Sir Ernest Shackleton Timeline

1874 - Born in Ireland in 1874 to an English family, one of 10 children.

1884 – The Shackleton family moves to London.

1890 – Joins merchant navy at the age of 16.

1898 – Certified as Master Mariner.

1901 – First goes to Antarctica on board the Discovery with Captain Scott.

1902 – November to February 1903 - Along with Captain Scott and Edward Wilson, reaches the then Farthest South coming within 530 miles of the South Pole. All three men suffer from snow-blindness, frost bite and scurvy, Shackleton is invalided home early on their return.

1903 – 1907 – Takes on a variety of jobs, none of which last very long, unsuccessfully stands for parliament, plans his next expedition.

1904 – Marries Emily Dorman.

1905 – First child, Raymond Shackleton is born.

1906 – Second child, Cecily Shackleton is born.

1907 – The ship Nimrod leaves Britain for Antarctica, the expedition is under the command of Shackleton.

1908 – October to January 1909 – With Frank Wild, Eric Marshall and Jameson Adams reaches a new Farthest South of 97 miles from the South Pole, the return journey was a race against starvation. He said to his wife “a live donkey is better than a dead lion, isn’t it?”

1909 – Given national honours on his return home, made a knight becoming Sir Ernest Shackleton. Attempts to use his fame to make money in business, though lecturing about his Antarctic expeditions is still the main source of income.

1911 – Third child, Edward Shackleton is born.

1912 – The news that the South Pole had been reached separately by Amundsen and Scott caused Shackleton to turn to a plan to cross Antarctica via the South Pole.

1914 - The ship Endurance leaves Britain on Shackleton’s Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition.

1915 – February – The Endurance becomes trapped in sea-ice. October – damage to the ship and the threat of more from surrounding pack-ice causes Shackleton to order the abandonment of the Endurance, the crew decamp to the surrounding ice. November 21st, the Endurance sinks leaving the crew stranded.
1916 – The crew of the Endurance make it to Elephant Island by late April. Shackleton and 5 others go for rescue in the lifeboat James Caird to South Georgia. August – the crew of the Endurance are rescued on the fourth attempt.

1917 – Returns to Britain and volunteers for the war effort, is later awarded an OBE for his efforts.

1919 – Publishes a book “South” about the Endurance expedition and resumes the lecture circuit to make money.

1921 – September - Leaves Britain for Antarctica on board the ship Quest.

1922 – January – Quest reaches South Georgia, Shackleton has a fatal heart attack on the 5th of January. On the request of his wife he is buried in the whalers cemetery at Grytviken South Georgia.