



STORIES FROM THE SEA

EXPLORATION OBJECTS



HUSSEY'S BANJO

Date made

1913

Object ref.

AAB0225

Credit

National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London

Artist / maker

Windsor, A.O.

Description

A banjo, with mother of pearl decoration, which belonged to Dr L.D.A. Hussey, the meteorologist (weather scientist) of the *Endurance* on Ernest Shackleton's famous expedition to the Antarctic. The banjo was rescued from the ship before she sank, crushed by the ice of the Weddell Sea in Antarctica. Dr Hussey played it during concert parties organized by the survivors to cheer themselves up while they awaited rescue on Elephant Island. The banjo has been signed by expedition members.

Questions

Why do you think someone might take a banjo on a long journey?

What would you take on a dangerous journey to keep your spirits up?