

21st January 1915

Dear Diary,

Two days ago, something dreadful happened. The conditions crossing the Weddell Sea were difficult and 'Endurance' became stuck in a large sheet of floating ice. I cannot believe this expedition, that I have been planning for so long, has come to such an awful end. We had to abandon the ship and have made a simple camp on top of the Antarctic ice. We have some rations but I am hoping that a rescue team will arrive soon. So far, the only other living things we have seen are emperor penguins. For now, I need to keep my spirits high for the sake of my loyal crew.

Until another day,

Ernest Shackleton

24th April 1916

Dear Diary,

We tried to attract attention by lighting fires but we were not rescued. Over the past months, I have been watching my crew members in the freezing temperatures and chose the strongest five to come with me on a rescue mission. We have spent the past 16 days crossing 1,300km of choppy ocean in a small boat. Today, we reached the island of South Georgia where we found a whaling station. There were people willing to help us. They have given us a meal and we discussed how to rescue the remaining crew members who are still out on the ice. I hope we can get back to them soon but for now, I need some rest.

With hope,

Ernest Shackleton

21st January 1915

Dear Diary,

Two days ago, something dreadful happened – ‘Endurance’ became stuck in a large sheet of floating ice (an ice floe) following risky conditions crossing the Weddell Sea. I cannot believe that the expedition I have been planning for so long has come to such an awful end. With my crew of 28 men, I had to abandon the ship and we have made a simple camp on top of the Antarctic ice. We have some rations but I am hoping that a rescue team will arrive soon. So far, the only other living things we have seen are regal-looking emperor penguins. For now, I need to do my best to keep my spirits high for the sake of my loyal crew.

Until another day,

Ernest Shackleton

24th April 1916

Dear Diary,

Despite our best efforts to attract attention by lighting fires, we were not rescued. Over the past months, I have been watching my crew members in these freezing temperatures and I have chosen the strongest five to accompany me on a rescue mission. We have spent the past 16 days crossing 1,300km of dangerous ocean in a small boat. Today, we reached the island of South Georgia where we found a whaling station. There were people willing to help us. They have given us a filling meal and we discussed how to rescue the remaining crew members who are still out on the ice. I hope we can get back to them soon but for now, I need some rest.

With hope,

Ernest Shackleton

21st January 1915

Dear Diary,

Two days ago, something dreadful happened – ‘Endurance’, which is the strongest ship ever built, became stuck in a large sheet of floating ice (an ice floe) following hazardous conditions crossing the Weddell Sea. I cannot believe that this expedition that I have been planning for so long has come to such an abysmal ending, although some people did try to warn me that ‘Endurance’ might not be the right ship for icy seas. With my crew of 28 men, I had to abandon the ship, which remains in a precarious state nearby and we have made a simple camp on top of the Antarctic ice. We have limited rations so I am hoping that rescue will arrive soon despite the fact that so far, the only other living things we have seen are regal-looking emperor penguins. So for now, I need to do my best to keep my spirits high for the sake of my loyal crew.

Until another day,

Ernest Shackleton

24th April 1916

Dear Diary,

Despite our best efforts to attract attention by lighting fires and creating smoke signals, we were not rescued. Over the past months, I have been observing my crew members in these harsh conditions and chose the five most robust men to accompany me on a rescue mission. For the past 16 days we have been crossing 1,300km of treacherous ocean in a small lifeboat, ‘James Caird’. Yesterday, feeling relieved, we reached the island of South Georgia and then completed a day long trek to find a whaling station where there were people willing to help us. They have already given us a hearty meal and we have discussed how to rescue the remaining crew members who are still stuck on the ice. I hope we can get back to save them soon but for now, I need some rest.

With hope,

Ernest Shackleton