

# Wreck of HMS Erebus Discovered

The Franklin Expedition ship discovered in early September by the 2014 Victoria Strait Expedition is Her Majesty's Ship (HMS) Erebus, according to an announcement recently made by Canadian Prime Minister, Stephen Harper. Sir John Franklin, who was in command of the Franklin Expedition, sailed on HMS Erebus. The confirmation was made by Parks Canada underwater archaeologists, following a meticulous review of data and artifacts observed from the Arctic Ocean's seabed and using high-resolution photography, high-definition video and multibeam sonar measurements.

This announcement comes just three weeks after remains of the ship were found in the eastern stretches of the Queen Maud Gulf off the western coast of the Adelaide Peninsula.

On 19 May 1845, HMS *Erebus* and HMS *Terror* of the Royal Navy departed Greenhithe, England, on a much-heralded Arctic expedition in search of a Northwest Passage. Under the command of Sir John Franklin, with Captain Francis Rawdon Crozier as second in command, the expedition's two ships set out with a total complement of 129 officers and men. The two expedition ships were last seen entering Baffin Bay in August 1845.

Since 2008, there have been six major Parks Canada-led searches for the lost Franklin Expedition ships, painstakingly covering many hundreds of square kilometres of the Arctic seabed.

The initial discovery of a ship belonging to the Franklin Expedition, made by side-scan sonar towed from the Parks Canada research vessel *Investigator*, was confirmed on 7 September 2014, using Parks Canada's remotely operated vehicle. On 30 September 2014, it was confirmed that the ship is HMS *Erebus*.

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<https://www.hydro-international.com/content/article/wreck-of-hms-erebus-discovered>

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