

# LOST EXPEDITION

Our guest contributor for this issue of the Wayward Navigator B&B newsletter is [Captain David Snider](#), MNI. Captain Snider was highly commended in the Lloyds List / Nautical Institute – 2004 Shipmaster of the Year. This award was presented for exemplary professional conduct in ice pilotage and Canadian Coast Guard Command.

The Nautical Institute and Lloyds List

Shipmaster  
of the  
Year  
Award



Cameraman Jon Woods, Producer Tim Altmann, Captain David Snider and Director Peter Bate

## Franklin's Lost Expedition

One of Canada's most tragic moments in history was the loss of much vaunted Franklin expedition of 1845, dispatched by the British government to once and for all complete and claim the Northwest Passage for Britain. Equipped with the latest in British technology, manned by some of the most experienced British Arctic explorers, the expedition soon disappeared from the face of the earth. After several years with no word from the expedition, a belated search was commenced, a search that would carry on for more than a decade, would be instrumental in mapping most of the previously unknown Canadian Arctic, and would unfortunately end with more questions unanswered than answered. To this day scholars and historians, would-be explorers and pundits, enthusiasts and hobbyists continue to search for the truth surrounding the loss of the 134 men of HMS Erebus and Terror on the shores of King William Island and Simpson Strait.

The latest in a long series of investigations over the 150 years since Franklin's death in the cold Arctic on June 11<sup>th</sup> 1847 is a documentary film tentatively entitled "[Lost Expedition](#)" being produced by Crossing the Line Films of Ireland. The documentary, to be produced in both a 50 and 70 minute format, will be televised on numerous TV networks such as History Television in Canada, the UK's History

Channel and Channel 5, ABC in Australia, ZDF in Germany, ARTE in France, Ireland's TGF and National Geographic International in the spring of 2005.

Director Peter Bate and Producer Tim Altmann have criss-crossed the globe interviewing modern experts to shed further light on the mystery as to how such a well equipped and manned expedition could come to grief so completely and mysteriously.

In the course of the documentary, the effects of ice on the bomb ships Erebus and Terror will be examined through modern naval architecture software in which construction details have been inputted and combined with computer generated graphics to show dramatic representations of possible results. Further information that might indicate the root causes of the calamity will be examined as new experts are interviewed. Canadian ice expert, [Dr Humfrey Melling](#) was interviewed on the characteristics of sea ice features in the areas through which the expedition transited and eventually came to grief.

Among the experts interviewed for the film, this author provided what director Bate called "a true feel for what it must have been like for the men and ships" describing the power massive ice floes have against the tiny ships and how ice navigators base their decisions on routing and manoeuvring. [Captain Snider's](#) perspective as an experienced Ice Navigator provided graphic insight into the hazards and traps that face even modern mariners who challenge the ice covered Arctic seas.