

## CRAIG HOSKING

### The pilot who crashed inside a volcano (Hawaii, 1992)

Craig Hosking works as a Hollywood camera pilot and has filmed many famous action scenes for blockbusters featuring characters such as James Bond, Batman and Indiana Jones. It's a dream job for someone like Hosking,

who has been passionate about flying and photography for as long as he can remember – he was only sixteen years old when he qualified for a licence to fly helicopters.

In 1992 he was hired to fly cinematographer Mike Benson and camera technician Christopher Duddy. They needed to film scenes of boiling lava for a movie called *Sliver* and had chosen Kilauea, the most active of the five volcanoes on the island of Hawaii. The two men planned to spend one Saturday recording a large plume of smoke from a vent called Pu'u 'O'o, and a pool of glowing lava nearly a hundred feet inside the crater.

**The three men were instantly plunged into a dense cloud of smoke and steam from the volcano**



### The conservationist who crashed in the Kalahari (Zimbabwe, 2003)

Greg Rasmussen is a conservation biologist and an expert on a particular species of wild dog. Known as 'painted dogs' – their distinctly patterned coats look like ink spots on blotting paper – they are one of Africa's top predators but in recent years have become increasingly endangered.

Around 150 of them live in the Hwange National Park, a vast wilderness where Rasmussen has spent more than twenty-five years studying their behaviour.

The dogs are closely related to wolves and jackals, and packs of them have lived in this part of southern Africa for at least three million years. They have a reputation for being better hunters than even leopards and lions, and once they spot their prey it rarely manages to escape. They work as a team and this helps them catch antelopes and other animals much bigger than them.

The dogs' territory is enormous and covers nearly six thousand square miles, much of it so hot and dry that entire lakes disappear each summer. This means scientists like Rasmussen have to travel huge distances to observe them, often in tiny aircraft called microlights. Many of the animals in Hwange have been fitted with radio collars, which makes them easier to locate using equipment carried in the microlights to pick up their signals.



## ERNEST SHACKLETON

### The commander who saved his crew (Antarctica, 1914)

In August 1914, as part of the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition, a ship left Britain under the leadership of the sailor and polar explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton. His intention on reaching Antarctica was to cross the continent

on foot, a journey of more than 1,800 miles through the ice-bound wilderness, a truly epic feat which had never before been accomplished.

Shackleton had been to Antarctica twice already, and on his second trip had managed to travel further south than any man before him. Since then, the Norwegian Roald Amundsen had become the first to reach the South Pole, making Shackleton keener than ever to reclaim glory for Britain. Members of the public were just as enthusiastic, and more than five thousand people attempted to join his crew.

Shackleton's ship *Endurance* left London the same day that war on Germany was declared. On board were twenty-eight scientists and sailors, plus the ship's mascot, a tiger-striped cat called Mrs Chippy. They were accompanied by more than sixty dogs, trained to pull the sledges containing supplies when six of the men, handpicked by their leader, would eventually set out across the ice on wooden skis.

The voyage south took several months, and it was December before the *Endurance* reached the cold waters around Antarctica. In an area known as the Weddell Sea the crew had to navigate a safe route through great sheets of floating ice that bumped noisily against the ship.

These ice floes pose a constant danger in this part of the world, even during what passes for summer in the southern hemisphere.



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