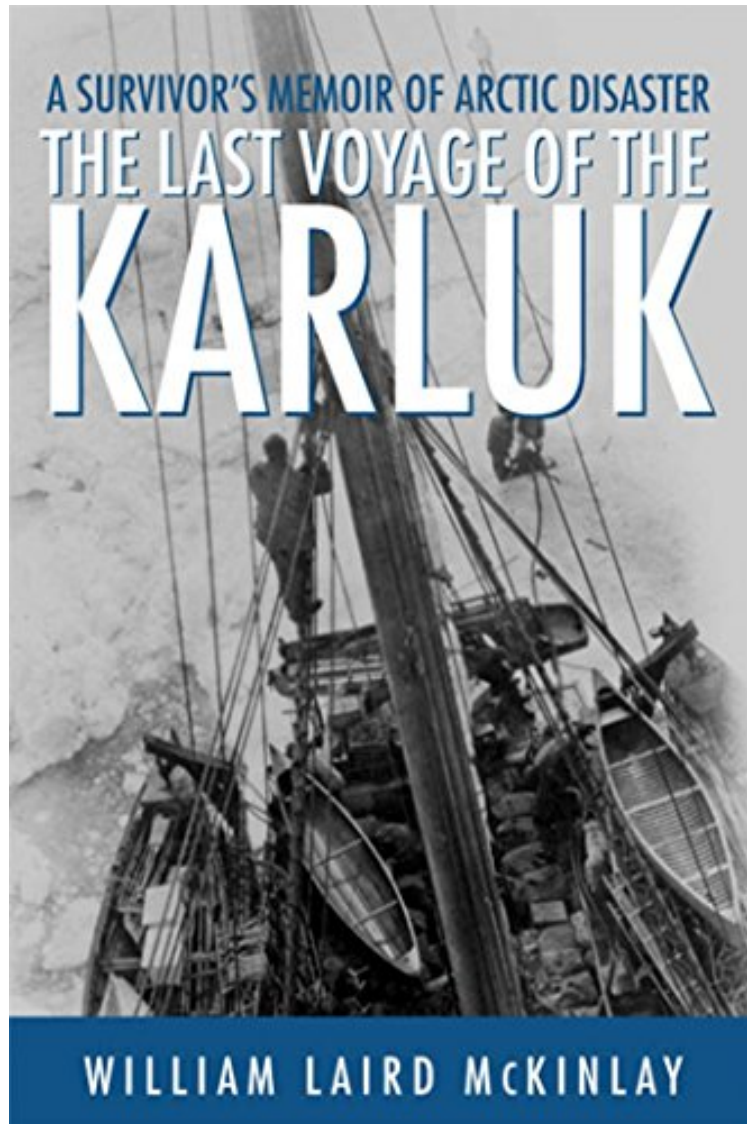


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The Last Voyage of the Karluk: A Survivor's Memoir of Arctic Disaster

Von William Laird McKinlay

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Von William Laird McKinlay : The Last Voyage of the Karluk: A Survivor's Memoir of Arctic Disaster before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Last Voyage of the Karluk: A Survivor's Memoir of Arctic Disaster:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A well-kept secret on adventure literatureVon Jose Luis FelippiThis superb little book is a well-kept secret on polar

expedition literature. The ill-fated tragedy of the *Karluk* and her crew has never achieved notoriety, because its return occurred right at the time of the stupefying return of Robert Scott's last expedition survivors, and also because Mr. Vilhjalmur Stefansson was proficient in concealing the veridical facts. If the usual clamour is that Scott's 1910-13 expedition was confused and wrongly conceived, what to say about *Karluk's*? Three overloaded ships, but no man aware of which equipment was in which of them; the main ship tiny and fragile, predictably crushed by the sea ice; a bunch of men without the essential feature to survive the shortage and the wildness of nature in high latitudes: comradeship. The sixty years between the start of the journey and the writing of this book work as a filter, allowing the maturation of the author's memories and emotions - but it may have obstructed this astonishing narrative of endurance of turning itself into a classic. Nevertheless, it's never too late to rewrite history. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Not enough personality details Von Tom Bruce I am a fan of shipwreck tales, and this true story is a fine example of the genre. Written by a survivor of this 1913 disaster, the book does an excellent job of describing the suffering the untrained Arctic explorers went through during their months of isolation. However, one major fault is that it is difficult to identify with individuals; they tend to be a jumbled conglomerate. I think this is because the author gives very little personal data about anyone, therefore they are little more than a name and an un-descriptive phrase. What compounds this fault, is that two of the shipwrecked crew were from Shackelford's Antarctic shipwreck (it would be interesting to see how their previous experience affected them psychologically) and the captain of the *Karluk* left his ship stranded (an entire book could be written about him). These, as do the other crew members, deserve more attention and description. (Book review by Tom Bruce) 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A useful contrast to the *Endurance* saga Von Susan Paxton It's hard to picture any expedition more ineptly run than Scott's, but the *Karluk* expedition was indeed even worse. And while Scott's mistakes were exposed for the world to see, the leader of the *Karluk* expedition, Vilhjalmur Stefansson, was so successful in covering up his that he was lionized after his return by the National Geographic Society and no less a personage than Robert Peary. This book was written some sixty years after the fact by a survivor of the expedition, and while the execution could be better, this is an interesting tale that provides a useful counterpoint to the story of the *Endurance*. While Sir Ernest Shackleton, through his courage, self-sacrifice, and leadership saved every one of his men when the *Endurance* was crushed in the ice and sunk, when the *Karluk* was similarly beset the vile Stefansson left his men to die.

Kurzbeschreibung An astonishing narrative of disaster and perseverance, *The Last Voyage of the Karluk* will thrill readers of adventure classics like *Into Thin Air* and *The Climb*. In 1913, explorer Vilhjalmur Stefansson hired William McKinlay to join the crew of the *Karluk*, the leading ship of his new Arctic expedition. Stefansson's mission was to chart the waters north of Alaska; yet the *Karluk's* crew was untrained, the ship was ill-suited to the icy conditions, and almost at once the *Karluk* was crushed - at which point Stefansson abandoned his crew to continue his journey on another ship. This is the only firsthand account of what followed: a nightmare struggle in which half the crew perished, one was mysteriously shot, and the rest were near death by the time of their rescue twelve months later. Written some sixty years after the fact, and drawing extensively on his own daily log, McKinlay's narrative of this doomed expedition is rendered with remarkable clarity of recollection, and with a combination of horror and a level of self-possession that, to modern eyes, may seem incredible. Like most of his companions, McKinlay was inexperienced, without a day's training in the skills essential to survival in the Arctic. Yet he and many of his fellow crewmen, with the help of an Eskimo family accustomed to such conditions, survived a year under the harshest of conditions, enduring 80-mile-per-hour gales and temperatures well below zero with only the barest of provisions and almost no hope of contact with civilization. Nearly a century later, this remains one of the most compelling survival stories ever written - an extraordinary testament to man's overpowering will to live. de Dieser Titel ist in englischer Sprache. Am 23. April 1913 beendete der 24-jährige William McKinlay, Lehrer für Mathematik und Naturwissenschaft, gerade sein Abendessen, als ihn ein Telegramm erreichte. In ihm stand, da der legendäre Kanada-Forscher Vilhjalmur Stefansson eine vierjährige Arktisexpedition zwischen den nördlichsten Küsten Kanadas und dem Nordpol plant. Es sollte ein "ausgedehntes wissenschaftliches Projekt" werden, erinnert sich McKinlay, "Eskimos, geologische Studien, Wassertiefen von ungemessenen arktischen Gewässern und eine Suche nach neuen Inseln für Großbritannien beinhaltend." McKinlay sollte der "Magnetist" und Meteorologe des Teams werden. Er dachte nicht einmal darüber nach -- obwohl das Team eine bunt zusammengeworfene Ansammlung von Wissenschaftlern und Schiffsfleuten war; viele von ihnen hatten noch nie einen Eisbären außerhalb eines Zoos gesehen. Es gab auch keine Überlebensschulung für die Unerfahrenen. Das war der Gipfel der Arktisexpedition: Im Juli verließ die 250-Tonnen "Karluk" Alaska. Im August war das Schiff verloren, gefangen und driftend im soliden Packeis. Stefansson verließ das Schiff (seine Untersuchungen für volle fünf Jahre weiterführend), und die "Karluk" driftete Monate lang weiter, bevor sie auf Eis lief und sank. Fünfundzwanzig Menschen flüchteten auf das Eis, eingeschlossen für ein Jahr, bevor Hilfe sie fand. Bis dahin starben elf von ihnen -- manche, während sie versuchten, Land zu erreichen, andere durch Selbstmord, Unterernährung oder Krankheit. McKinlay berichtet aus erster Hand vom Debakel der "Karluk" und ist das Gegenteil zu Shackletons

"Endurance": Was passiert, wenn eine untrainierte, schlecht zusammengesetzte Crew eine Katastrophe erlebt und der Herausforderung nicht gewachsen ist. Führer- und mutlos, flichteten sich die Gestrandeten in Verrat, Lügen, Betrug und purem Wahnsinn. "Karluk" ist eine Geschichte, die sowohl unglaublich, als auch gelufig ist und sie ist überzeugend erzählt: Wie Ehrgeiz und schlechte Organisation zu spektakulären Katastrophen führen, aus denen nur eiserner Wille oder pures Glück eine Rettung bieten. Kurzbeschreibung An astonishing narrative of disaster and perseverance, *The Last Voyage of the Karluk* will thrill readers of adventure classics like *Into Thin Air* and *The Climb*. In 1913, explorer Vilhjalmur Stefansson hired William McKinlay to join the crew of the Karluk, the leading ship of his new Arctic expedition. Stefansson's mission was to chart the waters north of Alaska; yet the Karluk's crew was untrained, the ship was ill-suited to the icy conditions, and almost at once the Karluk was crushed-at which point Stefansson abandoned his crew to continue his journey on another ship. This is the only firsthand account of what followed: a nightmare struggle in which half the crew perished, one was mysteriously shot, and the rest were near death by the time of their rescue twelve months later. Written some sixty years after the fact, and drawing extensively on his own daily log, McKinlay's narrative of this doomed expedition is rendered with remarkable clarity of recollection, and with a combination of horror and a level of self-possession that, to modern eyes, may seem incredible. Like most of his companions, McKinlay was inexperienced, without a day's training in the skills essential to survival in the Arctic. Yet he and many of his fellow crewmen, with the help of an Eskimo family accustomed to such conditions, survived a year under the harshest of conditions, enduring 80-mile-per-hour gales and temperatures well below zero with only the barest of provisions and almost no hope of contact with civilization. Nearly a century later, this remains one of the most compelling survival stories ever written-an extraordinary testament to man's overpowering will to live.