Return from the Pole

Amundsen’s South Pole team returns to Framheim.

They journeyed over 1,860 miles in 99 days.

Reunited with the rest of the Fram’s crew, they celebrate with hot cakes and coffee.

As Scott and his men labor toward their own base camp, exhaustion and hunger claim their first casualty.

The surface was awful, the soft recently fallen snow clogging the ski and runners at every step, the sledge groaning, the sky overcast, and the land hazy.

After lunch, and Evans still not appearing, we looked out, to see him still afar off.

I was first to reach the poor man and shocked at his appearance.

Wilson, Bowers, and I went back for the sledge, whilst Oates remained with him. When we returned he was practically unconscious, and when we got him into the tent quite comatose. He died quietly at 12.30 A.M.
Amundsen crosses the Antarctic Circle and reaches Tasmania eager to share the news of his conquest.

“It was a sunny day,” he writes. “And our faces shone in rivalry with the sun.”

Scott’s team struggles toward their next depot. Brutal storms and food shortages take a deadly toll.

We were forced to camp and are spending the rest of the day in a comfortless blizzard camp, wind quite foul.

At lunch, the day before yesterday, poor Titus Oates said he couldn’t go on; he proposed we should leave him in the sleeping bag. That we could not do.

He said, “I am going outside and may be some time.” He went out into the blizzard, and we have not seen him since.
“Norwegian Explorer Sends Word of His Success From Tasmania.”

“SHACKLETON GIVES PRAISE – Believes Norwegian Was Aided by Good Weather and His Special Equipment.”

“NO NEWS FROM CAPT. SCOTT – London Waits Anxiously for Word That He, Too, Has Attained the Goal.”

Far from base camp, trapped by a blizzard; for the weakening explorers, hope is rapidly fading.

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.

I do not think we can hope for any better things now. 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.

For God's sake look after our people.
Scott’s death produced an outpouring of grief across England.

Amundsen went on to other triumphs, attaining the North Pole in 1926.

Antarctic researchers are still awed by the men who went before them.

Their legacy of courage, comradeship and scientific curiosity continues to inspire.

The Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station

The animations for this film were inspired by illustrations from a 1913 issue of *The Sphere*, a popular weekly newspaper.

This memorial issue commemorated the bravery of Captain Scott and the others who lost their lives in 1912 on the return from the South Pole.