

Shackleton's Journey

Shackleton's Journey

INTRODUCTION

Born on 15 February 1874, Shackleton was the second of ten children. From a young age, Shackleton complained about teachers, but he had a keen interest in books, especially poetry – years later, on expeditions, he would read to his crew to lift their spirits. Always restless, the young Ernest left school at 16 to go to sea. After working his way up the ranks, he told his friends, "I think I can do something better, I want to make a name for myself."

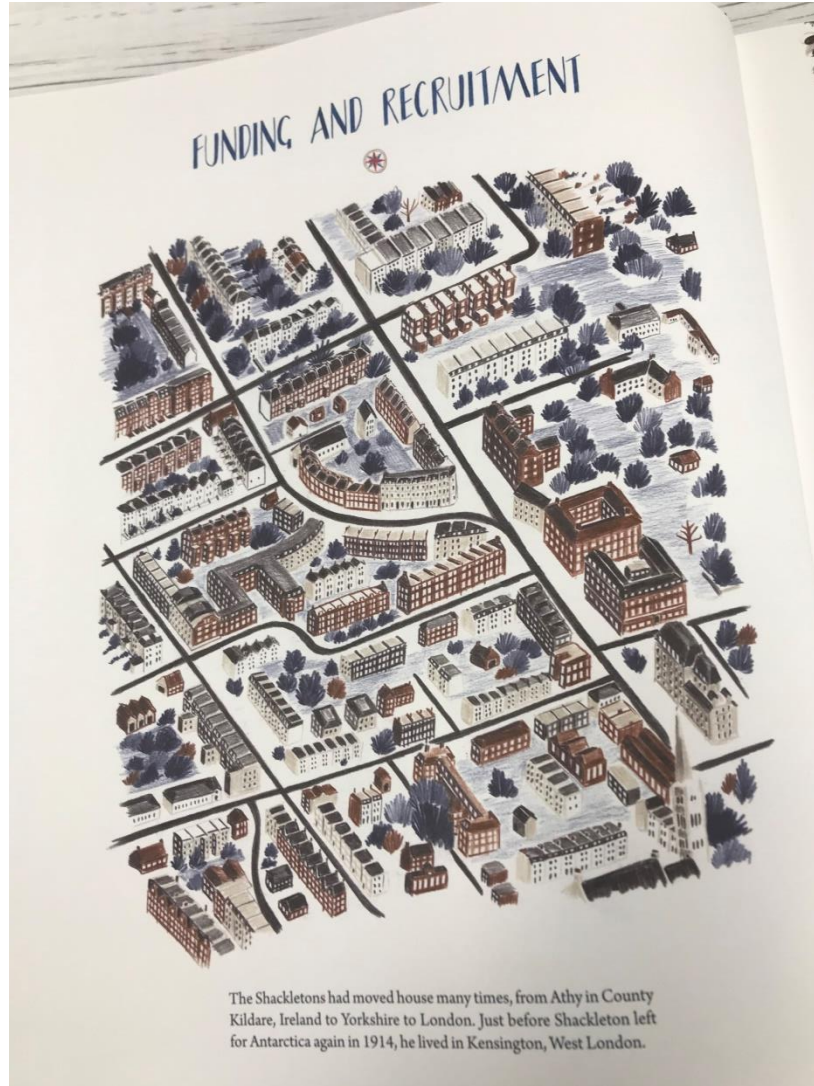


Shackleton was a member of Captain Scott's famous Discovery Expedition (1901–1904), and told reporters that he had always been "strangely drawn to the mysterious south," and that unexplored parts of the world "held a strong fascination for me from my earliest memories."

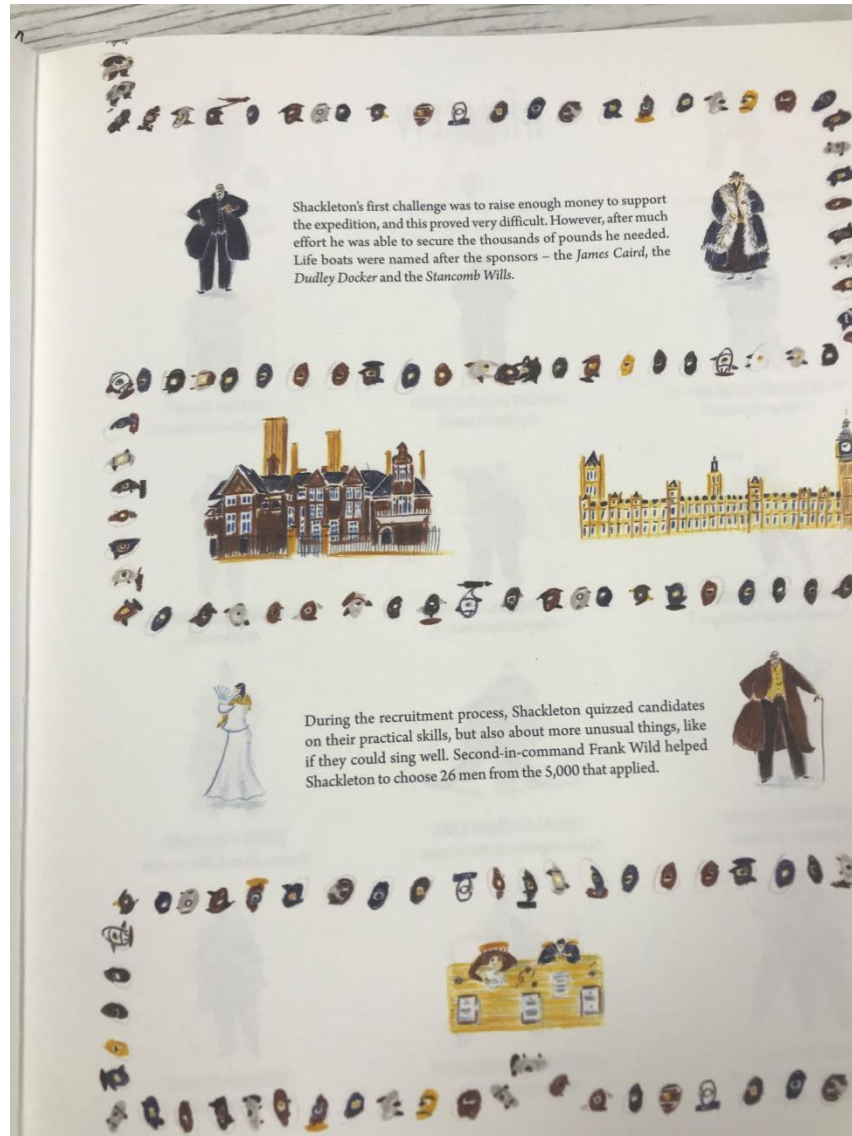
Once Amundsen reached the **South Pole** ahead of Scott, Shackleton realised that there was only one great challenge left. He wrote: "The first crossing of the Antarctic continent, from sea to sea, via the Pole, apart from its historic value, will be a journey of great scientific importance."

On 8 August 1914, Ernest Shackleton and his brave crew set out to cross the vast south polar continent, **Antarctica**. Shackleton's epic journey would be the last expedition of the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration (1888–1914). His story is one fraught with unimaginable peril, adventure and, above all, endurance.

Shackleton's Journey



Shackleton's Journey



Shackleton's Journey



Shackleton's Journey



Shackleton's Journey



The dogs came from a mongrel mixture of breeds, including Newfoundlands, St. Bernards, Eskimo dogs, Wolfhounds and wolves. Cross-breeding the dogs meant that they were very strong and had qualities such as a thick coat or a good temperament. The average weight of each dog was 100 lbs!



They included:

Alti, Amundsen, Blackie, Bob, Bo'sun, Bristol, Brownie, Buller, Bummer, Caruso, Chips, Dismal, Elliott, Fluff, Gruss, Hackenschmidt, Hercules, Jamie, Jasper, Jerry, Judge, Luke, Lupoid, Mack, Martin, Mercury, Noel, Paddy, Peter, Rodger, Roy, Rufus, Rugby, Sadie, Sailor, Saint, Sally, Sammy, Samson, Sandy, Satan, Shakespeare, Side Lights, Simian, Slippery Neck, Slobbers, Snowball, Soldier, Songster, Sooty, Spider, Split Up, Spotty, Steamer, Steward, Stumps, Sub, Sue, Surly, Swanker, Sweep, Tim, Upton, Wallaby, Wolf.



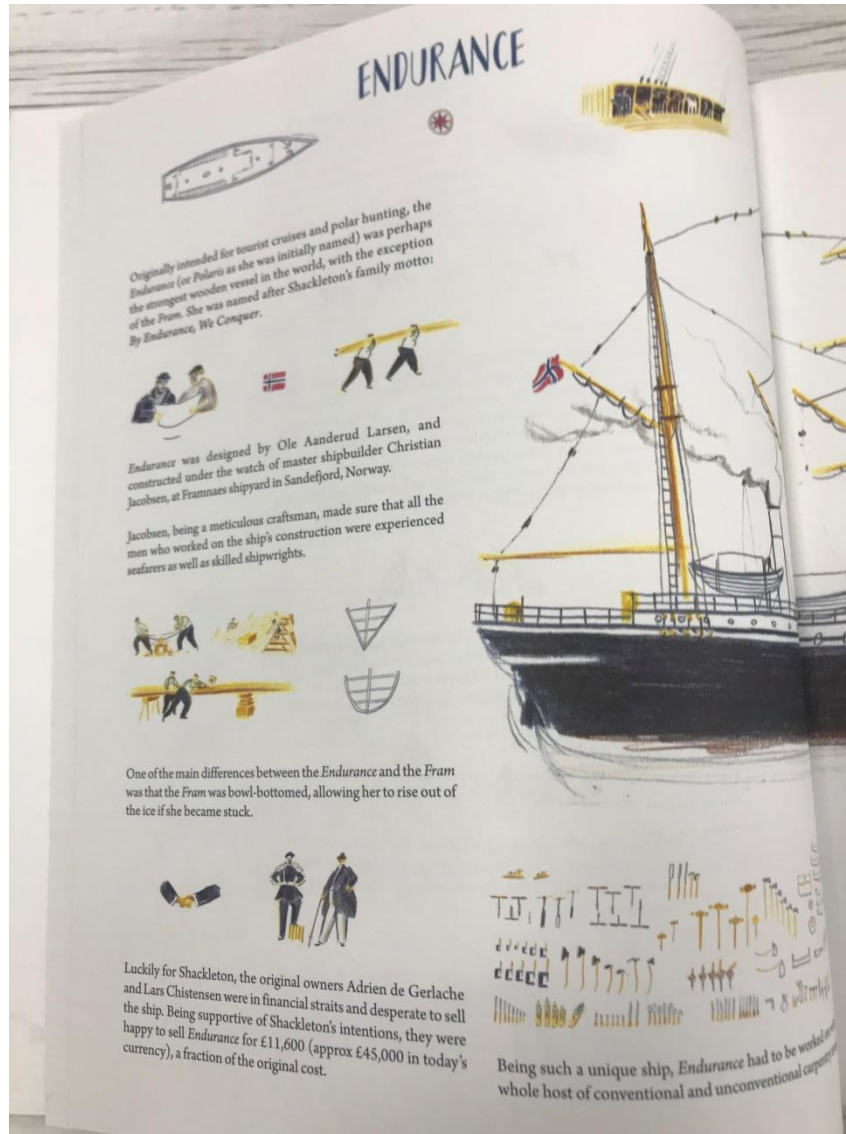
The lively dogs were to play a vital role in Shackleton's expedition. Their ability to pull more than their weight, brave the cold and work in packs meant that they were at home in Antarctic conditions. They were expected to cover up to 20 miles a day with a loaded sledge.



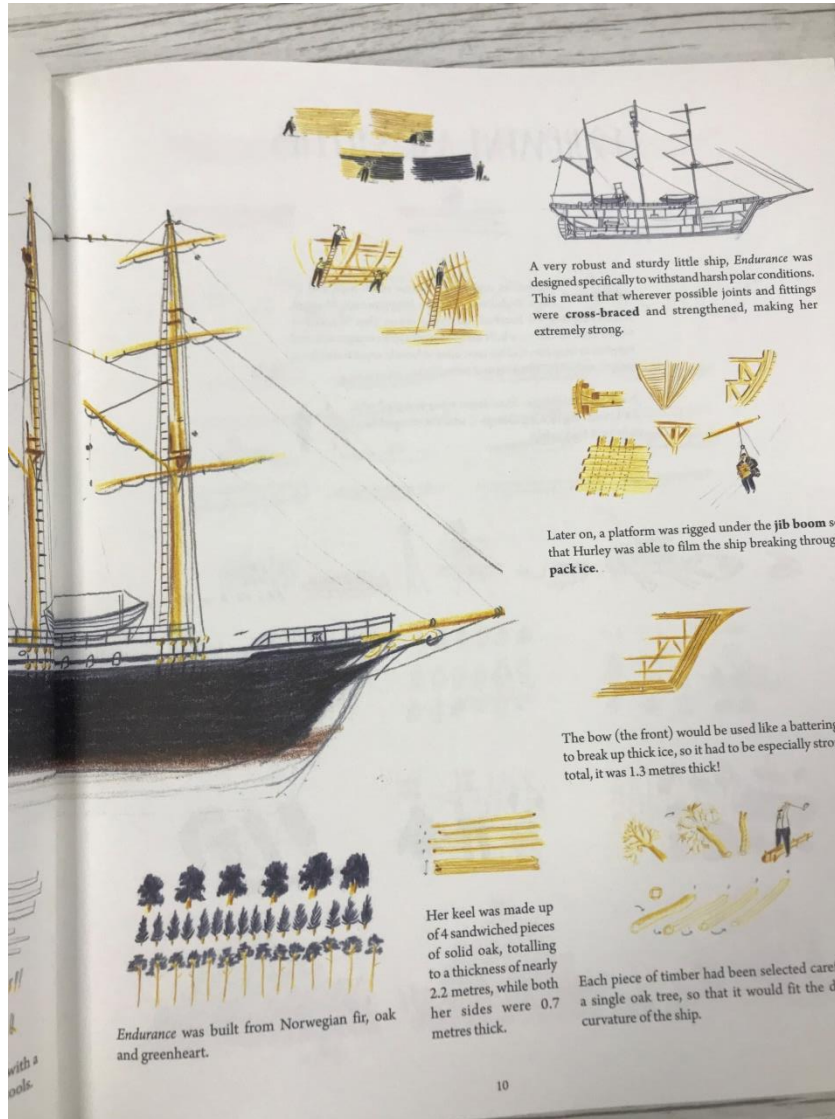
Each crew member was assigned at least one dog to care for, and many developed strong bonds with them, especially second-in-command Frank Wild, Tom Crean and the photographer Frank Hurley.



Shackleton's Journey



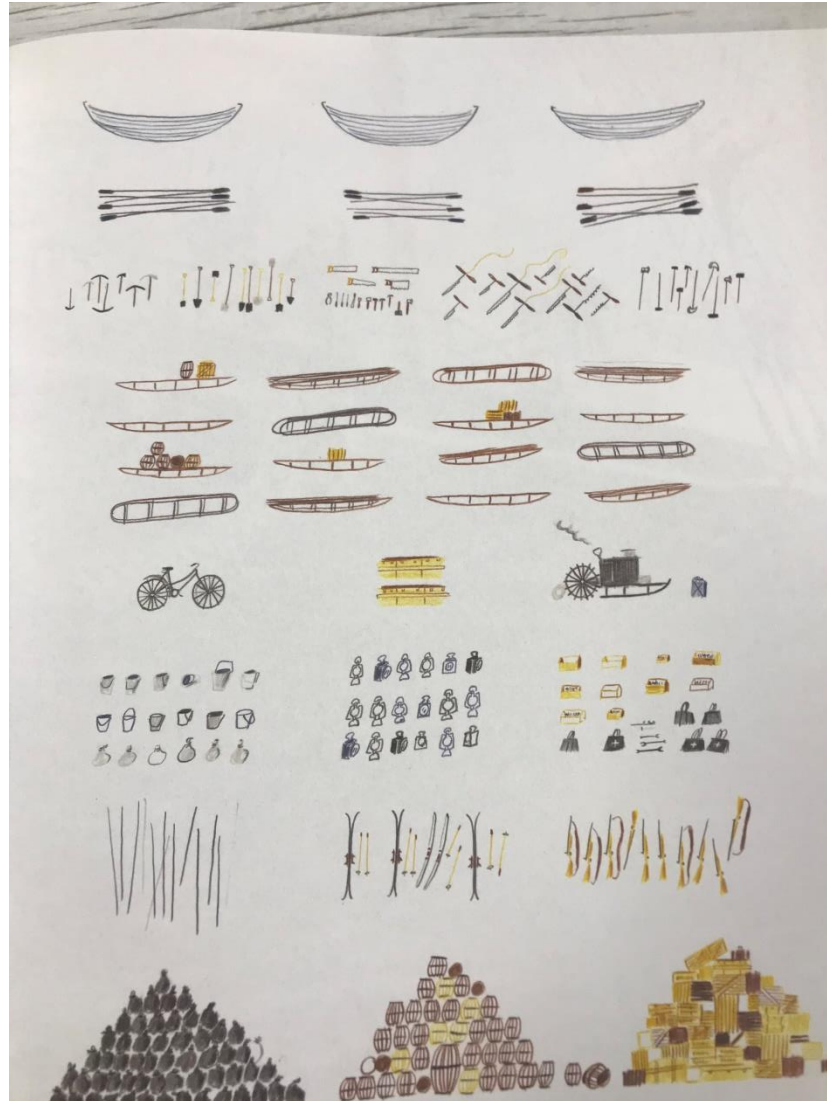
Shackleton's Journey



Shackleton's Journey



Shackleton's Journey



Shackleton's Journey



SETTING SAIL



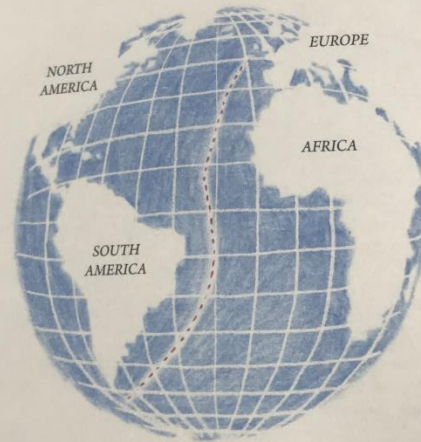
Endurance set sail for Buenos Aires on Saturday 8 August 1914, after receiving a telegram from the Admiralty which simply read, "Proceed".

Shackleton's Journey

FROM ENGLAND TO SOUTH GEORGIA



The journey from Plymouth to Buenos Aires was fairly uneventful. However, a few crew members were dropped due to drunkenness and insubordination. Luckily, the experienced Canadian seaman William Bakewell joined the crew, as did a plucky 19-year-old stowaway, Percy Blackborrow.



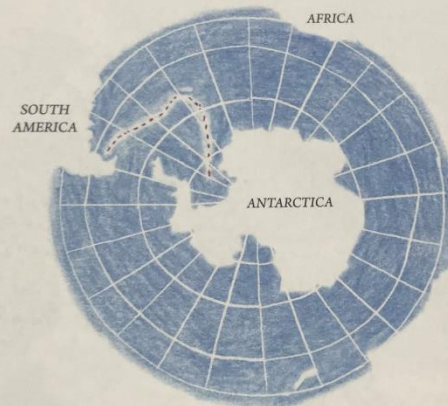
The crew then spent a month making final preparations at Grytviken whaling station, the southernmost outpost of the British Empire.



Shackleton's Journey



Ready at last, the ship left South Georgia on 5 December 1914 and headed for the South Sandwich Islands.



In Shackleton's words, "The long days of preparation were over and the adventure lay ahead."

