Sir Ernest Shackleton

Sir Ernest Shackleton was a explorer but he was an amazing leader above all else. He felt great responsibility for all of his men and he wouldn't ask them to do anything that he wouldn't do himself. Shackleton an optimist had big dreams. He planned to lead a expedition 1,800 miles across antarctica. On August 8, 1914 Shackleton sets sail in his ship Endurance. He had no idea of the tragedy that was going to befall him.

MONDAY

On January 18, 1915 the Endurance became frozen in the pack ice at the southern edge of the Weddell Sea. The ship drifted powerless and frozen solid for nine months. On October 27, the unthinkable happened. Crushed by ice, the Endurance began to sink and it had to be abandoned. The men were alone. Underneath their feet lay 12,000 feet of deep cold ocean. Shackleton didn't allow his men to believe that they would perish. So now well go home” Shackleton told them.

TUESDAY
the men floated on ice floes until April 9, 1916. They ate penguins, seals, and the last of their supplies. When one man spilled his cup of precious milk, Shackleton silently poured some of his own into the man’s cup. Other men followed Shackleton’s lead. One night, the floe cracked in two and a man fell into the crack. Shackleton ever alert pulled the man out seconds before the floe smashed back together. Shackleton worried, but he never let his men know. He wouldn’t let any one give up hope.

**WEDNESDAY**

At the edge of the ice pack the men launched their lifeboats. For six long days, they rowed in the tiny open boats. Wet, sick, and covered with sores. They landed on a uninhabited island. Help was over 800 miles away across one of the world’s most dangerous oceans? Most men would have given up but Shackleton did not. He sailed with five men, leaving 22 behind. Looking death in the eye he refused to give up. He made it to land and he eventually rescued his men. His men never gave up hope they knew their leader would return.