

# Fireside Tales

## The Worst Journey in the World

### Chapter 5 – Fight for Survival

#### TRANSCRIPT

Scientist Dr Edward Wilson and his two companions, Bowers and Garrard, travelled for weeks through the frozen polar night to collect Emperor Penguin eggs. They finally had five eggs. Then Garrard slipped and fell and broke two of the eggs.

After they reached their hut, a terrible storm suddenly started. The tent blew away. Hurricane force winds collapsed the hut on top of them, filling the space with snow. They spent two days and nights in their sleeping bags partly buried in snow. They couldn't cook or eat while the storm continued. Without the tent, there was no chance to survive the 108-kilometre journey back to base.

When the storm ended, Bowers found the tent nearly one kilometre away. Luckily, it wasn't badly damaged. However, part of the cooker disappeared in the storm. This was needed to heat food and drink. The explorers were physically and mentally exhausted and had lost a lot of weight. Many of their teeth were shattered by the bitter cold.

Wilson, Bowers and Garrard decided to return with the three eggs. For the return journey, they left one sledge behind. It was very difficult to use the damaged cooker. If skin touched metal, it was frostbitten instantly. Bowers fell into a crevasse and was hanging in space from the sledge until the others got him out. After that, the journey went more smoothly. Snow conditions were better and they moved faster with a lighter load. The sky was a little brighter around the middle of the day as the season moved towards spring.

When the explorers reached the sea ice again and the temperatures rose, they felt sure they would survive. They reached the safety of the expedition base after five weeks away. "The worst journey in the world" was over.

In the sixth and final part of this fireside chat, Penguin and I will tell you something about what happened after the journey.

## GLOSSARY

Slipped	Lost balance on the ice
Terrible	Very bad
Hurricane force winds	Force 12 on the Beaufort Scale
Collapsed the hut	made the hut fall down
Blew away	the wind picked up the tent and carried it away
Buried	under
Damaged	in bad condition / broken
Disappeared	not visible / gone
Mentally	of the mind
Physically	of the body
Exhausted	very tired
Shattered	broken
Lost a lot of weight	they weighed many kilos less than at the start of the journey
Bitter cold	very cold / extreme cold
Left behind	abandoned / not carried anymore
Instantly	immediately
Hanging in space	suspended by his harness from the sledge
Went more smoothly	there were fewer problems
Lighter load	they had less weight/equipment to pull
Brighter	There was more light because, although the sun was still below the horizon, it was getting nearer to the horizon at midday.
Felt sure	were confident