

书虫·牛津英汉对照读物



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Coldest
Place
on
Earth

Tim Vicary

世界上最冷的地方



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罗顺江 译

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(京)新登字 155 号

京权图字 01-97-0330

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

世界上最冷的地方:英汉对照/(英)维卡里著;罗顺江译. - 北京:外语教学与研究出版社,1997.12
(书虫·牛津英汉对照读物)

I. 世… II. ①维… ②罗… III. 小说-英国-对照读物-英、汉 IV. H319.4:I

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(98)第 01452 号

Published by arrangement with Oxford University Press for sale in the People's Republic of China only and not for export therefrom

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外语教学与研究出版社出版发行
(北京西三环北路 19 号 100089)

<http://www.fltrp.com.cn>

清华大学印刷厂印刷

开本 850×1092 1/32 2.125 印张

2001 年 5 月第 1 版 2001 年 9 月第 2 次印刷

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简介

当今,南极有一座房子,叫阿蒙森—斯科特南极站。室内暖融融的,无论夏冬,人们都可以在那儿生活、工作。飞机毫不费力地便能飞抵或是飞离南极站。从这儿到世界其它地方,要不了多少小时。但是从南极站出来走上 500 米,那儿的南极洲便再次成为地球上最寒冷、最空旷的地区。

在 1911 年,当时的南极既没见过飞机也没建有住房。除了茫茫大雪、冰封天地与凛凛寒风外,一无所有。没有英国国旗,没有挪威国旗。但是,有几个人缓慢地向南走着,横穿冰封大地。斯科特率领的人配备了小马,而阿蒙森率领的人配备了狗与滑雪板。当时的温度为 -30°C 或者更糟。这些人忍受着疲倦、饥饿和寒冷……他们中谁将是到达南极的第一人呢?

目前,在阿蒙森—斯科特南极站内,墙上写着一些字,是斯科特队长于 1912 年写在日记里的一句话:

“天啊,这地方太可怕了!”

本文的作者蒂姆·维卡里是经验丰富的教师和作家。他现今在英国北部的约克生活工作。

Chapter 1

Two Ships

The race began in the summer of 1910.

On June 1st, in London, a black ship, the *Terra Nova*, went down the river Thames to the sea. Thousands of people stood by the river to watch it. They were all excited and happy.

On the *Terra Nova*, Captain Robert Falcon Scott smiled quietly. It was a very important day for him. He was a strong man, not very tall, in the blue clothes of a captain. He was forty-one years old, but he had a young face, like a boy. His eyes were dark and quiet.

One man on the ship, Titus Oates, smiled at Scott.

‘What an exciting day, Captain!’ he said. ‘Look at those people! I feel like an important man!’

Scott laughed. ‘You *are* important, Titus,’ he said. ‘And you’re going to be famous, too. We all are. Do you see this flag?’ He looked at the big British flag at the back of the ship, and smiled at Oates. ‘That flag is coming with us,’ he said. ‘In the Antarctic, I’m going to carry it under my clothes. We’re going to be the first men at the South Pole, and that flag is going to be first, too!’

* * * * *

Five days later, on June 6th, a man opened the door of his wooden house in Norway. He was a tall man, with a long face.

1 两艘船

比赛开始于1910年夏天。

6月1日,伦敦。特若·诺瓦号这艘黑船顺泰晤士河而下,向大海驶去。成千上万的人伫立岸边观望,所有的人脸上都露出兴奋与幸福。

特若·诺瓦号上,队长罗伯特·福尔康·斯科特无声地笑了。这一天对他来说太重要了。他个头不高,但长得壮实,穿着蓝色的队长制服。他虽说已经41岁,但是由于长着一张娃娃脸,所以看上去仍像个小孩。他双眼乌黑而又沉静。

泰特斯·奥茨,船上的一位水手,冲着队长笑了。

“多么令人兴奋的日子啊,队长!”他说,“看看这些人!我觉得自己好似成为重要人物了!”

队长朗声笑了。“泰特斯,你确是重要人物,”他说,“而且你很快就要名扬天下,就同我们大家一样。你看到这国旗了吗?”他注视着船尾那面巨幅的英国国旗,微笑着对奥茨说:“那面国旗将会随我们一道去。在南极洲,我将把它夹在衣服里面带着。我们将成为首批到达南极的人,那面国旗也将是第一面到达南极的旗帜。”

* * * * *

5天以后,6月6日。在挪威,一个人拉开了自己的木房子的门。这人高个、长脸。



Thames n. a river in southern England. 泰晤士河(位于英国南部)。

He waited outside the house for a minute. Everything was very quiet. He could see no houses, only mountains, trees, and water. It was nearly dark. The sky was black over the mountains.

The man smiled, and walked quickly away from the house, down to the sea. In the water, a big wooden ship waited for him. The man got onto the ship, and talked and laughed quietly with his friends.

The ship's name was *Fram*, and the man was Roald Amundsen. The *Fram* was the most beautiful ship on earth, Amundsen thought. His friends were the best skiers on earth, too. One of them, Olav Bjaaland, smiled at him.

'North Pole, here we come, Captain,' he said.

'Yes.' Amundsen said. His friends could not see his face in the dark. '*Fram* is going to the Arctic.'

Everyone on the *Fram* was ready to go to the North Pole, to the Arctic. Amundsen wanted to go there, too. But first he wanted to go south. His friends didn't know that.

At midnight on June 6th, the *Fram* moved quietly away from Amundsen's house, out to sea.

他在室外稍候片刻,四周万籁俱寂。他目光所及之处,没有住房,只有群山、树林和大海。天近傍晚,群山上面是黑沉沉的一片天空。

这人脸上露出微笑,快步离开木屋,朝海边走去。大海中,一艘大型木船正等着他。他来到船上,与朋友们聊着,悄悄地笑着。

这船叫弗雷门号,这人便是罗阿尔·阿蒙森。阿蒙森认为,弗雷门号是地球上最美丽的一艘船。

他的朋友是地球上最优秀的滑雪者。其中有位朋友叫奥拉夫·比阿兰德,正冲着他微笑。

“北极,我们去那儿,队长。”他说。

“是的,”阿蒙森说。由于天色已黑,这位朋友看不见他的面部表情。“弗雷门号正驶向北极。”

弗雷门号上的每个人全都准备就绪:到北极圈,上北极。阿蒙森也想去那儿。然而他第一想做的事,便是向南航行。他的朋友却毫不知情。

6月6日午夜,弗雷门号无声地驶离阿蒙森的家园,驶向大海。

wooden *adj.* made of wood. 木制的。**skier** *n.* a person who travels on skis. 滑雪者。**Arctic** *n.* the northernmost region of the earth. 北极。

Chapter 2

The Race

The *Fram* went to an island in the south of Norway. It was a very little island, with only one small wooden house, two trees — and nearly a hundred dogs.

‘Look at that!’ Bjaaland said. ‘It’s an island of dogs! There are dogs in the water, near the trees, on the house — dogs everywhere!’

Two men came out of the house. ‘Hassel! Lindstrøm!’ Amundsen said. ‘It’s good to see you! How many dogs do you have for me?’

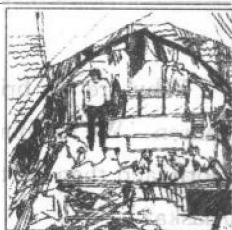
‘Ninety-nine, Roald,’ said Hassel. ‘The best ninety-nine dogs from Greenland. And they’re very happy! They don’t work; they just eat and play all day! They’re having a wonderful summer here!’

‘Good, good.’ Amundsen laughed. ‘But that’s finished now. Hey, Bjaaland! Stop laughing — come down here and help me. Let’s get all these dogs onto the ship!’

It was not easy. The dogs were fat and strong, and they didn’t want to go on the ship. But at last, after three hours’ hard work, all ninety-nine were on the ship, and the *Fram* went out to sea again.

The men were not happy. The weather was bad, the dogs were dirty, and some of the men were ill. They began to ask questions.

2 比赛



弗雷门号抵达挪威南部的一个小岛。该岛很小,仅有一间小木屋,两棵树,还有将近 100 条狗。

“看那儿!”比阿兰德说,“是座狗岛!海水里有狗,树旁有狗,房顶上有狗,处处都有狗!”

房内走出两个人。“哈塞尔!林德斯特伦!”阿蒙森呼唤说,“见到你们就好了!你们给我养了多少条狗?”

“99 条,罗阿尔,”哈塞尔说,“99 条格兰最好的狗。这些狗太好过了,啥事不干,整天好吃好玩!它们正在这儿欢度夏天呢!”

“好,好,”阿蒙森朗声笑了,“但是现在这一切全结束了。喂,比阿兰德!别笑啦,下船来这儿,帮帮我,把这些狗全弄到船上去!”

这事并不容易。这些狗又肥又壮,不愿上船。然而在苦于 3 小时后,所有 99 条狗全都上船,弗雷门号再度驶向大海。

船上的人员高兴不起来:气候恶劣,狗群肮脏,而且有人病倒了。于是,他们便开始提出种种问题。

island *n.* piece of land surrounded by water. 岛; 岛屿。

‘Why are we bringing dogs with us?’ asked one man, Johansen. ‘We’re going thousands of kilometres south, past Cape Horn, and then north to Alaska. Why not wait, and get dogs in Alaska?’

‘Don’t ask me,’ said his friend, Helmer Hanssen, ‘I don’t understand it.’

The men talked for a long time. Then, on September 9th, Amundsen called everyone to the back of the ship. He stood quietly and looked at them. Behind him was a big map. It was not a map of the Arctic. It was a map of Antarctica.

Bjaaland looked at Helmer Hanssen, and laughed. Then Amundsen began to speak.

‘Boys,’ he said. ‘I know you are unhappy. You often ask me difficult questions, and I don’t answer. Well, I’m going to answer all those questions now, today.’

‘We began to work for this journey two years ago. Then, we wanted to be the first men at the North Pole. But last year, Peary, an American, found the North Pole. So America was first to the North Pole, not Norway. We’re going there, but we’re too late.’

‘I don’t understand this,’ Bjaaland thought. ‘Why is Amundsen talking about the North Pole, with a map of Antarctica behind him?’

Amundsen stopped for a minute, and looked at all the men slowly. No one said anything.

‘We have to go a long way south before we get to Alaska,’

“我们为什么要带这些狗？”有人提问说，他叫约翰森。“我们即将南行好几千公里，穿越合恩角，然后向北，到阿拉斯加。为什么不等等，等到阿拉斯加后再弄狗？”

“别问我，”他的朋友赫尔默·汉森说，“我也搞不懂。”

好长时间内，这些人一直都在议论纷纷。后来，9月9日那天，阿蒙森将所有人员召集到大船尾部。他静静地站着，看着众人。他身后有一大幅地图，然而这不是北极地图，而是南极洲地图。

比阿兰德看着赫尔默·汉森，笑出声来。这时，阿蒙森开始讲话。

“伙计们，”他说，“我知道你们心中不满。你们经常问我一些难题，我都没有回答。好吧，今天我当即解答所有的问题。”

“两年前，我们便开始为这次旅程做准备。当时，我们想成为最先抵达北极的人。然而去年，美国人皮里找到了北极。所以，美国人首先到达了北极，而不是挪威人。我们现在正要去那儿，但为时过晚了。”

“我听不懂这些话，”比阿兰德心想，“阿蒙森身后挂着南极洲地图，为什么却大谈北极呢？”

阿蒙森稍作停顿，缓缓地注视着全体人员。这时没有任何人多嘴。

“到阿拉斯加前，还得南行好远的路，”

journey *n.* going to a place, especially a distant place. 旅行(尤指至遥远的地方之旅行); 旅程; 路程。

he said. 'Very near Antarctica, you know. And Captain Scott, the Englishman, is going to the South Pole this year. He wants to put his British flag there. An American flag at the North Pole, a British flag at the South Pole.'

Bjaaland began to understand. He started to smile and couldn't stop. He was warm and excited.

'Well, boys,' Amundsen said slowly. 'Do we want the British to put their flag at the South Pole first? How fast can we travel? We have a lot of dogs, and some of the most wonderful skiers on earth — Bjaaland here is the best in Norway! So I have an idea, boys. Let's go to the South Pole, and put the Norwegian flag there before the British! What do you say?'

For a minute or two it was very quiet. Amundsen waited, and the men watched him and thought. Then Bjaaland laughed.

'Yes!' he said. 'Why not? It's a ski race, isn't it, and the English can't ski! It's a wonderful idea, of course! Let's go!'

他说。“你们都知道,几乎是到了南极洲。英国人斯科特队长今年正赶往南极。他想将英国国旗插在那儿。美国国旗已经插上了北极,而英国国旗正插向南极。”

比阿兰德开始省悟了,脸上露出了微笑,难以自制。他浑身暖洋洋的,亢奋不已。

“好吧,伙计们,”阿蒙森缓缓地说,“眼睁睁地看着英国人将他们的旗帜首先插上南极,我们能同意吗?我们的前行速度非常之快,不是吗?我们不仅带着许多狗,而且拥有地球上最杰出的滑雪能手;我们这儿的比阿兰德便是全挪威最优秀的!所以,我有个主意,伙计们。咱们到南极去,赶在英国国旗之前,将挪威国旗插到那儿去!你们有何看法?”

一时间,整个场面安静极了。阿蒙森等待着,而这些人看着他,考虑着这些。这时,比阿兰德朗笑出声。

“对!”他说,“为什么不呢?这是场滑雪比赛,难道不是吗?再说,英国人不会滑雪!这主意绝妙之极!咱们就去那儿!”

travel *v. to go a long way.*
旅行;游历。

Chapter 3

The Ponies

On October 27th, the *Terra Nova* arrived in Wellington, New Zealand. When Scott came off the ship, a newspaper man walked up to him.

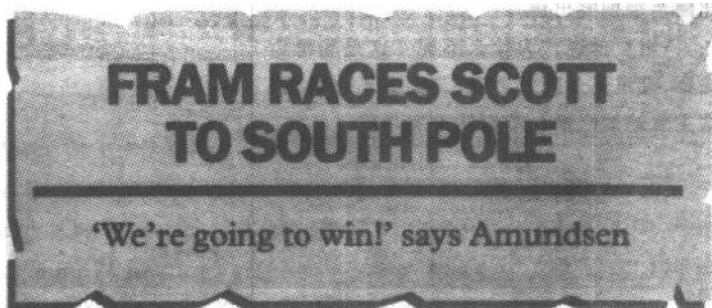
‘Captain Scott! Captain Scott! Can I talk to you, please!’ he said.

Scott stopped and smiled. ‘Yes, of course,’ he said. ‘What do you want to know?’

‘Are you going to win?’ the man asked.

‘Win?’ Scott asked. ‘Win what?’

‘Win the race to the South Pole, of course,’ the newspaper man said. ‘It’s a race between you and Amundsen, now. Look at this!’ He gave a newspaper to Scott. Scott looked at it. It said:



Scott’s face went white. ‘Give me that!’ he said. He took the newspaper and read it carefully. The newspaper man watched him, and waited. ‘Well, Captain Scott,’ he said at last. ‘Who’s

3 小马

10月27日,特若·诺瓦号船抵达新西兰的惠灵顿。当斯科特走下船时,一位报社记者迎面走来。

“斯科特队长!斯科特队长!我能与你谈谈吗?”他说。

斯科特停下来,面带微笑。“行,当然可以!”他说,“你想知道什么?”

“你们会是赢家吗?”那人问。

“赢家?”斯科特问,“什么赢家?”

“当然是赢得前往南极的竞赛。”报社记者说。“现在这个竞赛在你与阿蒙森之间展开。瞧!”他将一份报纸递给斯科特。斯科特看着报纸。报上是这样写的:

弗雷门号正与斯科特争先到达南极

阿蒙森说:“我们将赢得比赛!”

斯科特脸色变得苍白。“给我报纸!”他说。他拿过报纸认真阅读。记者观察着他,期待着。“那么,斯科特队长,”他最终开口了,“谁



newspaper man journalist.
新闻工作者;新闻记者。
race 1 n. contest or competition in speed. 比赛;赛跑。2 v. run a race against. 同……赛跑。

going to win this race? Tell me that!’

Scott looked at him angrily. ‘This is stupid!’ he said. ‘It’s not a race! I came here to learn about the Antarctic — I’m not interested in Amundsen, or in races!’ Then he walked back on to his ship, with the newspaper in his hand.

Later that day, he talked to his men. He gave them the newspaper, and laughed.

‘It doesn’t matter,’ he said. ‘We’re in front of Amundsen, and we have more men, and more money. He has only eight men, and a lot of dogs. I know about dogs — they don’t work in the Antarctic. We have sixteen men and the new motor sledges — they are much better. And tomorrow the ponies are coming. We need ponies, motor sledges, and good strong British men — that’s all. Forget about Amundsen! He’s not important!’

Scott asked Oates to look after the ponies, but he did not let Oates buy them. When Oates first saw the ponies, in New Zealand, he was very unhappy. Most of the ponies were old, and some of them were ill.

‘They’re beautiful ponies, Titus,’ Scott said. ‘They come from China — they’re wonderful ponies!’

Oates looked at them angrily, and said nothing. Then he asked: ‘Where is their food, Captain?’

‘Here!’ Scott opened a door.

Oates looked inside. He thought for a minute. ‘We need more food than this, Captain Scott! These ponies are going to