Unlocking secrets of Franklin's expedition A team of navy divers and marine archaeologists are to investigate the wreck of HMS Erebus, one of two British ships that vanished in the Canadian Arctic 170 years ago. *Erebus*, found in September 2014, **PACIFIC** and HMS Terror disappeared during a quest for the fabled **OCEAN** Northwest Passage by Sir John Franklin in 1845 ATLANTIC **OCEAN** GREENLAND BEAUFORT SEA May 19, 1845: Expedition led by Sir John Franklin sets sail from England with 128 officers and men Arctic Circle 2 Jul 26: British whalers are last Europeans to sight expedition 3 1845-46: Ships winter at Beechey Island. Three crew members perish 4 Sep 1846: Ships trapped in ice in Victoria Strait, remaining stranded CANADA as ice fails to melt during summer of 1847. By April 1848, Franklin and 500km 23 others are dead 310 miles Apr 1848: Ships deserted survivors head south, apparently resorting to cannibalism in vain attempt to stay alive. Men died from hunger, scurvy or lead poisoning, caused by eating badly tinned food 5 Sep 2014: Erebus found in area King William **Erebus** settled long identified by Inuit elders as İsland upright on sea final resting place of one bed at depth of Franklin's of 11 metres in ships Queen Maud Gulf - exact Artifacts location not and human disclosed Queen remains Maud Gult found during subsequent explorations Steering Captain's First Lieutenant's Galley stove: Included wheel bedroom desalination plant cabin Captain's Mess cabin Bow: Reinforced with iron plates to Propeller: Could be removed Sail Engine: Railway locomotive Iron **Boiler:** Heated ship break if ice threatened damage room capable of 25 horsepower water by sending hot water through **HMS EREBUS** built into hold tanks through network of pipes 67 Crew: Ships carried three years' supply of food for 128 men, including Displacement: **726.8 tonnes** 35 tonnes of flour, 24 tonnes of meat, 7,560 litres of liquor Length: 32 metres Also carried camera to take daguerreotype pictures and scientific instruments Beam: 8.5 metres to study magnetic field, geology, botany and zoology of Arctic region Sources: Canadian Geographic, National Maritime Museum, The Northwest Passage by Brendan Lehane Pictures: AP, Getty Images © GRAPHIC NEWS