

## Dying men

The British plodded onwards. They still had more than 640 kilometres (400 miles) to go, and Edgar Evans was slowing them down. On 17 February, at the bottom of the **Beardmore Glacier**, Evans collapsed and died. There was no time to bury him. The team didn't know what had killed him. Historians think it could have been **scurvy**, starvation, or the fall and blow to his head.

Winter brought temperatures of  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-40^{\circ}\text{F}$ ). Captain Lawrence Oates had a badly frostbitten foot. By 6 March he was too weak to pull the sledge. Oates struggled on, but on 16 March he asked the others to leave him. They refused. That night in the tent during a **blizzard**, Oates told them: "I am just going outside and may be some time." He walked out, and was never seen again.

## Freek weather

Scott and his party suffered some of the coldest weather ever recorded for that time of year in Antarctica. The March temperatures noted in Scott's diary were up to  $11^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $20^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) colder than average figures.

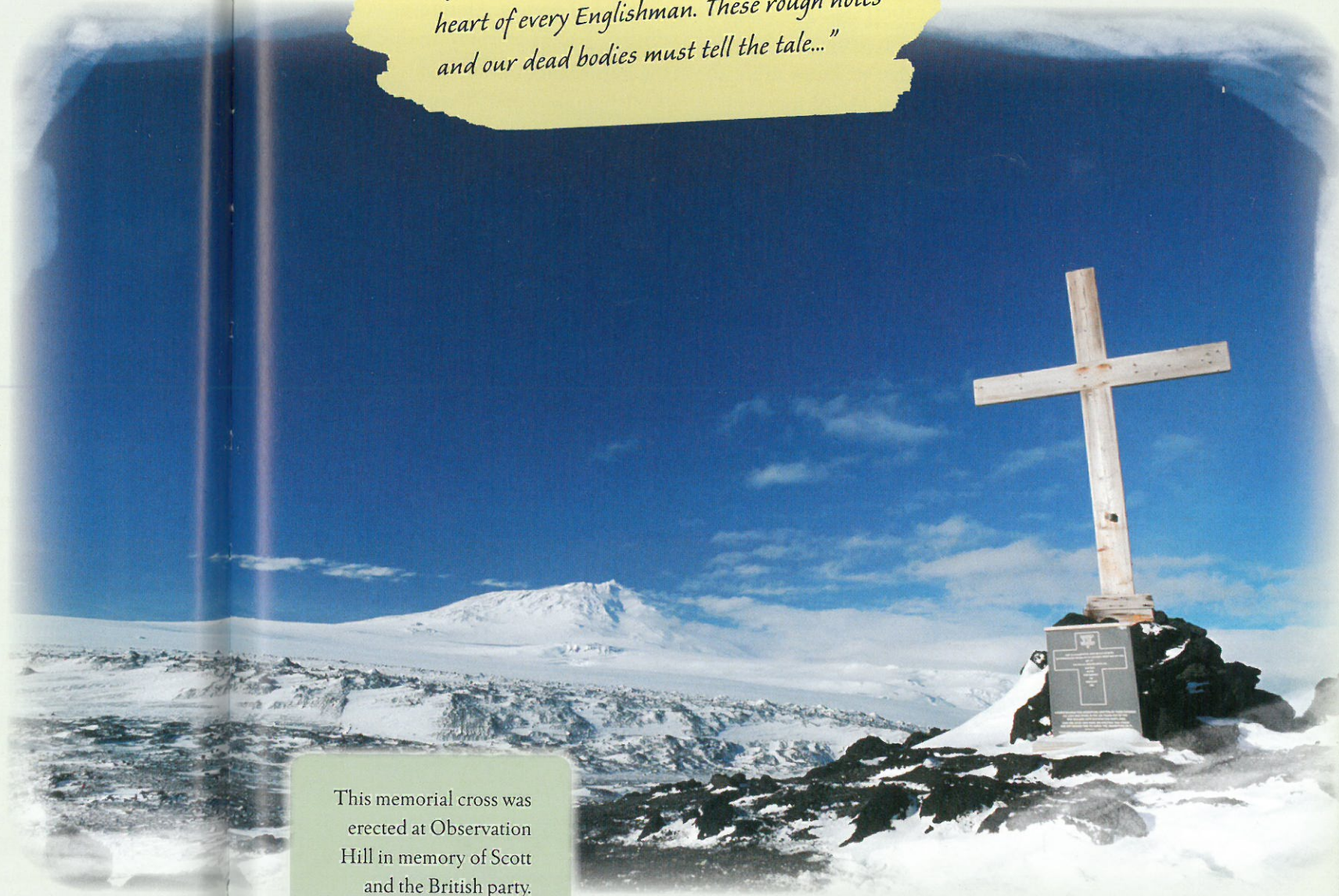
## Final days

The end wasn't far away for Captain Robert Scott, Dr Edward Wilson, and Lieutenant Henry Bowers. Two days later they made their final camp. They were 17.7 kilometres (11 miles) from One Ton Depot and safety. A blizzard trapped them in their tent. By now Scott had frostbite in his feet and couldn't move. Starving and exhausted, the men waited for death. They wrote letters to their families and Scott composed a message to the public. He made his last diary entry on 29 March 1912: "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."

## Brave farewell

Scott's "Message to the Public" was found in the tent with his body. In it, he wrote:

*"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..."*



This memorial cross was erected at Observation Hill in memory of Scott and the British party.