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Cos Cob adventurer survives Antarctica

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Greenwich explorer Luc Hardy, front row, far left, poses with his crew before they set sail from Chile for Antarctica's Elephant Island on their sailing ship, the Australis.

For his latest adventure, Cos Cob explorer **Luc Hardy** wanted to follow in the footsteps of Sir **Ernest Shackleton**, who led a perilous expedition to Antarctica 100 years ago, in 1914. Hardy sure got the perilous part right.

During the recent expedition, Hardy and his team, like Shackleton and his crew, were buffeted by strong winds, pelted by blinding snow and challenged by rough seas. The Cos Cob adventurer and his crew of eight twice attempted the "Shackleton Traverse," a 26-mile crossing of South Georgia Island, in gale-force winds and bitter cold. The first time they were beaten back by 85-knot winds, which caused the nine-man team to seek shelter in their tent, which was constantly and fiercely flapping against the wind. They all eyed with fear a small tear in the tent that if enlarged would have blown it away, leaving them at the mercy of the elements. With the snow making its way inside, Hardy says, "Our guide was managing for us all a brave smile."

"You can read all the descriptions of wind so strong," Hardy said, "but there's nothing like going through it to understand how difficult it is to go through."

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