

The Weather and its Role in Captain Robert F. Scott and his Companions' Deaths.

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The Weather and its Role in Captain Robert F. Scott and his Companions' Deaths

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(Submitted on 4 Nov 2010 (v1), last revised 13 Aug 2011 (this version, v3))

A long debate has ensued about the relationship of weather conditions and Antarctic exploration. In no place on Earth is exploration, human existence, and scientific research so weather dependent. By using an artificial neural network simulation, historical (Heroic Age) and modern weather data from manned and automated stations, placed at different locations of the Ross Ice Shelf, and the Ross Island, I have examined minimum near surface air temperatures. All modern meteorological data, as well as historical data of Cherry-Garrard, high correlations between temperatures at different locations, and artificial neural network retrodiction of modern and historical temperature data, point out the oddity of Captain Scott's temperature recordings from February 27 - March 19, 1912. I was able to show that in this period the actual

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minimum near surface air temperature was on the average about 13°F (7°C) above that reported by Captain Scott and his party. On the basis of the mentioned evidence I concluded that the real minimum near surface air temperature data was altered by Lt. Bowers and Captain Scott to inflate and dramatize the weather conditions.

Comments: 12 pages, 6 figures, preprint. Dec. 3rd 2010: e-mail added and few (5) spellings Capitan to Captain corrected. Jul. 12th, 2011: Color figures added

Subjects: **History and Philosophy of Physics (physics.hist-ph)**; Atmospheric and Oceanic Physics (physics.ao-ph)

Cite as: [arXiv:1011.1272](#) [physics.hist-ph]
(or [arXiv:1011.1272v3](#) [physics.hist-ph] for this version)

Submission history

From: Kris Sienicki [[view email](#)]

[v1] Thu, 4 Nov 2010 21:28:00 GMT (474kb)

[v2] Fri, 3 Dec 2010 12:38:36 GMT (474kb)

[v3] Sat, 13 Aug 2011 01:54:49 GMT (486kb)

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