



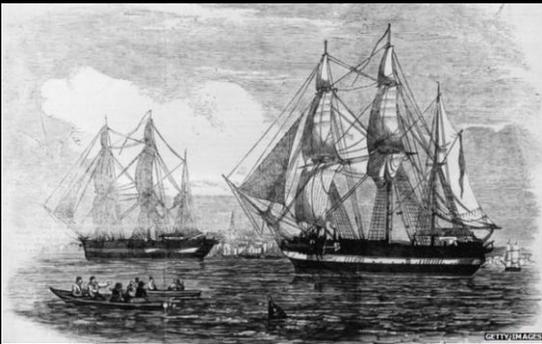
Resurrecting HMS Erebus and Terror

Artist Christopher Walker takes us on a journey back in time in a painting of Sir John Franklin's last expedition.





The HMS Erebus and Terror have been the subject of many paintings, drawings and etchings since they were built in the early 19th century however there are hardly any accurate depictions of these famous ships. The mystery of the plight of all 129 men who served under the command of Sir John Franklin to find the northwest passage through the arctic in 1845 haunted the imaginations of many artists in that era and beyond.





Christopher Walker was a ships artist on the Arctic 94 scientific expedition to the north pole in the summer of 1994 where he spent nearly 3 months on both the CCGS Louis St. Laurent and the USCG Polar Sea icebreakers. The experience of being on a lengthy arctic expedition granted Walker the confidence and integrity to challenge himself to depict a contemporary portrait of HMS Erebus and Terror. Both were three masted barque ships much like HMS Trincomalee and HMS Beagle. Using the authentic plans of the ships provided by the National Maritime Museum and current data from recent dives to the wrecks of these historic vessels, the process of developing the painting's composition began .



HMS Trincomalee



HMS Beagle



“Expedition” began with a rough drawing depicting HMS Erebus and Terror entering a bay near Beechey Island full of hope, gallantry and determination as apposed to a solemn depiction of being beset in ice. An 8” x 10” colour comp was then created to establish the atmosphere for the 36” x 50” painting.





The sails and yards are now refined enough to begin rendering the standing and running rigging of HMS Erebus. The HMS Beagle's rigging is used as a reference for the Erebus's specific characteristics.

