

## Sir Ranulph Fiennes

Opening speaker at the Human Resource Summit, October 2010

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Sir Ranulph Twisleton-Wykeham Fiennes was born in 1944 and educated at Eton. He served with the Royal Scots Greys for a time before joining the SAS. In 1968 he joined the Army of the Sultan of Oman and in 1970 was awarded the Sultan's Bravery Medal. In the same year he married his wife, Virginia, who in 1987 was the first woman to be awarded the Polar Medal. Sadly, Virginia passed away in 2004.

Since 1969, when he led the British Expedition on the White Nile, Ranulph Fiennes has been at the forefront of many exploratory expeditions. He was described in the Guinness Book of Records in 1984 as the "World's Greatest Living Explorer" and his major exploits include:

- Transglobe (the first surface journey around the world's polar axis) 1979/82 during which Ranulph Fiennes and Charles Burton became the first people ever to reach both Poles by surface travel.
- North Polar Unsupported Expedition (furthest north unsupported record) 1986, Anglo Soviet North Pole Expedition 1990/91.
- Co-leader of the Ubar Expedition (which in 1991 discovered Ptolemy's long-lost Atlantis of the Sands, the frankincense centre of the world)
- Leader of the Pentland South Pole Expedition (which achieved the first unsupported crossing of the Antarctic Continent and the longest unsupported polar journey in history) 1992/93.
- Also in 2003 Sir Ranulph Fiennes, with Dr. Mike Stroud, ran 7 marathons, in 7 days, on 7 continents. This, despite his having suffered a major heart attack and double bypass operation in June 2003.
- In 2007, Sir Ranulph climbed the North Face of the Eiger and raised over £1.71 million for Marie Curie Cancer Care's delivering Choice Programme.
- In 2009, Sir Ranulph conquered Everest (aged 65) raising funds for Marie Curie Cancer Care.