

11 AM HILLARY REACHES SOUTH POLE.

WELLINGTON, FRIDAY.

SIR EDMUND HILLARY SENT THE NEWS BY RADIO TONIGHT TO THE NEW ZEALAND ROSS SEA COMMITTEE, ORGANISERS OF THE EXPEDITION THAT HE HAS REACHED THE SOUTH POLE.

NEWS OF SIR EDMUND'S SUCCESS REACHED WELLINGTON EIGHT DAYS AFTER HE RADIOED THE DRAMATIC NEWS THAT HE WAS "HELLBENT" FOR THE POLE.

TO REACH THE WORLD'S SOUTHERN-MOST POINT TONIGHT SIR EDMUND HILLARY'S PARTY MUST HAVE PRESSED ON TOWARDS THE POLE TODAY INSTEAD OF TAKING THEIR USUAL DAYTIME REST.

HILLARY'S LAST REPORTED POSITION WAS 45 MILES FROM THE POLE. IT IS BELIEVED HE PRESSED ON AGAIN TODAY AFTER ONLY THE BRIEFEST REST.

SIR EDMUND, CONQUEROR OF MOUNT EVEREST, THUS BECOMES THE FIRST MAN TO REACH THE SOUTH POLE BY THE OVERLAND ROUTE SINCE CAPTAIN ROBERT SCOTT'S ILL-FATED EXPEDITION IN 1912.

CAPTAIN SCOTT REACHED THE POLE ON JANUARY 12 OF THAT YEAR WITH FOUR COMPANIONS, ONLY TO FIND THAT AMUNDSEN OF NORWAY HAD ABOUT A MONTH EARLIER BECOME THE FIRST MAN TO REACH THE BOTTOM OF THE WORLD.

CAPTAIN SCOTT, WHO PERISHED IN A BLIZZARD ON THE RETURN JOURNEY, USED SLEIGHS PULLED BY PONIES AND DOGS AFTER EXPERIMENTS WITH MOTOR SLEDGES PROVED UNSATISFACTORY. HE HAD SET OUT FROM ROSS ISLAND IN NOVEMBER 1911.

BY CONTRAST, SIR EDMUND HILLARY ACCOMPLISHED HIS FEAT WITH THE AID OF SNOW TRACTORS, SLEDS AND DOG TEAMS.

BUT HE TOOK LONGER BECAUSE WHEN HE SET OUT FROM MCMURDO SOUND IN OCTOBER THIS YEAR HE DID NOT INTEND TO GO TO THE POLE AT ALL. HIS AIM WAS TO PUT DOWN SUPPLY DEPOTS AND FIND A ROUTE FOR A BRITISH PARTY CROSSING FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CONTINENT.

11.20 AM ADD HILLARY REACHES SOUTH POLE.

WELLINGTON, FRIDAY.

SIR EDMUND HILLARY'S MESSAGE REPORTING E HAD REACHED
THE POLE WAS RELAYED FROM SCOTT BASE, THE NEW ZEALANDERS'
HEADQUARTERS ON THE ROSS SEA, AT 2201 NEW ZEALAND TIME
(10.1 A.M. GMT)

12.27 PM ADD HILLARY REACHES SOUTH POLE.

WELLINGTON, FRIDAY.

SIR EDMUND HILLARY'S TRACTOR TRAIN REACHED THE POLE AFTER A FORCED MARCH OF 70 MILES, DOUGLAS MCKENZIE, OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENT AT SCOTT BASE, REPORTED.

THE MESSAGE SAID :

"THE SOUTH POLE STATION'S ROUND TOWER IS IN SIGHT ON THE NEW ZEALANDER'S HORIZON.

"SIR EDMUND HILLARY AND HIS MEN OF THE NEW ZEALAND ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION ARE PAUSED, WITH THE BUILDINGS OF THE AMERICAN BASE AT THE SOUTH POLE A BLACK BLOB ON THE SNOW TWO MILES AHEAD.

"THE TRACTOR TRAIN REACHED THE POLE TONIGHT AFTER A FORCED MARCH OF 70 MILES.

9THE POLE STATION CAME INTO SIGHT AT 8 P.M. NEW ZEALAND TIME TONIGHT."

SIR EDMUND HILLARY'S JOURNEY FROM SCOTT BASE TO THE POLE COVERED A DISTANCE OF ALMOST 1,200 MILES. THE OVERALL TRANS-CONTINENTAL DISTANCE FROM SHACKLETON BASE ON THE WEDDELL SEA - DR. FUCH'S STARTING POINT - TO SCOTT BASE IS ABOUT 2,000 MILES.

THE NEW ZEALANDERS WERE GIVEN A WARM WELCOME BY AMERICAN SCIENTISTS WHO HAD ESTABLISHED A BASE AT THE POLE LAST OCTOBER.