

Shackleton's Incredible Journey

THE LIFE OF SIR ERNEST HENRY SHACKLETON

1874 - 1922

February 15, 1874

Ernest Shackleton was born in Kilkea, County Kildare, Ireland. Ernest was the second of ten children in his family.

1880

Ernest began his formal education, privately taught by a governess in his family's home.

1884

Having completed his education to become a doctor, Ernest's father moved the family to South London.

1885 - 1890

After attending a private preparatory school, Ernest attended Dulwich College. Although he did not consider himself a good student, he ranked 5th out of 31 students in his class.

April 19th, 1890

Ernest decided that further education was not for him and he decided to go to sea. His father helped him get his first job on a ship, the *Hoghton Tower*.

1894

After spending four years at sea, Ernest qualified to be a second mate. He left the *Hoghton Tower* and took a position on the Welsh Line Steamer

1896

Ernest met qualifications to be first mate.

1897

Ernest met one of his sister's friends, Emily Dorman (who would eventually marry Ernest)

1898

Ernest qualified to be a Master Mariner and took a position with the Union-Castle Line going between Southampton and Cape Town.

1899-1900

After the outbreak of the Boer War, Ernest began working on a troopship transferring troops and provisions between Great Britain and South Africa.

1900

Ernest applied for a position on the National Antarctic Expedition.

1901

Ernest was appointed third officer on the National Antarctic Ship *Discovery* and he was commissioned in the Royal Navy as a sub lieutenant.

1901

The National Antarctic Expedition, named "The Discovery Expedition" left the Isle of Wight. The expedition was led by Robert Falcon Scott.

1902

After being selected by Scott to accompany him on a march to beat the record of the southernmost latitude, the group made it as far as 82.17 degrees south; however, they lost all of their dogs and suffered the effects of snow blindness, scurvy and frostbite.

1903

After finally returning to the ship *Discovery*, Scott sent Ernest home under the rationale that Ernest was weak and needed to recuperate; however, there is some belief that the relationship between Scott and Ernest had broken down.

1904

Ernest accepted a position as Secretary of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society

April 9th, 1904

Ernest married Emily Dorman in London.

1905

His son, Raymond was born.

1906

After a failed business opportunity, Ernest ran for political office. He was not successful in his bid.

1906

Ernest took a position with a wealthy industrialist with whom he persuaded to support an expedition to Antarctica.

1906

His daughter, Cecily was born

1907

Ernest presented his plan to the Royal Geographical Society for an expedition to Antarctica. Once his plan was accepted, Ernest worked very hard to find financial support.

1907

Ernest was made a member of the Royal Victorian Order 4th Class.

1908

After successfully climbing Mount Erebus, Ernest's group (Including Frank Wild) set out on their "Great Southern Journey towards the South Pole."

1909

After returning, Ernest was received by King Edward VII who made him Commander of the Royal Victorian Order. Ernest was also knighted.

1909

Ernest published "*The Heart of the Antarctic*" which was his account of the expedition.

1909

All of the members of the "Nimrod Expedition" were awarded Silver Polar Medals by the Royal Geographical Society.

1910-1914

Ernest made many public lectures of his experiences on the expedition. He was also in great demand for social engagements and public appearances.

1911

His son, Edward was born

Early 1914

Ernest published his plans for a proposed "Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition."



1914-1916

Ernest Shackleton's Incredible Journey of the *Endurance*

1917

Although in poor health, Ernest volunteered to help in the war (WWI) effort upon returning to England.

1918

Ernest was temporarily given the post of Major. He served as an advisor in the North Russian Expeditionary Force of the Russian Civil War.

1919

Ernest was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire. He was discharged later this year.

1919

Ernest published "South" which was his account of the *Endurance* expedition. He also made many public appearances and gave several lectures.

1920-1921

Ernest began planning his next expedition to circumnavigate Antarctica.

1921

Ernest left aboard the ship *Quest* for his final expedition.

January 5th, 1922

Having reached South Georgia, Ernest suffered a fatal heart attack. At the request of his wife, Emily, Ernest was buried in South Georgia.