

Captain Scott



Robert Falcon Scott, known as Captain Scott, or Scott of the Antarctic, was a British naval officer and explorer who led the famed ill-fated second expedition to reach the South Pole between 1910–12. He was born on 6th June 1868 in Devonport, Devon, England and died on 29th March 1912 in Antarctica.

Scott joined the Royal Navy in 1880 and by 1897 had become a first lieutenant. While commanding an Antarctic expedition on the HMS *Discovery* (1901–04), he proved to be a competent scientific investigator and leader and was promoted to captain upon his return to England.

In June 1910 Scott embarked on a second Antarctic expedition. Its aims were to study the Ross Sea area and reach the South Pole. Equipped with motor sledges, ponies, and dogs, he and 11 others started overland for the pole from Cape Evans on October 24, 1911. The motors soon broke down; the ponies had to be shot and from there the dog teams were sent back.

On 10th December the party began to ascend Beardmore Glacier with three man-hauled sledges. By 31st December seven men had been returned to the base. The weather on the return journey was exceptionally bad. Evans died at Beardmore (17th February). Food and fuel supplies were low. At the end of his strength and hoping to aid his companions by his own disappearance, Oates crawled out

into a blizzard on 17th March. The three survivors struggled on for 10 miles but then were bound to their tent by another blizzard that lasted for nine days. With quiet fortitude they awaited their death—11 miles from their destination.

On March 29 Scott wrote the final entry in his diary: ***Every day we have been ready to start for our depot 11 miles away but outside the door of the tent it remains a scene of whirling drift.... We shall stick it out to the end, but we are getting weaker, of course, and the end cannot be far. It seems a pity, but I do not think I can write more.***

