

# The Daily News

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## Tutankhamun's treasures: Howard Carter finally completes his task

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Today, British archaeologist Howard Carter finally finished assessing and cataloguing the contents of King Tutankhamun's tomb, in Egypt's Valley of the Kings. To celebrate this great achievement, we look back at the story of his 10-year exploration, which started with the discovery of a stairway leading to the tomb on 4th November 1922.

### The antechamber

Three weeks later, on 26th November 1922, Howard Carter finally drilled through a sealed doorway and broke into the first room, the antechamber.



Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon at the entrance of the tomb



Mummified food is stacked underneath a funeral couch in the antechamber

### 'gold – everywhere, the glint of gold'

At first, signs of forced entry made him believe that the tomb had been looted. However, it seemed that the raiders had been disturbed, because the chamber was full of treasures.

Howard Carter recalled, 'Details of the room emerged slowly from the mist... strange animals, statues and gold – everywhere, the glint of gold.'

He spent three months logging and removing the 700 objects that he found in the

antechamber, including golden funerary beds, a chariot and a throne.

### The burial chamber

At one side of the antechamber, two life-sized figures guarded the entrance to the burial chamber.



Entrance to the burial chamber



Howard Carter examines the solid gold coffin of Tutankhamun

On 17th February 1923, Howard Carter officially opened this chamber in the presence of an invited audience. The first thing that they saw was a solid wall of gold, which formed part of a shrine. The shrine contained three other golden shrines, one inside the other. It took the diggers more than a year to get through them all to reach the sarcophagus, which held King Tutankhamun's body.

### The mummy

The sarcophagus held three coffins, one inside the other. The first two were wooden, but the innermost coffin was 'an incredible mass of pure gold.' Inside this coffin were King Tutankhamun's mummified remains. The head and shoulders were covered with a death mask made from solid gold.

### The treasury

Next to the burial chamber, Howard Carter found the treasury. A gilded statue of the god Anubis stood amongst a fleet of model ships, tools, weapons and games.



Treasures pile high in the tomb

### 'the most beautiful monument that I have ever seen'

At the back was a golden canopic chest that Howard Carter described as 'the most beautiful monument that I have ever seen.' It contained four alabaster canopic jars. Each jar held a miniature golden coffin containing the king's organs. Over the following years, over 5000 objects were found.

After spending almost a decade discovering the stories and secrets of the objects from the tomb, Howard Carter is now aiming to write a book about his work.