

2nd page

(130)

78  
"Be Prepared."

An Account of the Voyages of Captain Cook. His Success as an Explorer.

James Cook was born at the close of the year 1728, at Marton a village in Yorkshire.

He was one of England's bravest, noblest seamen, and lived a life to be proud of.

He made three famous voyages, each lasting three years.

The first voyage was an expedition organized by the Royal Society, and its purpose was to sail to the Pacific Ocean in order to observe the impending transit of Venus over the sun. Cook, being a capable navigator, was chosen to command the expedition, and the "Endeavour" set sail from Deptford on the Thames, in July 1768.

In January 1769 Cook doubled Cape Horn and reached Tahiti in April of that year. He spent several months here making astronomical observations, surveying the group of islands, and becoming acquainted with the people whom he found to be a peaceful race, but rather inclined to steal.

He left the Society Islands on

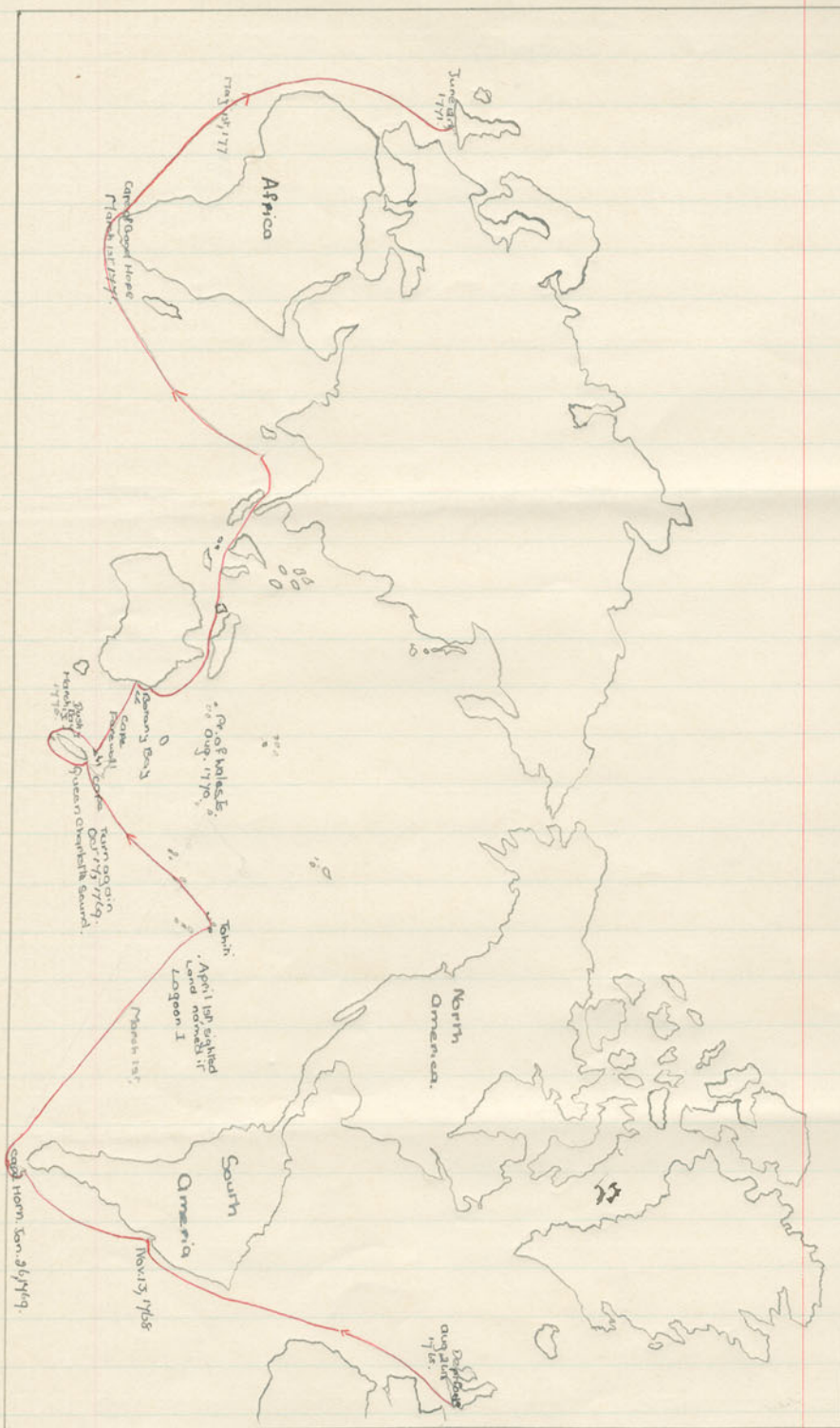
August and turned South seeking the "Southern Continent," but when he reached lat  $40^{\circ}$  South he turned westwards, and on October 7<sup>th</sup>, he sighted the shore of the North Island of New Zealand. He stayed there for six months, exploring and surveying the coast-line of this island group.

Then he turned north sailed round North Island, and sailing south passed through Cook's Strait. He reached Queen Charlotte Sound in January, 1770. At the latter place he overhauled his ship and took formal possession of the country of New Zealand. He turned South and rounded first South Island and then Stewart Island.

Quitting the shores of New Zealand he reached Australia on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1770. For three months he sailed up the east coast, surveyed it, and collected information about the people, plants and animals. He navigated with skill the difficult channels of the Great Barrier Reef where he just escaped being wrecked. Before leaving Australia, Cook hoisted the British flag and took possession of Australia for Britain.

Cook sailed through Torres Strait, and reached the Dutch colony

Captain Cook's First Voyage. 1768-1771.



of Batavia in Java.

Owing to Cook's success over scurvy, the crew was practically free of the disease until Batavia was reached, where owing to the shockingly unsanitary state of the town, the dread disease broke out among the men. On the return voyage twenty-three men died of sickness.

The expedition returned by way of the Cape of Good Hope, and reached England in June 1771.

Cook was received warmly, and the success of his first voyage so aroused geographical interest that a second expedition was planned.

The ships, on this second expedition, the "Resolution" and the "Adventure" set sail from Plymouth on July 13<sup>th</sup>, 1772, and reached Cape Town in October of the same year.

On January 17<sup>th</sup>, 1773 Cook and his expedition found themselves in the Antarctic Circle but the passage being ice-blocked, they sailed eastwards searching for the Southern Continent. In February the ships were parted in a fog, but each passed the southern end of Australia. The "Adventure" touched at Tasmania, and met the "Resolution" in Queen Charlotte Sound.

They set sail for the Mid-Pacific

in June, intending to spend the winter cruising among the islands.

In August Tahiti was reached, but was quitted in September. They visited the Friendly Isles and sailed on to New Zealand. Here they discovered that the natives were cannibals.

The "Adventure" parted from her companion ship, and was not seen again during the voyage. Some of her crew <sup>were</sup> eaten by the New Zealanders in Queen Charlotte Sound, and she returned to England in 1774.

Cook sailed east through the Southern ocean, but finding nothing but ice and snow turned north to the Easter Isle, and passed on to New Zealand, visiting the Marquesas, Society and Friendly Islands, and discovering New Caledonia.

He remained at Queen Charlotte Sound overhauling and repairing his ship, and prepared to return home.

He returned, passing Cape Horn and sailing south-east discovering South Georgia. They remained at Cape Town to repair their ship, and sailed on reaching Portsmouth on July 30<sup>th</sup>, 1775.

Cook was rewarded with a

Captaincy on his return.

The Royal Society decided to send an expedition to discover the "North-West Passage," Cook was asked to undertake the command of the expedition. Thus it was that Cook went on his third and last voyage.

Two ships, the "Resolution" and the "Discovery" left Plymouth on July 11<sup>th</sup>, 1776 under the command of Cook. He called at the Cape, passed through the Indian Ocean, and visited Kerguelan Land.

The expedition went on to New Zealand, remained in Queen Charlotte Sound for a few days and sailed north-east, cruising among the Pacific Islands.

Then they voyaged north to discover the "North-West Passage," touching at the Sandwich Islands in January, 1778. The ships were overhauled in Nootka Sound, Vancouver Island. In July they reached Behring Sea, passed "Cape Prince of Wales". On August 12<sup>th</sup>, 1778 they entered the Arctic Circle, where they tried in vain to push through the ice and snow, but failed and turned to explore the North Pacific.

In one of the Aleutian Islands they encountered some Russian Traders. Leaving these, they steered south and came to the Sandwich Islands.

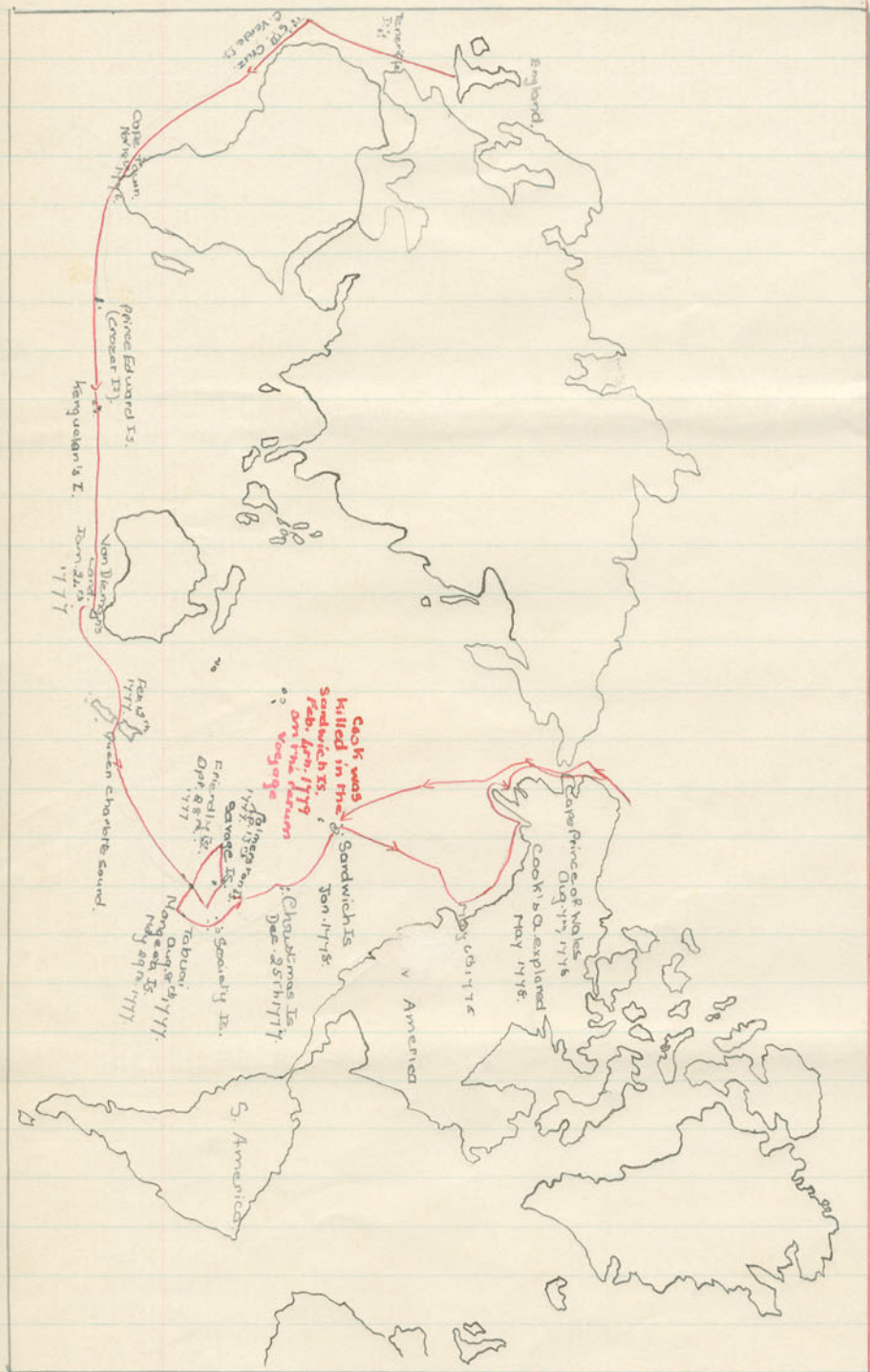
They stayed at Owhyhee, where they were greeted warmly at first, and where at first Captain Cook was treated with great reverence. However, the various chiefs grew less and less inclined to be friendly, and many incidents which caused suspicion showed that the importance of the white men was dwindling in the eyes of the natives, who soon showed that the white men had remained long enough on the island.

Cook and his men left the island, but were compelled to return owing to a broken mast which had to be repaired. They were received coldly by the natives and in an unfriendly manner.

Many of the things belonging to the expedition disappeared, and the sailors in an attempt to seize a chief as a hostage for a stolen boat, paid dearly for it in an attack by the natives and in the death of their leader, Captain Cook, on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 1779.

The ships left Owhyhee, Captain Clerke taking command. They sailed through Behring Strait into the Arctic Ocean. In October they prepared for the return voyage, sailing through the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, calling at Canton and Cape

# Captain Cook's Third Voyage 1776-1779



Town, and reaching England on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 1780.

To Captain Cook, England owes her important colonies in Australasia and among the Pacific Islands. To his sturdy, noble character she owes a great part of Her Empire.

He possessed a strong will, and he was a brave commander, a keen observer, and a thorough practical physician. All he attempted to do, he did with all his might.

He won the affection of those in his service by sympathy, kindness and cheerful self-sacrifice.

He rose in power, and was a renowned captain because of his intellectual gifts, but most of all because of the struggles and endeavours of his youth. Cook was a success as an explorer because he had all the qualities of a leader and could command the love, and obedience of his followers.