

## The adventure of the Ice Man

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Hello! My name is Tom Crean and this is the story of my solo march to base camp, in the frozen Antarctic.

It was a life or death situation. I was travelling back to base camp accompanied by my two fellow friends, Lt. Evans and Bill Lashly. As we travelled through the icy conditions, Lt. Evans fell ill. We set up our tent and slept the night. The next morning I made my decision. I had to go to base camp and get medical aid for Lt. Evans. I felt nervous but I was determined and optimistic that I would succeed on my treacherous mission. Bill Lashly stayed to nurse the feeble Lt. Evans. I was on my own. I left behind the portable stove, tent and my sleeping bag because Bill would need these to nurse Lt. Evans. My only ration of food was merely two sticks of chocolate and three biscuits.

The weather conditions were atrocious. The ferocious and roaring winds whipped up ice fragments that cut into my face. I put my hand up as a shield to combat the ice. I faced many dangers such as huge crevasses which could gobble me up. I could not afford to take a nap because I would get frost bite. I would also break my legs if I slipped in the ice. I plodded through the snow malnourished and exhausted. After trudging and sometimes crawling on all fours, I sat down and ate my two sticks of chocolate and two biscuits. I had walked sixteen miles now. After my snack, I got up and continued to slither along the bleak wilderness.

Finally, I reached the hill. Normally I would have run up that hill. Now I had to clamber and lumber up. With great effort, I reached the summit of the hill. From there I could see base camp. But there were no dogs or people in sight! The sight shattered me. I felt bitterly disappointed and devastated. I sat down in depression, and ate my last biscuit. Suddenly as I stood up I saw that the sky had darkened. I knew at once that an Antarctic blizzard was approaching. It was pitiless, roaring and brutal. I slithered down the hill. I saw paw prints and sledge tracks that I craved. I stumbled in the door and collapsed on the floor of the hut. I was delirious with hunger, exhaustion and I was numbed with the cold. Luckily, one of the two men inside was a doctor. I felt relieved and happy that I had got help for my friend Ted. They gave me a tot of brandy and I as promptly sick. My long legs did the trick but I was pretty well done when I finished!