



STROMNESS WHALING STATION



The men had now been moving non-stop for over 36 hours. Then, in the distance, the vague shape of Husvik harbour emerged like a beacon of hope. Upon sighting the harbour, the men shook hands with one another in silence.

All that separated the men from their sanctuary was a huge snow slope that seemed to end in a **precipice**. It was either this route or a five-mile walk to get around the drop. Without too much thought, they went for it, crashing and sliding down together. Their clothes shredded, and stripped of all their belongings, they had arrived.

The manager of the station, Mr Sorlle, came out to see what the fuss was about, but did not recognise the exhausted, broken men in front of him until one of them explained, "My name is Shackleton." Then Sorlle immediately reached out to the men and took them inside.

Sorlle was a most gracious host, and saw to it that the men had plenty of food, drink and hot water to bathe. A boat was sent to King Haakon Bay to pick up the three men who had been left behind. Once they had recovered, the men all sat together and discussed immediate plans to rescue their friends on Elephant Island. To save them, Shackleton would need a vessel strong enough to break through the pack ice, with enough fuel to return to land. Luckily, the Chilean government lent Shackleton a steam-powered ship called the Yelcho.