

Tom Crean's Life



Early life

- Tom Crean was born in Kerry
- Born July 20th 1877
- He had a fight with his father and then left Ireland
- He went to join the navy when he was fifteen
- He had to lie that he was older
- By 1899 he became a petty officer
- In december 1901 he joined Scott's ship and later took a deserting sailor's place to do the arctic discovery



Discovery expedition

- Crean learned a lot about surviving during his polar apprenticeship
- Discovery was his ill fated bid to reach the south pole in 1910
- He visited some of the harshest places on earth
- Crean had a good sense of humor and was well liked by his companions



Terra Nova expedition

- Scott held Crean in high regard so he was among the first people recruited for the Terra Nova Expedition
- They set out for the Antarctic in June 1910
- Hut Point, the storage depot was so named because of the large amount of food and supplies it held
- Scott in his diary recorded that Crean wept with disappointment at the prospect of having to turn back, so so close to the goal
- Crean and Lashly were both awarded the Albert Medal for saving Evans' life



Endurance expedition

- The mission was to cross the antarctic from coast to coast
- They failed because the ship got stuck in the ice and their new mission was to save the crew
- They then took lifeboats and 160 km north to elephant Island
- Crean and 5 others went to South Georgia traveling 1300 km in a lifeboat
- They were on the wrong side of the Island. They had to cross the Island. It was covered with snow and glaciers up to a thousand mt high
- Because of their bravery they saved all the remaining crew



Later life

- Tom returned to the Royal Navy after his Antarctic explorations
- And he also moved up to the rate of Warrant officer
- Shackleton wanted Crean to accompany him on his Antarctic expedition but Crean kindly refused he said he had no more expedition in him
- Crean married and had three children
- Crean opened a pub called the South Pole Inn and became known as Tom the Pole for his expeditions
- Crean died in the Bons Secours hospital in Cork in 1938. And is known as one of the heroes of the Antarctic age



Legacy and achievements

- Crean has a glacier in South Georgia named Crean glacier and a mountain, Mount Crean in Antarctica too
- There is a statue of Crean in Annascaul
- He is known as one of the great heroes of the Antarctic ages
- He was awarded three polar medals for his bravery

