

# Sledge and flag from Shackleton's Nimrod expedition at risk of being lost abroad

- Expedition was the first in history to travel within 100 miles of the South Pole□
- Sledge carried supplies for the four men who undertook the famous failed march to the Pole in 1909□

Arts Minister Helen Whately has stopped the export of a sledge and flag that was taken on Ernest Shackleton's 1907 – 1909 British Antarctic Expedition following their sale to an overseas buyer.

The items are valued at £227,500 plus £8,750 VAT and are at risk of export unless a UK buyer can be found to add the items to the national collection so they can be enjoyed by the public.

The expedition, known as Nimrod, was the first led by famous explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton (1874 – 1922). He led three expeditions to the Antarctic in the early twentieth century, this one with the intention of being the first to the South Pole.

During Nimrod, Shackleton, chose three other men from the group – Frank Wild, Eric Marshall and Jameson Adams – to make the attempt on the Pole. The sledge and the flag were hauled, first by pony and then by the men, to within 97.5 miles of their objective, the South Pole before famously turning back to Discovery Point in 1909.

This sledge was one of four used to carry the supplies and equipment the team needed to survive in the extreme conditions. This expedition was the greatest advance to the Pole in history until Amundsen and Scott reached the South Pole separately three years later in 1912.

## **Arts Minister Helen Whately said:**

Shackleton's expeditions to the South Pole are legendary. The sledge and the flag were part of his ground-breaking Nimrod expedition. Together, they help to tell the story of one of the most daring moments in the twentieth century.

The UK has a proud history of discovery, and it would be a terrible loss for the nation if these unique items did not stay in the country.

The items at risk of export belonged to Dr Eric Marshall (1879 – 1963), a

surgeon and polar explorer, who was one of the group chosen to accompany Shackleton on the march to the South Pole during the Nimrod expedition. Marshall was an indispensable member of Shackleton's team, acting as surgeon, surveyor, cartographer and principal photographer.

The items were brought back to the UK by Marshall and in the 1950s he donated them to his alma mater, Monkton Combe School in Bath. The flag itself is unique, having been handmade and designed for the expedition and is a prominent feature in many of the famous photographs of the journey.

### **The Chairman of the RCEWA, Sir Hayden Phillips said:**

This sledge and flag, belonging to Eric Marshall, are evocative objects. In themselves, the sledge is beautifully crafted; and the square flag unusual, in that the other sledging flags on the 1906 Nimrod expedition were pennants. It appears in photographs, distinct from the others, but it was more often wrapped around Marshall to help him keep warm when sledging with ponies.

It is the story around these objects which gives dramatic and historic resonance to them. Marshall was the expedition's surgeon, cartographer, principal photographer and the keeper of the record of the expedition. It was fairly chaotically organised. Unlike Scott and Amundsen later, Shackleton received no public funds. When their ship arrived in Antarctica (it had to be towed, so laden was it) it could not moor, so everything they needed (which could not walk or swim itself), had to be thrown overboard.

Relations between Marshall and Shackleton were strained, and that may be an understatement, as they were very different in character. Returning from the most southerly point ever reached, Marshall fell into a crevasse. When he emerged, he told Shackleton that he had dropped the notebook recording their journey, as he fell. Shackleton ordered him to go back down and find it. He did.

It may be said that this expedition was a heroic failure but it went further south towards the pole than ever before and blazed the trail which Scott and Amundsen were to follow. The story behind these objects is a riveting saga. Generations to come will be prompted to discover it if the sledge and the flag can be on public display in this country. We need to keep them."

The Minister's decision follows the advice of the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest (RCEWA). The committee noted that very few objects from the expedition have survived, and

that Nimrod was of outstanding significance for the history of Polar exploration. They also noted that the items provided the public with a tangible connection to a significant chapter in the history of the United Kingdom.

The RCEWA made its recommendation on the grounds of the items outstanding significance for the study of Polar exploration and Ernest Shackleton's Nimrod expedition.

The decision on the export licence application for the items will be deferred until 6 May 2020. This may be extended until 6 August 2020 if a serious intention to raise funds to purchase it is made at the recommended price of £227,500 plus £8,750 VAT .

## Notes to editors

1. Organisations or individuals interested in purchasing the items should contact the RCEWA on 0845 300 6200.
  2. Details of the items are as follows: □ An Antarctic sledge and framed plaque, used on the British Antarctic Expedition ('Nimrod Expedition'), 1907-09, retained by Eric Marshall. Eric Marshall's sledge flag used on the British Antarctic Expedition ('Nimrod Expedition'), 1907-09.  
Materials: Ash and hickory with fibre and rawhide bindings  
Dimensions: 3360mm x 600mm x 200mm  
Manufacturer: LH Hagen and Co, Oslo, Norway, 1907  
Date: 1907-1909
  3. Provenance: Both items belonged to Dr Eric Marshall, surgeon and polar explorer. Dr Eric Marshall was a member of the British Antarctic Expedition 1907-09 (Nimrod) led by Sir Ernest Shackleton, which aimed to reach the South Pole. Marshall was one of the four men picked to join the Southern Party to undertake the sledge march to the pole, which was famously abandoned less than 100 miles from their intended destination, which was the record for a farthest south until Amundsen and Scott conquered the pole in three years later. These items were returned to the UK on the Nimrod and retained by Marshall until the 1950s, when he donated them to his alma mater Monkton Combe School in Bath. They have been kept at the school and displayed until sold by it at Bonham's as lots [195](#) and [196](#) in its 6th February 2019 Travel and Exploration sale.
  4. The Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest is an independent body, serviced by The Arts Council, which advises the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on whether a cultural object, intended for export, is of national importance under specified criteria.
  5. The Arts Council champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. It supports a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. [www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk). □
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# Rape victims in Wales to benefit from UK Government funding boost

- Rape support centres across Wales awarded 50 per cent funding uplift
- Part of funding increase totalling £32 million over three years
- More victims than ever to receive UK Government funded support

Victims of rape and sexual assault across Wales will be helped by a 50 per cent funding boost for specialist support services the UK Government has announced.

Over £1.3m has been awarded to six rape support centres over two years across Wales. This funding will mean more rape victims than ever will be able to get vital advice, support and counselling.

More than 8000 sexual offences were recorded by police across Wales last year, and today's announcement is part of a 50 per cent increase that will cover services across England and Wales – totalling £32m over three years up to 2022.

The UK Government is also investing £1 million to recruit more Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) across the country, who provide advice and support for victims, acting as the link between police, support services and criminal justice agencies.

## **Secretary of State for Wales Simon Hart said:**

Rape and sexual violence are truly devastating crimes which have long term impacts on victims' lives.

I am encouraged that organisations in each of Wales' four police force areas will be able to help more people to receive the support and advice they need to recover as a result of UK Government funding.

Across England and Wales more than 160,000 sexual offences were recorded by police last year. The £32m provided by the UK Government directly funds 76 rape support services and a further 18 via Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) over three years, and ensures there is vital help for victims in all 42 of England and Wales' PCC areas.

This is the second time the UK Government has increased funding in the last year to the Rape Support Fund, bringing it to £12 million per year from April. The increase will allow our local services to plan for the future – offering them stability and security so that they can focus on delivering services that victims so desperately need.

The move builds on new laws brought in by this UK Government that will ensure

serious violent and sexual offenders spend longer behind bars – ensuring the public and victims are protected from these heinous crimes.

## **ENDS**

### **Further information:**

Funding has been awarded to the following six rape support centres:

<b>PCC area</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Provider</b>
<b>Dyfed Powys</b>	Aberystwyth	Mid Wales Rape Support Centre
<b>Dyfed Powys</b>	Newtown	New Pathways (Dyfed Powys)
<b>Gwent</b>	Torfaen	Cyfannol Women's Aid
<b>North Wales</b>	Bangor	Rape And Sexual Abuse Support Centre North Wales
<b>North Wales</b>	Wrexham	Stepping Stones North Wales
<b>South Wales</b>	Merthyr Tydfil	New Pathways (South Wales)

### **Notes to editors:**

- Victims across Wales will benefit from an over £220,000 funding boost, raising the total MoJ funding for rape support services in Wales to over £680,000 p.a. for 2020-22.
  - MOJ funding for victim support services has almost doubled since 2012/13 (by increasing revenue raised from offenders). This year we awarded about £92 million on these services. In previous years this has been £96m due to a £4m MoJ contribution to the Home Office's modern slavery contract – this funding has now been directly transferred to the Home Office.
  - MOJ provides a contribution to rape support services across England and Wales and the level of grant funding varies. In 2018/19 we allocated around £7.2 million to these centres to provide independent, specialist support to female and male victims of sexual violence, including victims of child sexual abuse. This increased to £8 million in 2019/20 and will further increase to £12m p.a. for 2020 -2022.
  - In 2019/20 we allocated Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) around £68 million funding to locally commission emotional and practical support services for victims of crime, including victims of sexual violence, as they are best placed to respond to local need.
  - The Crime Survey for England and Wales estimated that 20% of women and 4% of men have experienced some type of sexual assault since the age of 16, equivalent to an estimated 3.4 million female victims and 631,000 male victims.
  - In September 2018 we published the first cross-government Victims' Strategy was published which outlined how we will improve the support on offer for victims at every stage of the justice system.
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# Trade Minister champions UK SMEs in US ahead of trade talks

Business and industry leaders have met with International Trade Minister Conor Burns this week in Texas to discuss the benefits of future UK-US Free Trade Agreement and help promote British SMEs overseas.

During his trip, Mr Burns has visited Houston where he hosted a lunch with British businesses based in the city and toured NASA to promote the UK aerospace industry. He then traveled to Dallas where he gave a speech to students at Texas A&M university about the trading opportunities ahead for businesses in both the UK and US and hosted a roundtable with UK defence and aerospace firms.

Discussions focused on a range of issues including the opportunities available to strengthen current trade and investment ties between the UK and Texas, worth almost \$14bn in 2018 alone, as well as the wider benefits of a future UK-US FTA and the advantages of reducing non-tariff barriers for businesses.

## **Minister of State, The Rt Hon Conor Burns said:**

Negotiating and signing a new ambitious free trade agreement with the US is one of the government's top priorities. I am delighted to be in the great state of Texas this week to demonstrate the opportunity of such a deal. If Texas were a country it would be the 10th largest economy in the world.

A future trade agreement could help reduce barriers and bring benefits to thousands of small businesses by reducing costs while also strengthening sectors like manufacturing and professional and business services where we already enjoy a strong trading relationship. As we work towards the US-UK FTA there is much we can do at a State level to increase trade.

In visiting the USA so soon after we left the EU I want to reinforce the message that we are entering a new phase of an internationalist global Britain.

The UK will negotiate a new UK-US FTA that will champion UK business and unlock new markets for SMEs in the US.

The UK is currently the largest single foreign investor in Texas. Bilateral trade between the UK and Texas was worth almost \$14 billion in 2018 alone; roughly twice as much as trade between the UK and Mexico.

86% of UK businesses exporting goods to the US are SMEs. A free trade agreement could remove tariffs, in particular for small and medium sized

businesses.

The UK is committed to negotiating a comprehensive free trade agreement with the US, that will lower tariffs, encourage investment and enable SMEs to take advantage of the trade opportunities generated, in new and increasing diverse markets across the US, including in Texas.

One British business already taking advantage of US markets is smoked salmon producer, H. Forman & Son. The London based firm has recently secured a deal with HEB Central Supermarkets to supply their products in its chains across Texas.

**Lance Forman, owner of H. Forman & Son said:**

Following a DIT hosted export promotion dinner at Hampton Court which I was delighted to have been invited to, I met with one of the directors of HEB Texas supermarkets. My team and I followed up shortly after and since then we have developed a prestigious new customer in Texas. HEB Central Markets is a high quality food retailer and we are pleased to have three of our products on their shelves across the state. Each month we are shipping our world renowned London Cure Smoked Salmon, Gravavlax and our unique Gin & Tonic Smoked Salmon. Texans appear to be enjoying Forman's products as our sales continue to grow.

The government also launched a new international marketing campaign last week, aimed at inspiring and reassuring buyers and inward investors worldwide that the UK is ready, willing and able to trade with them. The new Ready to Trade campaign has seen billboard, newspaper and social-media adverts appear in signature locations across 18 cities, 13 countries and airports around the world, including across the US.

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## [First UK night flights land in HMS Queen Elizabeth](#)

Exercise Lightning Fury training over the North Sea is aimed at ensuring 207 Squadron achieves essential carrier flying and Landing Signals Officer (LSO) supervisory qualifications.

The exercise builds on successful trials completed on last year's 'WESTLANT 19' Carrier Strike Group deployment off the East Coast of the USA.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said:

Few countries in the world have the capacity and technology to deploy fighter jets from an aircraft carrier in the North Sea. These trials put the UK at the helm of 5th generation warfighting and cement the UK as a Tier 1 military power.

HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales will be the first aircraft carriers in the world to be designed specifically to operate the Lightning jet. The 'Short Take Off and Vertical Landing' (STOVL) Lightning represents a step change in capability. With its advanced sensors, and stealth technology, the Lightning will provide the UK with a world-beating combat aircraft, which will be jointly manned by the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy.

Commander UK Strike Force, Mike Utley said:

Operating the UK's Lightning Force from the deck of HMS Queen Elizabeth in UK waters is a significant milestone, and one we are delighted to have shown the Secretary of State for Defence in person.

This training with 207 Squadron will set the conditions for valuable warfighting exercises later this year between the operational Squadron and the ship. The future utility of these tremendous UK Defence assets is gaining clarity each day as we push the envelope of their combined ability, leading to the first combined operational deployment of the carrier strike capability next year.

Once fully operational, the UK Carrier Strike Group will be a formidable force around the world, using a number of platforms to work alongside our allies and signalling the UK's position as a global player on the world stage.

Station Commander, Group Captain James Beck said:

It was great to welcome the Defence Secretary today. This was an opportunity for him to meet with personnel from the Lightning Force and to be briefed on the activity of the Squadrons currently taking part in Exercise RED FLAG in America and Carrier Qualifications on HMS Queen Elizabeth.

The UK will declare Initial Operating Capability for Carrier Strike by the end of 2020. The UK currently owns 18 aircraft, with an additional order placed for 30 jets.

The first operational deployment for HMS Queen Elizabeth 617 Squadron and a squadron of US Marine Corps Lightning jets is due to take place in 2021.



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## Armed Forces heroes celebrated at The Sun Military Awards

The Sun Military Awards – otherwise known as the Millies – have recognised incredible acts of heroism and resilience within the Armed Forces for the twelfth year running at a red-carpet ceremony at London's Banqueting House.

The crew of HMS Argyll won the Hero Overseas – Unit award for saving the lives of 27 sailors from a huge fire onboard a large cargo ship in the Bay of Biscay during their return from deployment.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson attended and presented the Hero at Home – Unit award to 18 and 27 Squadron Royal Air Force for their dedication to the recovery effort during flooding in Lincolnshire and their work to reinforce the dam at Whaley Bridge.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson hosted the nominees at a reception at 10 Downing Street

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace, who met the nominees at a reception at 10 Downing Street before attending the awards show, said:

Our Armed Forces serve with expertise, dedication and resilience and are the best in the world. The Sun Military Awards allow us to celebrate the brilliance of our Armed Forces and reward examples of extraordinary service. Congratulations to all the nominees and winners and thank you to The Sun and BAE Systems for organising this wonderful event.

The Judges' Special Award was awarded to The Royal British Legion's Veteran's Ship which took 300 Second World War veterans on a moving voyage to the official D-Day 75th anniversary commemorations in the UK and France.

Pte Fin Doherty, who won the Inspiring Others award, stands with Alexandra Burke on the red carpet

Famous faces from the worlds of film, music and sport attended the ceremony and were on hand to present the awards to the winners, including armed forces supporters Ross Kemp and Baroness Karren Brady and sports stars Mark Foster and Rebecca Adlington. Music stars Liam Payne and Alexandra Burke also attended to show their support.

The winners of The Sun Military Awards are:

### **Hero at Home – Individual**

Lance Corporal Craig Daniels – for saving the life of a fellow soldier who was hit by a lorry close to Catterick Garrison.

### **Hero at Home – Unit**

18 and 27 Squadron, Royal Air Force – for their work aiding the recovery effort during flooding in Lincolnshire and reinforcing the dam at Whaley Bridge.

### **Hero Overseas – Individual**

Flight Lieutenant Aaron Kerry – for leading a mission to recover a platoon of French paratroopers in territory with known Daesh activity in Mali.

### **Hero Overseas – Unit**

HMS Argyll – for saving 27 sailors from a huge fire onboard a large cargo ship in the Bay of Biscay.

### **Best Reservist**

Lieutenant Commander Tracy MacSephney – for developing a product that transformed the way the UK Armed Forces protect merchant shipping in the Gulf.

### **Inspiring Others**

Private Fin Doherty – for successfully passing out at Army Foundation College Harrogate and being awarded Junior Regimental Sergeant Major, honouring his brother who was killed in Afghanistan.

### **Overcoming Adversity**

Craig Monaghan – for his work in helping veterans to transition to civilian life and becoming the first soldier wounded in Afghanistan to represent his country in Rugby Union.

### **Innovation Award**

The Scar Free Foundation – for funding and carrying out research which aims to minimise the impact of scarring and limb loss among injured Armed Forces personnel.

### **Support to the Armed Forces**

All Call Signs – for providing a vital service that has supported over 500 veterans and service personnel to date, offering a peer-to-peer messaging app to help find veterans who have gone missing.

## **Judges' Special Award**

The Royal British Legion's Veteran's Ship