

TWO OF ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION KILLED

Lieut. Ninnis and Dr. Mertz, Members of Mawson Party, Have Lost Their Lives.

MAWSON IS DELAYED A YEAR

Misses His Ship and Must Stay in the South Till Next Summer—Important Scientific Work Done.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LONDON, Feb. 25.—News was received from Sydney to-day of another tragedy in the antarctic, the death of two members of the Australian expedition commanded by Dr. Douglas Mawson.

The men who lost their lives are Lieut. B. E. S. Ninnis of the Royal Fusiliers and Dr. Xavier Mertz, a well-known Swiss scientist, who was also famous as a ski jumper and mountain climber. The news came to Sydney by wireless from Adelie Land, via Macquarie Island.

Dr. Mawson, who left Australia in 1911 with an expedition splendidly equipped and including a number of well-known scientific men, must stay another year in the antarctic. The meagre dispatches so far received indicate that after Mawson and six of his companions had been picked up by the Aurora, the expedition's vessel, they started on another trip and did not return to the ship in time. The last previous news regarding the expedition was eight days ago, when it was stated that the Aurora, with the majority of the members of the party, was on the way to pick up Dr. Wild and his companions, who had been left early last year at the base of Termination Glacier.

Shackleton's Views.

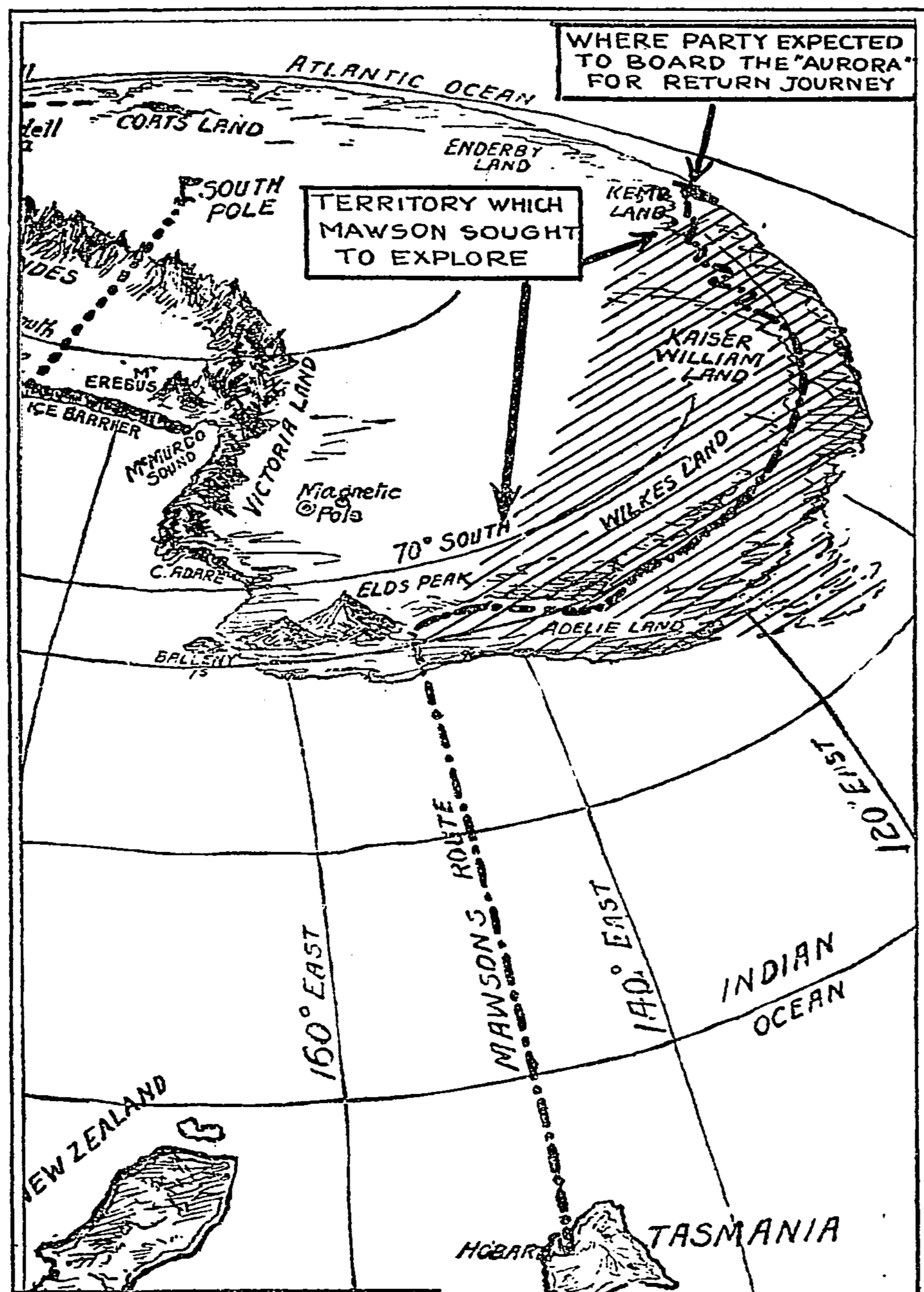
Sir Ernest Shackleton said to-day: "As I understand the situation, Lieut. Ninnis and, I believe, Dr. Mertz also, were with Dr. Wild's party. The last previous news was that Dr. Mawson and his party, in the Aurora, were on their way to Termination Land to pick up Wild and the men with him.

"Wild is an ideal man for polar work. He was with Capt. Scott's first expedition, and he came with me. Ninnis was a very good fellow and is a real loss. Mertz was a famous ski runner—champion of the world, I think. As for Mawson, he is just the man for the work—wiry, keen, and full of pluck.

"I do not think there is necessarily any connection between the missing of the Aurora by Mawson and either of the deaths reported. On the other hand, it is possible that the Mawson party when it landed, as it clearly did, met the Wild party and that unfortunate circumstances were encountered. Then the ship, no doubt, was compelled to sail because of the ice.

"About this time of the year weather conditions are tricky in those latitudes and vary very much within the space of a few hundred miles. For example, Amundsen happened to escape the blizzards which attacked poor Scott, and we were lucky enough to miss bad weather, which might have made all the difference to us. The line between success and failure in a polar expedition is a very thin one.

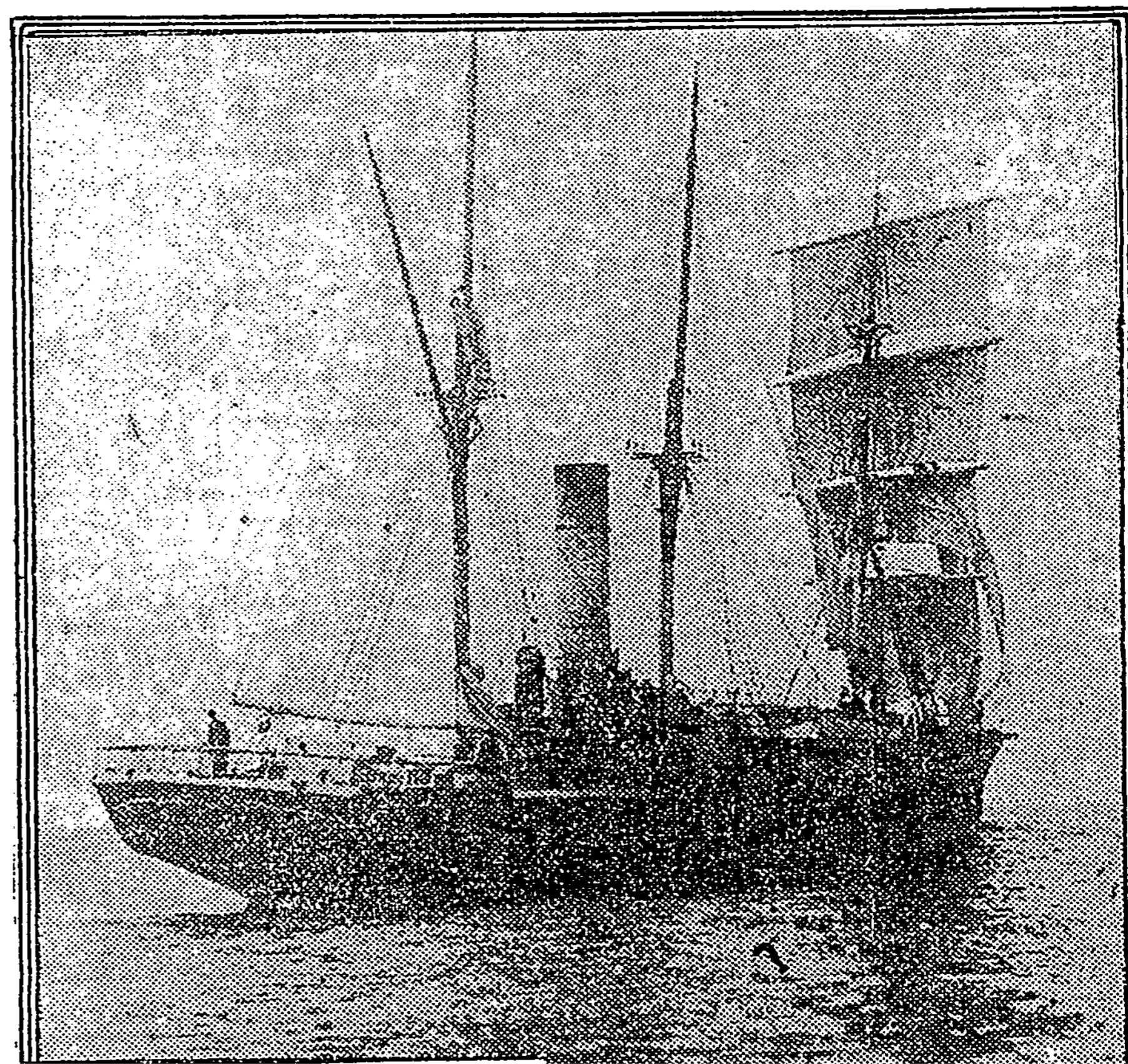
"Many possibilities suggest themselves as to the unforeseen circumstances with which the Mawson expedition met. It is clear, at all events, that the party intends to stay in the antarctic another year. This may mean that a further appeal for funds will be necessary."



DR. DOUGLAS MAWSON



MAP SHOWING ROUTE OF MAWSON'S EXPEDITION AND AREA WHICH HE SOUGHT TO EXPLORE



The Mawson Expedition's Ship, the Aurora.



The Late Dr. Xavier Mertz.