , in a letter to Scott dated 17 May 1907 , to work to the east of the 170 ° W meridian and therefore to avoid all the familiar Discovery ground . In the end it was a promise that he was unable to keep after his search for alternative landing grounds proved fruitless . With his only other option being to return home , he set up his headquarters at Cape Royds , close to the old Discovery base . For this he was roundly condemned by the British polar establishment at the time .

Among modern polar writers , Ranulph Fiennes regards Shackleton 's actions as a technical breach of honour , but adds : " My personal belief is that Shackleton was basically honest but circumstances forced his McMurdo landing , much to his distress . " The polar historian Beau Riffenburgh states that the promise to Scott " should never ethically have been demanded " , and compares Scott 's intransigence on this matter unfavourably with the generous attitudes of the Norwegian explorer Fridtjof Nansen , who gave freely of his advice and expertise to all , whether they were potential rivals or not .

= = = Marriage = = =

Scott , who because of his Discovery fame had entered Edwardian society , first met Kathleen Bruce early in 1907 at a private luncheon party . She was a sculptress , socialite and cosmopolitan who had studied under Auguste Rodin and whose circle included Isadora Duncan , Pablo Picasso and Aleister Crowley . Her initial meeting with Scott was brief , but when they met again later that year , the mutual attraction was obvious . A stormy courtship followed ; Scott was not her only suitor ? his main rival was would @-@ be novelist Gilbert Cannan ? and his absences at sea did not assist his cause . However , Scott 's persistence was rewarded and , on 2 September 1908 , at the Chapel Royal , Hampton Court Palace , the wedding took place . Their only child , Peter Markham Scott , born 14 September 1909 , was to found the World Wide Fund for Nature ( WWF ) .

= = Terra Nova Expedition 1910 ? 1912 = =

= = = Preparation = = =

Shackleton returned from the Antarctic having narrowly failed to reach the Pole , and this gave Scott the impetus to proceed with plans for his second Antarctic expedition . On 24 March 1909 , he had taken the Admiralty @-@ based appointment of naval assistant to the Second Sea Lord which placed him conveniently in London . In December he was released on half @-@ pay , to take up the full @-@ time command of the British Antarctic Expedition 1910 , to be known as the Terra Nova Expedition from its ship , Terra Nova .

It was the expressed hope of the RGS that this expedition would be " scientific primarily , with exploration and the Pole as secondary objects " but , unlike the Discovery Expedition , neither they nor the Royal Society were in charge this time . In his expedition prospectus , Scott stated that its main objective was " to reach the South Pole , and to secure for the British Empire the honour of this achievement " . Scott had , as Markham observed , been " bitten by the Pole mania " .

In a memorandum of 1908 , Scott presented his view that man @-@ hauling to the South Pole was impossible and that motor traction was needed . Snow vehicles did not yet exist however , and so his engineer Reginald Skelton developed the idea of a caterpillar track for snow surfaces . In the middle of 1909 Scott realised that motors were unlikely to get him all the way to the Pole , and decided additionally to take horses ( based on Shackleton 's near success in attaining the Pole , using ponies ) , and dogs and skis after consultation with Nansen during trials of the motors in Norway in March 1910 . Man @-@ hauling would still be needed on the Polar Plateau , on the

assumption that motors and animals could not ascend the crevassed Beardmore Glacier .

Dog expert Cecil Meares was going to Siberia to select the dogs , and Scott ordered that , while he was there , he should deal with the purchase of Manchurian ponies . Meares was not an experienced horse @-@ dealer , and the ponies he chose proved mostly of poor quality , and ill @-@ suited to prolonged Antarctic work . Meanwhile , Scott also recruited Bernard Day , from Shackleton 's expedition , as his motor expert .

= = = First season = = =

On 15 June 1910 , Scott 's ship Terra Nova , an old converted whaler , set sail from Cardiff , south Wales . Scott meanwhile was fundraising in Britain and joined the ship later in South Africa . Arriving in Melbourne , Australia in October 1910 , Scott received a telegram from Amundsen stating : " Beg leave to inform you Fram proceeding Antarctic Amundsen " , possibly indicating that Scott faced a race to the pole .

The expedition suffered a series of early misfortunes which hampered the first season 's work and impaired preparations for the main polar march . On its journey from New Zealand to the Antarctic , Terra Nova nearly sank in a storm and was then trapped in pack ice for 20 days , far longer than other ships had experienced , which meant a late @-@ season arrival and less time for preparatory work before the Antarctic winter . At Cape Evans , Antarctica , one of the motor sledges was lost during its unloading from the ship , breaking through the sea ice and sinking . Deteriorating weather conditions and weak , unacclimatised ponies affected the initial depot @-@ laying journey , so that the expedition 's main supply point , One Ton Depot , was laid 35 miles ( 56 km ) north of its planned location at 80 ° S. Lawrence Oates , in charge of the ponies , advised Scott to kill ponies for food and advance the depot to 80 ° S , which Scott refused to do . Oates is reported as saying to Scott , " Sir , I 'm afraid you 'll come to regret not taking my advice . " Four ponies died during this journey either from the cold or because they slowed the team down so they were shot .

On its return to base , the expedition learned of the presence of Amundsen , camped with his crew and a large contingent of dogs in the Bay of Whales , 200 miles ( 320 km ) to their east . Scott conceded that his ponies would not be able to start early enough in the season to compete with Amundsen 's cold @-@ tolerant dog teams for the pole , and also acknowledged that the Norwegian 's base was closer to the pole by 60 miles . Wilson was more hopeful , whereas Gran shared Scott 's concern . Shortly afterwards , the death toll among the ponies increased to six , three drowning when sea @-@ ice unexpectedly disintegrated , casting in doubt the possibility of reaching the pole at all . However , during the 1911 winter Scott 's confidence increased ; on 2 August , after the return of a three @-@ man party from their winter journey to Cape Crozier , Scott wrote , " I feel sure we are as near perfection as experience can direct " .

= = = Journey to the Pole = = =

Scott outlined his plans for the southern journey to the entire shore party , leaving open who would form the final polar team , according to their performance during the polar travel . Eleven days before Scott 's teams set off towards the pole , Scott gave the dog driver Meares the following written orders at Cape Evans dated 20 October 1911 to secure Scott 's speedy return from the pole using dogs :

About the first week of February I should like you to start your third journey to the South , the object being to hasten the return of the third Southern unit [ the polar party ] and give it a chance to catch the ship . The date of your departure must depend on news received from returning units , the extent of the depot of dog food you have been able to leave at One Ton Camp , the state of the dogs , etc ... It looks at present as though you should aim at meeting the returning party about March 1 in Latitude 82 or 82 @.@ 30

The march south began on 1 November 1911 , a caravan of mixed transport groups ( motors , dogs , horses ) , with loaded sledges , travelling at different rates , all designed to support a final group of four men who would make a dash for the Pole . The southbound party steadily reduced in size as

successive support teams turned back . Scott reminded the returning Atkinson of the order " to take the two dog @-@ teams south in the event of Meares having to return home , as seemed likely " . By 4 January 1912 , the last two four @-@ man groups had reached 87 ° 34 ' S. Scott announced his decision : five men ( Scott , Edward Wilson , Henry Bowers , Lawrence Oates and Edgar Evans ) would go forward , the other three ( Teddy Evans , William Lashly and Tom Crean ) would return . The chosen group marched on , reaching the Pole on 17 January 1912 , only to find that Amundsen had preceded them by five weeks . Scott 's anguish is indicated in his diary : " The worst has happened " ; " All the day dreams must go " ; " Great God ! This is an awful place " .

= = = Last march = = =

The deflated party began the 800 @-@ mile ( 1 @, @ 300 km ) return journey on 19 January . " I 'm afraid the return journey is going to be dreadfully tiring and monotonous " , wrote Scott on that day . However , the party made good progress despite poor weather , and had completed the Polar Plateau stage of their journey , approximately 300 miles ( 500 km ) , by 7 February . In the following days , as the party made the 100 @-@ mile ( 160 km ) descent of the Beardmore Glacier , the physical condition of Edgar Evans , which Scott had noted with concern as early as 23 January , declined sharply . A fall on 4 February had left Evans " dull and incapable " , and on 17 February , after another fall , he died near the glacier foot .

Meanwhile , back at Cape Evans , the Terra Nova arrived at the beginning of February , and Atkinson decided to unload the supplies from the ship with his own men rather than set out south with the dogs to meet Scott as ordered . When Atkinson finally did leave south for the planned rendezvous with Scott , he encountered the scurvy @-@ ridden Edward ( " Teddy " ) Evans who needed his urgent medical attention . Atkinson therefore tried to send the experienced navigator Wright south to meet Scott , but chief meteorologist Simpson declared he needed Wright for scientific work . Atkinson then decided to send the short @-@ sighted Cherry @-@ Garrard on 25 February , who was not able to navigate , only as far as One Ton depot ( which is within sight of Mount Erebus ) , effectively cancelling Scott 's orders for meeting him at latitude 82 or 82 @. @ 30 on 1 March .

On the return journey from the Pole , Scott reached the 82 @. @ 30 ° S meeting point for the dog teams , three days ahead of schedule , noting in his diary for 27 February 1912 " We are naturally always discussing possibility of meeting dogs , where and when , etc . It is a critical position . We may find ourselves in safety at the next depot , but there is a horrid element of doubt . " By 10 March the temperature had dropped unexpectedly to below ? 40 ° C ( ? 40 ° F ) , and it became evident the dog teams were not coming : " The dogs which would have been our salvation have evidently failed . Meares [ the dog @-@ driver ] had a bad trip home I suppose . It 's a miserable jumble . " With 400 miles ( 670 km ) still to travel across the Ross Ice Shelf , Scott 's party 's prospects steadily worsened as , with deteriorating weather , a puzzling lack of fuel in the depots , hunger and exhaustion , they struggled northward . In a farewell letter to Sir Edgar Speyer , dated 16 March , Scott wondered whether he had overshot the meeting point and fought the growing suspicion that he had in fact been abandoned by the dog teams : " We very nearly came through , and it 's a pity to have missed it , but lately I have felt that we have overshot our mark . No @-@ one is to blame and I hope no attempt will be made to suggest that we had lacked support . " On the same day , Oates , whose toes had become frostbitten , voluntarily left the tent and walked to his death . Scott wrote that Oates ' last words were " I am just going outside and may be some time " .

After walking 20 miles farther despite Scott 's toes now becoming frostbitten , the three remaining men made their final camp on 19 March , 11 miles ( 18 km ) short of One Ton Depot . The next day a fierce blizzard prevented their making any progress . During the next nine days , as their supplies ran out , and with storms still raging outside the tent , Scott and his companions wrote their farewell letters . Scott gave up his diary after 23 March , save for a final entry on 29 March , with its concluding words : " Last entry . For God 's sake look after our people " . He left letters to Wilson 's mother , Bowers ' mother , a string of notables including his former commander Sir George Egerton , his own mother and his wife . He also wrote his " Message To The Public " , primarily a vindication

of the expedition 's organisation and conduct in which the party 's failure is attributed to weather and other misfortunes , but ending on an inspirational note , with these words :

We took risks , we knew we took them ; things have come out against us , and therefore we have no cause for complaint , but bow to the will of Providence , determined still to do our best to the last ... Had we lived , I should have had a tale to tell of the hardihood , endurance , and 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 rich country like ours will see that those who are dependent on us are properly provided for .

Scott is presumed to have died on 29 March 1912 , or possibly one day later . The positions of the bodies in the tent when it was discovered eight months later suggested that Scott was the last of the three to die .

The bodies of Scott and his companions were discovered by a search party on 12 November 1912 and their records retrieved . Their final camp became their tomb ; a high cairn of snow was erected over it , topped by a roughly fashioned cross . In January 1913 , before Terra Nova left for home , a large wooden cross was made by the ship 's carpenters , inscribed with the names of the lost party and Tennyson 's line from his poem Ulysses : " To strive , to seek , to find , and not to yield " , and was erected as a permanent memorial on Observation Hill , overlooking Hut Point .

A century of storms and snow have covered the cairn and tent , which are now encased in the Ross Ice Shelf as it inches towards the Ross Sea . In 2001 glaciologist Charles R. Bentley estimated that the tent with the bodies was under about 75 feet ( 23 m ) of ice and about 30 miles ( 48 km ) from the point where they died ; he speculated that in about 275 years the bodies would reach the Ross Sea , and perhaps float away inside an iceberg .

= = Reputation = =

= = = Glorification = = =

The world was informed of the tragedy when Terra Nova reached Oamaru , New Zealand , on 10 February 1913 . Within days , Scott became a national icon . A nationalistic spirit was aroused ; the London Evening News called for the story to be read to schoolchildren throughout the land , to coincide with the memorial service at St Paul 's Cathedral on 14 February . Robert Baden @-@ Powell , founder of the Boy Scouts Association , asked : " Are Britons going downhill ? No ! ... There is plenty of pluck and spirit left in the British after all . Captain Scott and Captain Oates have shown us that " . Eleven @-@ year @-@ old Mary Steel wrote a poem which ended :

Though naught but a simple cross  
Now marks those heroes ' grave ,  
Their names will live forever !  
Oh England , Land of the Brave !

The survivors of the expedition were suitably honoured on their return , with polar medals and promotions for the naval personnel . In place of the knighthood that might have been her husband 's had he survived , Kathleen Scott was granted the rank and precedence of a widow of a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath . In 1922 , she married Edward Hilton Young , later Lord Kennet ( she becoming Lady Kennet ) , and remained a doughty defender of Scott 's reputation until her death , aged 69 , in 1947 .

An article in The Times , reporting on the glowing tributes paid to Scott in the New York press , claimed that both Amundsen and Shackleton were " [ amazed ] to hear that such a disaster could overtake a well @-@ organized expedition " . On learning the details of Scott 's death , Amundsen is reported as saying , " I would gladly forgo any honour or money if thereby I could have saved Scott his terrible death " . Scott was much the better wordsmith of the two , and the story that spread throughout the world was largely that told by him , with Amundsen 's victory reduced in the eyes of many to an unsporting stratagem .

The response to Scott 's final plea on behalf of the dependents of the dead was enormous by the

standards of the day . The Mansion House Scott Memorial Fund closed at £ 75 @, @ 000 ( 2009 approximation £ 5 @. @ 5 million ) . This was not equally distributed ; Scott 's widow , son , mother and sisters received a total of £ 18 @, @ 000 ( £ 1 @. @ 3 million ) . Wilson 's widow got £ 8 @, @ 500 ( £ 600 @, @ 000 ) and Bowers 's mother £ 4 @, @ 500 ( £ 330 @, @ 000 ) . Edgar Evans 's widow , children and mother received £ 1 @, @ 500 ( £ 109 @, @ 000 ) between them .

In the dozen years following the disaster , more than 30 monuments and memorials were set up in Britain alone . These ranged from simple relics ( Scott 's sledging flag in Exeter Cathedral ) to the foundation of the Scott Polar Research Institute at Cambridge . Many more were established in other parts of the world , including a statue crafted by his widow for his New Zealand base in Christchurch .

= = = Modern reaction = = =

Scott 's reputation survived the period after World War II , beyond the 50th anniversary of his death . In 1948 , the film *Scott of the Antarctic* was released in cinemas and was the third most popular film in Britain the following year . It portrays the team spirit of the expedition and the harsh Antarctic environment , but also includes critical scenes such as Scott regarding his broken down motors and ruefully remembering Nansen 's advice to take only dogs . Evans and Cherry @-@ Garrard were the only surviving expedition members to refuse participation in the film , but both re @-@ published their respective books in its wake .

In 1966 , Reginald Pound , the first biographer given access to Scott 's original sledging journal , revealed personal failings which cast a new light on Scott , although Pound continued to endorse his heroism , writing of " a splendid sanity that would not be subdued " . Within the following decade , further books appeared , each of which to some degree challenged the prevailing public perception . The most critical of these was David Thomson 's *Scott 's Men* ( 1977 ) ; in Thomson 's view , Scott was not a great man , " at least , not until near the end " ; his planning is described as " haphazard " and " flawed " , his leadership characterised by lack of foresight . Thus by the late 1970s , in Jones 's words , " Scott 's complex personality had been revealed and his methods questioned " .

In 1979 came the most sustained attack on Scott , from Roland Huntford 's dual biography *Scott and Amundsen* in which Scott is depicted as a " heroic bungler " . Huntford 's thesis had an immediate impact , becoming the contemporary orthodoxy . Even Scott 's heroism in the face of death was challenged ; Huntford sees Scott 's *Message to the Public* as a deceitful self @-@ justification from a man who had led his comrades to their deaths . After Huntford 's book , several other mostly negative books about Captain Scott were published ; Francis Spufford , in a 1996 history not wholly antagonistic to Scott , refers to " devastating evidence of bungling " , concluding that " Scott doomed his companions , then covered his tracks with rhetoric " . Travel writer Paul Theroux summarised Scott as " confused and demoralised ... an enigma to his men , unprepared and a bungler " . This decline in Scott 's reputation was accompanied by a corresponding rise in that of his erstwhile rival Shackleton , at first in the United States but eventually in Britain as well . A 2002 nationwide poll in the United Kingdom to discover the " 100 Greatest Britons " showed Shackleton in eleventh place , Scott well down the list at 54th .

The 21st century has seen a shift of opinion in Scott 's favour , in what cultural historian Stephanie Barczewski calls " a revision of the revisionist view " . Meteorologist Susan Solomon 's 2001 account *The Coldest March* ties the fate of Scott 's party to the extraordinarily adverse Barrier weather conditions of February and March 1912 rather than to personal or organisational failings , although Solomon accepts the validity of some of the criticisms of Scott .

In 2004 polar explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes published a biography which was a strong defence of Scott and an equally forthright rebuttal of Huntford ; the book is dedicated " To the Families of the Defamed Dead " . Fiennes was later criticised by the reviewer of another book for the personal nature of his attacks on Huntford , and for his apparent assumption that his own experiences as a polar explorer gave him unique authority .

In 2005 David Crane published a new Scott biography which , according to Barczewski , goes some way towards an assessment of Scott " free from the baggage of earlier interpretations " . What has



happened to Scott 's reputation , Crane argues , derives from the way the world has changed since the heroic myth was formed : " It is not that we see him differently from the way they [ his contemporaries ] did , but that we see him the same , and instinctively do not like it . " Crane 's main achievement , according to Barczewski , is the restoration of Scott 's humanity , " far more effectively than either Fiennes 's stridency or Solomon 's scientific data . " Daily Telegraph columnist Jasper Rees , likening the changes in explorers ' reputations to climatic variations , suggests that " in the current Antarctic weather report , Scott is enjoying his first spell in the sun for twenty @-@ five years " . The New York Times Book Review was more critical , pointing out Crane 's support for Scott 's discredited claims regarding the circumstances of the freeing of the Discovery from the pack ice , and concluded " For all the many attractions of his book , David Crane offers no answers that convincingly exonerate Scott from a significant share of responsibility for his own demise . "

In 2012 , Karen May published her discovery that Scott had issued written orders , before his march to the Pole , for Meares to meet the returning party with dog @-@ teams , in contrast to Huntford 's assertion in 1979 that Scott issued those vital instructions only as a casual oral order to Evans during the march to the Pole . According to May , " Huntford 's scenario was pure invention based on an error ; it has led a number of polar historians down a regrettable false trail " .

Scott 's journals provide the basis for a book of blank verse sonnets by Kim Roberts , *Fortune 's Favor : Scott In Antarctica* ( Poetry Mutual , 2015 ) .

== = Books == =

Amundsen , Roald ( 1976 ) [ 1912 ] . *The South Pole* . London : C. Hurst & Company . ISBN 978 @-@ 0 @-@ 903983 @-@ 47 @-@ 1 .

Barczewski , Stephanie ( 2007 ) . *Antarctic Destinies : Scott , Shackleton and the Changing Face of Heroism* . London : Hembledon Continuum . ISBN 978 @-@ 1 @-@ 84725 @-@ 192 @-@ 3 .

Cherry @-@ Garrard , Apsley ( 1970 ) . *The Worst Journey in the World : Antarctic 1910 ?* 13 ( 1965 ed . ) . Harmondsworth , Middlesex ( UK ) : Penguin Travel Library . ISBN 978 @-@ 0 @-@ 14 @-@ 009501 @-@ 2 . OCLC 16589938 .

Crane , David ( 2005 ) . *Scott of the Antarctic : A Life of Courage , and Tragedy in the Extreme South* . London : HarperCollins . ISBN 978 @-@ 0 @-@ 00 @-@ 715068 @-@ 7 . OCLC 60793758 .

Evans , Edward R.G.R. ( 1949 ) . *South with Scott* . London : Collins .

Fiennes , Ranulph ( 2003 ) . *Captain Scott* . London : Hodder & Stoughton . ISBN 978 @-@ 0 @-@ 340 @-@ 82697 @-@ 3 . OCLC 52695234 .

Huntford , Roland ( 1985 ) . *The Last Place on Earth* . London : Pan Books . ISBN 978 @-@ 0 @-@ 330 @-@ 28816 @-@ 3 . OCLC 12976972 .

Huntford , Roland ( 1985 ) . *Shackleton* . London : Hodder & Stoughton . ISBN 978 @-@ 0 @-@ 340 @-@ 25007 @-@ 5 . OCLC 13108800 .

Huxley , Leonard , ed . ( 1913 ) . *Scott 's Last Expedition , Volume I : Being the Journals of Captain R.F. Scott , R.N. , C.V.O.* London : Smith , Elder & Co . OCLC 1522514 .

Huxley , Leonard , ed . ( 1913 ) . *Scott 's Last Expedition , Volume II : Being the reports of the journeys and the scientific work undertaken by Dr. E.A. Wilson and the surviving members of the expedition* . London : Smith , Elder & Co . OCLC 1522514 .

Jones , Max ( 2003 ) . *The Last Great Quest : Captain Scott 's Antarctic Sacrifice* . Oxford ( UK ) : Oxford University Press . ISBN 978 @-@ 0 @-@ 19 @-@ 280483 @-@ 9 . OCLC 59303598 .

Pound , Reginald ( 1966 ) . *Scott of the Antarctic* . London : Cassell & Company .

Preston , Diana ( 1999 ) . *A First Rate Tragedy : Captain Scott 's Antarctic Expeditions* ( paperback ed . ) . London : Constable . ISBN 978 @-@ 0 @-@ 09 @-@ 479530 @-@ 3 . OCLC 59395617 .

Riffenburgh , Beau ( 2005 ) . *Nimrod : Ernest Shackleton and the Extraordinary Story of the 1907 ? 09 British Antarctic Expedition* ( paperback ed . ) . London : Bloomsbury Publishing . ISBN 978 @-@ 0 @-@ 7475 @-@ 7253 @-@ 4 . OCLC 56659120 .

Scott , Robert Falcon ( 1905 ) . *The Voyage of the Discovery* . London : Nelson .

Solomon , Susan ( 2001 ) . *The Coldest March : Scott 's Fatal Antarctic Expedition* . London : Yale

University Press . ISBN 978 @-@ 0 @-@ 300 @-@ 08967 @-@ 7 . OCLC 45661501 .

Spufford , Francis ( 1997 ) . I May Be Some Time : Ice and the English Imagination ( paperback ed . ) . London : Faber & Faber . ISBN 978 @-@ 0 @-@ 571 @-@ 17951 @-@ 0 . OCLC 41314703 .

Thomson , David ( 1977 ) . Scott 's Men . London : Allen Lane . ISBN 978 @-@ 0 @-@ 7139 @-@ 1034 @-@ 6 .

= = = Online = = =

Dore , Jonathan ( 3 December 2006 ) . " Crucible of Ice " . The New York Times . Retrieved 14 October 2011 .

May , Karen ( January 2013 ) . " Could Captain Scott have been saved ? Revisiting Scott 's last expedition " . Polar Record 49 ( 1 ) : 72 ? 90 @.@ doi : 10 @.@ 1017 / S0032247411000751 . Retrieved 6 July 2014 .

" Five Ways to Compute the Relative Value of a UK Pound Amount , 1830 to Present " . MeasuringWorth . Retrieved 14 October 2011 .

Mustain , Andrea ( 17 August 2012 ) . " Wreckage of Doomed Explorer 's Famed Ship Terra Nova Located " . NBC News . Retrieved 27 September 2012 .

" Captain Scott ? Antarctic Explorer , covered in snow once more " . Portsmouth Historic Dockyard . 25 January 2010 . Retrieved 23 July 2013 .

Rees , Jasper ( 19 December 2004 ) . " Ice in our Hearts " . Daily Telegraph ( London ) . Retrieved 14 October 2011 .

" Captain Scott Memorial " . New Zealand Historic Places Trust . Retrieved 14 October 2011 .

Williams , Jack ( 16 January 2001 ) . " Heroic age still lives in Antarctica " . USA Today . Retrieved 24 February 2011 .