Life on the Ice
A Photographic Album of
Scott's Camp
Cape Evans, Antarctica
1911

Fully illustrated with striking photographs by

Herbert Ponting
Camera Artist

ROBERT SCOTT, THE LEADER OF THE BRITISH TEAM
Chapter 1
Arriving in Antarctica

“… the ship’s stem struck heavily on hard bay ice about a mile and a half from the shore….We made fast with ice anchors.”
Robert Scott, January 4, 1911

Terra Nova docked on ice
After a six-month voyage, the British ship finally anchored in Antarctica.

Unloading the ship
Before making camp, the men had to unload all the supplies they needed for at least a year on the ice.
Building of the hut

Soon, the men began building their base camp for the winter—a pre-fabricated wood “hut.”

Hut in landscape

The hut was located on the shores of McMurdo Sound. One man thought it “the most beautiful spot” he had ever seen.

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Chapter 2

The Men

“Each man in his way is a treasure.”
Robert Scott, January 18, 1911

Captain Scott on skis

Captain Scott kept a diary of the expedition, in which he wrote about each of the men who worked for him.

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Wilson

Everybody on the expedition looked up to Dr. Edward Wilson, the team’s doctor and chief of the scientific staff. “I think he is the most popular member of the party,” wrote Scott, “and that is saying much.”

Evans

Petty Officer Edgar Evans had been to Antarctica with Scott before. “On ‘trek,’ ” said Scott, Evans “is just as sound and hard as ever and has an inexhaustible store of anecdote.”

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Henry “Birdie” Bowers was another team favorite. “Every day,” Scott wrote, “[Bowers] conceives or carries out some plan to benefit the camp.”

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Team photo

Scott was happy with his team. “It is hard to specialise praise where everyone is working so indefatigably for the cause.”

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Chapter 3
Getting to the Pole

The more I think of our sledging outfit the more certain I am that we have arrived at something near a perfect equipment for civilised man under such conditions.
Robert Scott, February 3, 1911

Man-hauling

In the early 1800s, the British Navy had developed a unique form of travel over ice, called man-hauling. Here, Scott (front left) and Bowers (front right) wear the man-hauling harnesses that allowed them to pull heavy sledges.

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Motors

“I find myself immensely eager that these tractors should succeed…. A small measure of success will be enough to show… their ability to revolutionise Polar transport.”

Robert Scott

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Ponies, Oates

Scott brought 19 Manchurian ponies to Antarctica. Army Captain Lawrence Oates managed the ponies’ care, but he worried the animals were a “wretched load of crocks”—slang for useless.

Dog, Kris

Kris—or Kris the Beautiful, as he was known in full—was a leader among the sled dogs brought to Antarctica by Scott.

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Chapter 4
Winter at the Hut

I think our winter routine very good, I suppose every leader of a party has thought that, since he has the power of altering it.

Robert Scott, May 18, 1911

Bunks

Inside the hut, each man was allocated 6 ½ feet by 4 ½ feet of his own.

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During the winter, Petty Officer Patrick Keohane built a precise scale-model of the British ship, the *Terra Nova*.

Geologist Frank Debenham (*left*) shared a small cubicle with Tryggve Gran (*center*), the “ski expert” and T. Griffith Taylor, another geologist.

On winter evenings, the British team’s official “camera artist,” Herbert Ponting, entertained the men with lantern slides from his earlier world travels.

Antarctic winter was so cold that Edward Atkinson (*left*) got frostbite one day after being outside for only a few hours. His fingers looked like “sausages,” Scott reported. Here, P.O. Evans tapes up Atkinson’s injured hand.

In addition to his medical work, Dr. Edward Wilson spent much of his time sketching the animals and landscapes of Antarctica.
**Landscape painting**

At Scott’s camp, winter meant four months of nearly complete darkness. Edward Wilson painted this watercolor of the winter sky at noon on June 3, 1911.

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**Cherry-Garrard typing**

Wealthy volunteer Apsley Cherry-Garrard was the editor of the *South Polar Times*, the newsletter that the men created for their own entertainment. For the job, Cherry taught himself to type.

**SPT**

A title page of the *South Polar Times*, painted by Edward Wilson

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**Simpson at his lab**

In addition to reaching the South Pole first, Scott wanted his team to conduct serious scientific research. Here, meteorologist George Simpson works in his laboratory.

**Parasite images**

Doctor Edward Atkinson studied parasites in Antarctica, where he observed 38 species in the bodies of seals, penguins and other birds.

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Evans out of doors at night

It was so cold during the dark winter that the men spent as little time as possible outside. But here, Lieutenant “Teddy” Evans—Scott’s second-in-command—uses a telescope to observe the night sky.

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Iceberg off Cape Evans

The End

What extraordinary uncertainties this work exhibits! Every day some new fact comes to light—some new obstacle which threatens the gravest obstruction. I suppose this is the reason which makes the game so well worth playing.
Robert Scott, February 3, 1911

Photographs courtesy of Scott Polar Research Institute