

*Polar Regions in the Twentieth Century*

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safely he did not even ask Wilde (the naval commander) to go north and lay down food for Greely, otherwise doomed to starvation. As for Commander Wilde, U. S. Navy, he sailed south, stating that he had no fear but Greely could care for his party.

In mid-October the party established Camp Clay, on Bedford Pym Island, erecting a hut of rocks, canvas, boat and snow slabs. Land game was sought, and seal holes watched to supplement the food (enough for only forty days) which was needed for two hundred fifty days before aid came. Efforts to cross Smith Sound failed, and no game was found, save occasionally. However, exploration discovered Rice Strait, Pym Island, and a new land (Schley) which succeeding explorers quietly renamed. The party was in rags and fuel was wanting—conditions which imposed hardships during the one hundred forty-five days without the sun, and two hundred forty continuous days on which the temperature remained below freezing. When food failed, existence was eked out by seal thongs, plants, saxifrage flowers, seaweed, sand fleas and lichens. Courage and solidarity were maintained, until June 22, 1884, when the navysquadron ships *Thetis* and *Bear*, under Captain W. S. Schley and Commander W. H. Emory, rescued the eight living men. To commemorate this service, Donald MacMillan erected on Pym Island, a tablet thus inscribed: "To the memory of the dead, who, under Lieutenant A. W. Greely,