

Shackleton' Endurance Expedition - Timeline

In 1914 Sir Ernest Shackleton, an established Polar explorer of the heroic age, set out on another Antarctic expedition - this time to cross the Antarctic continent. He failed. However, he achieved one of the greatest feats of turn of the century polar exploration; he returned with his 28 man team - alive. The story of the 1914-17 Endurance expedition is one of courage and leadership in the face of true adversity. Stoicism and belief during complete uncertainty; by endurance they conquered. Below is a timeline of events as they unfolded:

- AUGUST 8, 1914. Sir Ernest, leading the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition, departs from Plymouth on his third Antarctic expedition aboard the *Endurance*.
- OCTOBER 26, 1914. The *Endurance* departs Buenos Aires
- NOVEMBER 5, 1916. *Endurance* arrives at the whaling station of Grytviken, South Georgia Island, the last outpost of civilization encountered en route to Antarctica
- DECEMBER 5, 1914. The *Endurance* sails south from South Georgia; next landfall: 497 days.
- DECEMBER 7, 1914. The *Endurance* first encounters pack ice.
- JANUARY 18, 1915. *Endurance* becomes beset in pack ice and, immobilized, begins drifting in the ice. 76 deg 34'S.
- FEBRUARY 22, 1915. The *Endurance* reaches its Furthest South, 77 deg S off Luitpold Land.
- OCTOBER 27, 1915. The *Endurance* is now badly damaged having been stuck in the ice for over 9 months - Abandon Ship! Ocean Camp established. Shackleton orders each of the 27 men to dump all but two pounds of personal possessions. Exceptions are made for Frank Hurley's photographs and Leonard Hussey's banjo.
- NOVEMBER 8, 1915. Hurley dives into the flooded ship to recover the precious glass plates. With Shackleton, he chooses 120 to keep. They then smash the remaining 400 or so, so Hurley isn't tempted to risk his life to return for them later.
- NOVEMBER 21, 1915. "She's going, boys!" The *Endurance* sinks.
- DECEMBER 29, 1915. After a failed attempt to march across the ice to the safety of land, Shackleton establishes "Patience Camp," hoping that they will drift north, on an ice floe, to safety.
- JANUARY 26, 1916. Patience Camp established on the ice-floes.
- APRIL 9, 1916. The *James Caird*, *Stancomb Wills* and *Dudley Docker* are launched for the voyage to Elephant Island.
- APRIL 15, 1916. The three boats land on Elephant Island, a remote uninhabited island far from shipping lanes. **This is the first time that the men have stood on solid ground in 497 days.** Two days later the party removes to Cape Wild.
- APRIL 24, 1916. Shackleton decides to sail the *James Caird* back to South Georgia, where a whaling station is located, to get help. He brings Captain Frank

Worsley, second officer Tom Crean, carpenter Chippy McNeish, and seamen Tim McCarthy and John Vincent.

- MAY 10, 1916. After a treacherous two week journey, the James Caird lands on the south coast of South Georgia. Five days later the six-man party removes to Peggotty Camp at the head of King Haakon Bay.
- MAY 19, 1916. Shackleton, Worsley, and Crean begin their trek across the island's unexplored and largely unknown interior to get help at a whaling station on the north coast; McNeish, McCarthy and Vincent were too ill to move on.
- MAY 20, 1916. Sir Ernest, Worsley and Crean arrive at Stromness, on the north coast of South Georgia. Shackleton and his men arrive at Stromness whaling station. Worsley sails to the south coast to pick up the three men left behind.
- MAY 23, 1916. Shackleton borrows a ship, *Southern Sky*, and sails for Elephant Island to rescue his men. The pack ice prevents passage, and the ship returns. Two subsequent rescue attempts, aboard the *Instituto Pesca No. 1* in June and the *Emma* in July, are also stopped by pack ice.
- AUGUST 30, 1916. Sir Ernest, aboard the *Yelcho*, rescues the 22 men on Elephant Island, **24 months and 22 days since leaving England.**
- SEPTEMBER 3, 1916. The *Yelcho* arrives at Punta Arenas, Chile.
- DECEMBER 20, 1916. Sir Ernest, aboard the *Aurora*, sails from New Zealand to rescue the members of his Ross Sea Party (Sister, Food Depo ship). Under extreme conditions they had successfully laid supply depots for the Weddell Sea Party that ironically was never to reach land.
- JANUARY 10, 1917. The *Aurora* reaches Cape Royds and collects the Ross Sea Party.