

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 the 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, 1914. Endurance arrives at the whaling station of Grytviken, South Georgia Island, the last outpost of civilization encountered on 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 moves 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 moves 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.