

# The Endurance

Crescent Shield

Brave men wanted  
For hazardous journey  
Low pay, bitter cold  
Moths of complete darkness  
Constant danger  
Safe return doubtful  
Great recognition in case  
Of success

Ernest Shackleton  
The south facing madman  
Will try for a third time  
To walk at then end of the world!

Five thousand responded for  
A crew of thirty on a  
Brave sailing ship  
Along for the journey were sixty-seven  
Of Canada's finest four legged ice runners  
To speed... the men  
And their dreams  
Across... and alive!

From the years I have learned  
Twice before I returned  
Under stocked and overwhelmed  
Lost what I sought

More seasoned and well prepared  
The continent again I dare  
To reach the pole again I drive  
Let it be the end  
This time alive!

South!  
We sail with pride  
Our keel will slice the ocean's heart with anger once more  
Feel the wind at our backs, and our faces...

Already charred with frozen black!

We meet once again  
My old foe South Atlantic  
Spawn of jigsaw ice all around  
The cracks closing in  
Till there's no more

Imprisoned in this icy hell!

Here so close  
To the land of last and barely found  
For the winter we will batten down  
Never given...  
Honor to stab the sole of the world!

(Listing)  
Free the ship with ax and pick

(Breaking)  
Loot the ship with quick and wit  
(Sinking)  
Abandon ship... abandon ship!

What the ice shall take  
The ice shall keep!

"She is gone... none more to say"

Ice gleaming sunshine  
Five feet to the deepest blue

North!  
We run to save our lives  
The albatross and emperors  
Have sung our due dirge  
Warmth will keep our souls alive  
We move with haste through  
Jaws of cracked bergs  
We haul small boats that carry life  
We only have necessities as  
Bare as our skin  
Vile, the hide of ocean's dead  
Flesh of the dogs  
A pleasure filled sweet meal!

No dreams in brief sleep  
In the midnight light  
So terrified!  
Hungry ice swallows me

Cold sheets argue louder now  
They find we're so terrified  
Follow no horizons seen

We row to where we do not know  
Deception Isle, too many miles  
On cracked numb black fists  
Cold, a word no longer known  
Far beyond the freezing snow drifts  
Eat, we see in only dream  
A cannibal's insanity  
I see in thine eyes  
Drink in the salt and misty rain  
Still pushing north  
To the Elephant's domain

There on the crashing walls  
Of black jagged teeth  
So unbelieved  
Last land  
We could ever see!  
We will try to endure  
(South Georgia our final try)  
Will we ever meet again?  
Where will we meet again?

Two years of death yet all survived  
Endurance had to be the key

On painted waters we awake to find  
A day of wonders so divine

The Yelco awaits on the silent sea  
Is thee, the angel of death that we see  
This isle of life, now left behind  
We leave nothing but our own demise

My loyal comrades never left my side  
(Honest bravery)  
In the black icy sea, the secrets and memories  
She will always keep  
(On land, on ice or on the stormy sea)

The endurance we have left behind  
Endurance we will always find