



Shackleton's Boat Journey

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This is an account of the Shackleton boat journey. The journey began in August 1914 in London and the next the world knew of Shackleton was in May 1916, when three ragged men staggered into the whaling station at Grytviken on South Georgia. On August 1, 1914, on the eve of World War I, Sir Ernest Shackleton and his hand-picked crew embarked in HMS *Endurance* from London's West India Dock, for an expedition to the Antarctic. It was to turn into one of the most breathtaking survival stories of all time. Even as they coasted down the channel, Shackleton wired back to London to offer his ship to the war effort. The reply came from the First Lord of the Admiralty, one Winston Churchill: "Proceed". And proceed they did. When the *Endurance* was trapped and finally crushed to splinters by pack ice in late 1915, they drifted on an ice floe for five months, before getting to open sea and launching three tiny boats as far as the inhospitable, storm-lashed Elephant Island. They drank seal oil and ate baby albatross (delicious, apparently). From there Shackleton himself and seven others—the author among them—went on, in a 22-foot open boat, for an unbelievable 800 miles, through the Antarctic seas in winter, to South Georgia and rescue. It is an extraordinary story of courage and even good-humor among men who must have felt certain, secretly, that they were going to die. Worsley's account, first published in 1940, captures that bulldog spirit exactly: uncomplaining, tough, competent, modest and deeply loyal. It's gripping, and strangely moving.

Shackleton's Boat Journey Details

Date : Published December 1st 2000 by Birlinn Ltd (first published 1940)

ISBN : 9781841580630

Author : Frank A. Worsley

Format : Paperback 164 pages

Genre : History, Nonfiction, Adventure, Biography, Travel

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From Reader Review Shackleton's Boat Journey for online ebook

Isobel says

A short book, that took longer to read than expected, because I kept stopping to look-up some of the nautical terms on Google! I feel like I've been on a mini adventure and an emotional rollercoaster reading this book. Surprisingly witty, but all the better for it. A good book, well worth a read.

Christopher Sprague says

Epic.

Katie says

This book is not as polished as "Endurance", but it written by a man who was there with E.Shackleton and lived through that dramatic survival story. Many of the details he adds give new insight into the minds of these men. Some of the details are a bit technical regarding sailing & navigation & I didn't really understand them. Scattered throughout the tale are his insertion of how the men eventually died. Since other accounts want to emphasize that all hands survived against all odds, it shocked me to think that many returned home only to die in other (useless) ways. Good read.

Ronnie Strachan says

I generally read this type of book in mid-winter by an open window after having had a cold shower from which I spare myself the luxury of drying off. The level of discomfort doesn't come near to that of the Heroic Age of Exploration super-humans here-in, but it certainly gives my imagination a jumping-off point. I'd previously read Shackleton's account of the journey, so this book was primarily a compare-and-contrast exercise which bestowed the perspective of one who hadn't (at least to Shackleton's degree) shouldered the burden of responsibility. Their accounts almost entirely accord, including the albatross fledglings meeting a noble and exceedingly tasty end in their cooking pots.

Thrill yourself with this short read if you're as addicted to Arctic/Antarctic exploration and humans straddling the the limits of discomfort as I am.

Rick says

I have read as much as I could put my hands on regarding the Endurance expedition of Sir Ernest Shackleton. There is simply not a better adventure story out there than this one. Worsley was Shackleton's ship captain; a man of courage, strength, and determination.

Worsley was also an amazing seaman, navigating a 22 foot open boat hundreds of miles through uncharted waters in a hurricane. Amazing just doesn't cover it. But don't start with this book. "Endurance" is his seminal work and you should begin there.

Ken Peters says

I'm in awe of the tenacity of the men who survived the adventure this book describes. Their irrepressible hopefulness and the determined resourcefulness is an incredible example to me. It's truly amazing that they survived such a journey, and the suspense in Worsley's telling of the tale never lets up until the very last page. I've read Shackleton's own account of this same journey, but I loved this book even more!

Misha says

I read this book because it was recommended by NOLS as a leadership book, but I found it lacking in any details on leadership (besides explaining that Shackleton was a great leader because he always had a positive attitude, knew exactly what to say and had the highest concern for his men). Still it was an inspiring story and a quick read. There was a lot of nautical vocabulary that I didn't know, but I don't think that really took much away from the story.

Wayne says

Loved this book. What a crazy adventure. What could be more fun then hanging with Shackleton in Antarctica? I could almost feel the cold as I read this book. Burr.

Maria Ripoll Cera says

Vale la pena leer de primera mano historias reales de supervivencia como la del equipo de Shackleton cuando perdió su barco, destrozado por el hielo. En este caso, la historia la narra el capitán del barco. Qué simple parece esta aventura en que estuvieron un año y medio siempre húmedos, viviendo bajo una barca vuelta del revés sobre el hielo, navegando a merced del viento y las corrientes y utilizando los conocimientos de la zona y del cielo para tratar de alcanzar una isla ballenera que les socorriera.

No dejo de asombrarme nunca de qué es capaz la humanidad, y vale la pena vivirlo de primera mano para minimizar las tonterías propias de vez en cuando.

Harpoon says

The story of Shackleton's Endurance expedition is one of the great adventure stories of all time. Worsley was the captain of the Endurance, and a phenomenal navigator; his technical skills were as important for the eventual survival of the crew as were Shackleton's vaunted leadership skills. This book doesn't cover the

whole expedition; it starts when the men have to abandon their camp on the ice, and recounts the voyage to Elephant Island, the further voyage of a small group to South Georgia Island, and the crossing on foot by an even smaller group. The day-to-day details are compelling; you really see the hardships they endured, and wonder how people can live through that.

This is a short book and easy to read (if you don't get hung up on all the nautical terminology; most of it went over my head, but that's okay). It's probably not the book to start with if you're not familiar with the whole story. I like the Lansing version, but there are several good ones. Then read this book for a close-up perspective on just what it took to sail across a violent ocean in a tiny boat.

Claire says

Holy mackerel! It took a little getting into because there was just so much sailing vocabulary I didn't know, but I ended up reading through without stopping (much to my chagrin tomorrow morning, I expect).

Recommended by a patron as this is the 100th anniversary of Shackleton's expedition. A surprisingly fast read and a gripping adventure, plus the added thrill of being a memoir by a man who actually referred to Sir Ernest* as "Shacks."

*("For scientific discover, give me Scott; for speed and efficiency of travel, give me Amundsen; but when disaster strikes and all hope is gone, get down on your knees and pray for Shackleton." says the jacket.)

JD says

A well written book by the captain of the Endurance, Frank Worsley, which covers, day-to-day, the epic journey of the James Caird over the storm invested South Atlantic in order to save the survivors of Shackleton's Antarctic expedition. The book was written shortly after the journey and is very descriptive of all the things as they happened, good read.

Benjamin Wallace says

Captain Frank Worsley writes concisely and poignantly in his telling of the heroic journey to survive when all odds were against Shackleton and his men. I loved the insight and peek into this man's brain filled with incredible sailing and navigational knowledge. His skill set was paramount; this I believe with Shackleton's leadership, Wild's steadfast courage, more than Providence itself is what truly guided the men aboard the ill fated Endurance home safely. Excellent and noble adventurers who history should never forget.

Mary says

I'd already read Worsley's "Endurance" and fell in love with the land of Ice. That book covers their entire journey while this little book zooms in on the truly horrifyingly-exciting adventure of that story: The last leg of an amazing time in the Antarctic by Shackleton et al.

Worsley's account of the Endurance journey is my personal favorite so when I stumbled upon this at my public library I grabbed it quick. You know how some story tellers just are more captivating than all the others? That's this man, Skipper Worsley for me. I'm quite fond of him.

Anyway, the lives of these men were tested, then tested some more but even tho I've read several books on Antarctic expeditions & was blown away by what type of circumstances these guys encounter, in this book alone did I come to realize that harrowing as it was, "Shack" was having a blast!
Pretty good read. In fact I "couldn't put it down" & finished it in one day. Enjoyable, high adventure that leaves make-believe stories in the dust!

Samantha Flounders says

EPIC! Do read.
