

M0000976: Pages from a diary written during the search for the Scott Antarctic team, on display

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overleaf

Early morning. Friday November 15

We built a cairn to mark the spot near which Oates walked out to his death and we placed a cross on it. Looked to the cross is a record: as follows -

"Hereabouts died a very gallant Gentleman Capt. L. E. Oates of the Inniskilling Dragoons. In March 1912, returning from the Pole, he walked willingly to his death in a blizzard to try save his comrades, lost by his death. This note is left by the Relief Expedition 1912."

We saw the cairn for a long way in a bad light as we came back today.

The original plan with which we started from Cape Evans was, if the party was found when we could still have not sufficient to the Admiralty to have a good chance of missing the chance caused by the Beardslee, to go on & do what we could to survey the land South of the Beardslee; for this was the original plan of Captain Scott for this year's expedition.

But as things are I do not think there can be much doubt that we are doing

My Diary of the Search Party.

A. C. G.

right having no time, and we will go over to the west of the Beardslee Sound and see whether we can go up to Evans Cove, and help Campbell and his party.

We found on Oates' bag. The theodolite was inside. A thick fog blew all day yesterday, but it was clear and there was only surface drift when we turned out.

Then again as we came along the sky became overcast - all except over the land which remains clear these nights when everything else is obscured. We noticed the same thing last year.

Now the wind which had largely dropped has started again & it is drifting.

The mules, though they have very little on their sledges, are going slower than they were before. One Ton - perhaps not slower but no faster.

The surface is very bad, but it was infinitely better today after the wind. The main cause however of the improvement was a rise in temperature of 21 degrees at lunch when it was +7. A following wind is a pleasant change, for the last 5 days we have had