



SETTING SAIL



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

FROM ENGLAND TO SOUTH GEORGIA



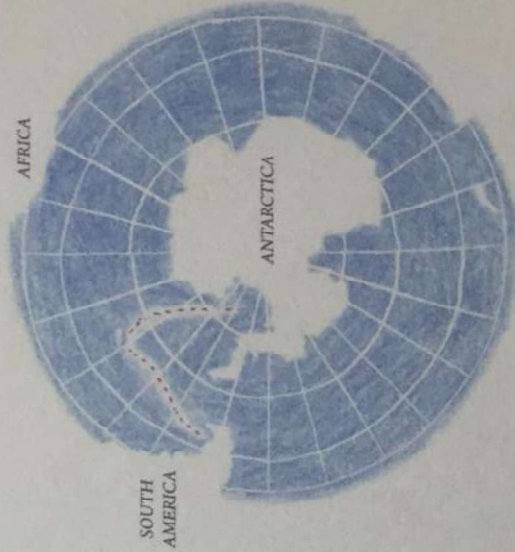
The journey from Plymouth to Buenos Aires was fairly uneventful. However, a few crew members were dropped due to drunkenness and insubordination. Luckily, the experienced Canadian seaman William Bakewell joined the crew, as did a plucky 19-year-old stowaway, Percy Blackborrow.



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



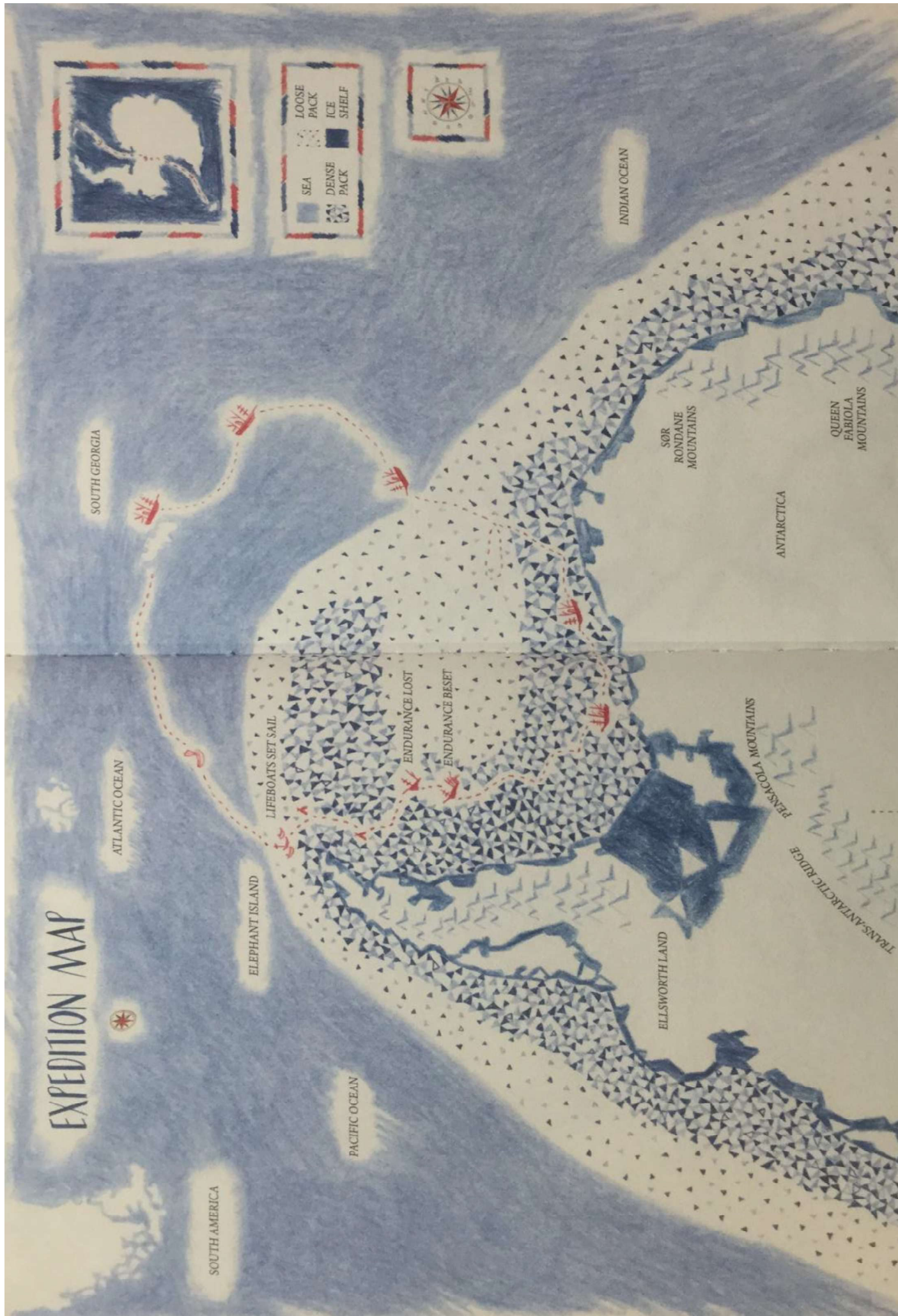
Ready at last, the ship left South Georgia on 5 December 1914 and headed for the South Sandwich Islands.



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



EXPEDITION MAP



INTO THE WEDDELL SEA



Soon after entering the Weddell Sea, *Endurance* began to encounter pack ice, which resembled something close to a giant jigsaw puzzle of ice stretching for over 700 miles ahead of the ship.

Occasionally the **foresail** was reefed so that dangerous **growlers** might be spotted and avoided. Shackleton was fond of **conning** and working from the **crow's nest**, as he could see for miles. Animal life was abundant here, and included crab-eater seals, humpback whales, ringed penguins and many other seabirds.



GLOSSARY



ANTARCTICA
The most southerly continent on Earth, covered in snow and ice.

BLIZZARD
A heavy snowstorm.

BLUBBER
Animal fat, used as both food and fuel.

CAPSIZE
When a boat is overturned in water.

COMPASS
A magnetic instrument showing north, used in navigation.

CONNING
Directing the steering of a ship.

CREVASSE
A deep crack in ice.

CROSS-BRACING
A system of wooden beams which adds strength to a structure.

CROW'S NEST
A platform at the top of a ship's mast.

DEHYDRATION
The loss of water from the body, especially from illness or physical exertion.

DEPOT
A place where supplies are stored.

FLOE
A sheet of floating ice.

FORESAIL
The sail at the front of a ship.

FROSTBITE
An injury caused by exposure to extreme cold.

GALE
A very strong wind.

GLACIER
A huge mass of ice and snow, often moving very slowly down from a mountain top.

WINTER MONTHS

Due to the tilt of the Earth's axis, the Northern and Southern Hemispheres experience the seasons at different times. In the Southern Hemisphere, Midwinter's Day takes place in June.



GROWLER
A block of ice large enough to damage a ship, often floating underwater.

GULLY
A small valley caused by rain and running water.

HULL
The main body of a ship.

HUMMOCK
Where forces of nature and weather have heaved ice into a mound.

IGLOO
A dome-shaped hut made from hard snow.

JIB BOOM
A wooden extension at the front of a ship.

KENNEL
A shelter for dogs.

PACK ICE
A large area of ice formed when many smaller pieces of ice are pushed together by the sea or the wind.

PRECIPICE
A cliff with a vertical face.

PRESSURE RIDGE
A hump formed in floating ice by crushing pressure.

RATIONS
Fixed daily amounts of food.

REEFING A SAIL
Reducing the size of a sail.

SCURVY
A disease caused by lack of vitamin C.

SEA LEOPARD
A large and ferocious type of seal, sometimes called a leopard seal.

SLEDGE
A vehicle, sometimes pulled by dogs, used for transport over ice and snow.

SOUTH POLE
The most southerly point on Earth.



PACK ICE



Progress was slow and laborious. Of the 700-odd miles of pack ice, the last 250 miles consisted of tough, solid ice up to 3 feet thick, with pieces up to a mile long. The ship would repeatedly ram the ice at half speed to weaken it and carve a V into the ice edge. Then the ship would fire its engines and drive full speed into the ice like a giant wedge. Hurley filmed this process while hanging below the jib boom.

Initial contact with the pack ice was exciting, but it soon became something of a concern as the ice became thicker and tighter. Endurance had to work harder and harder to break through.

