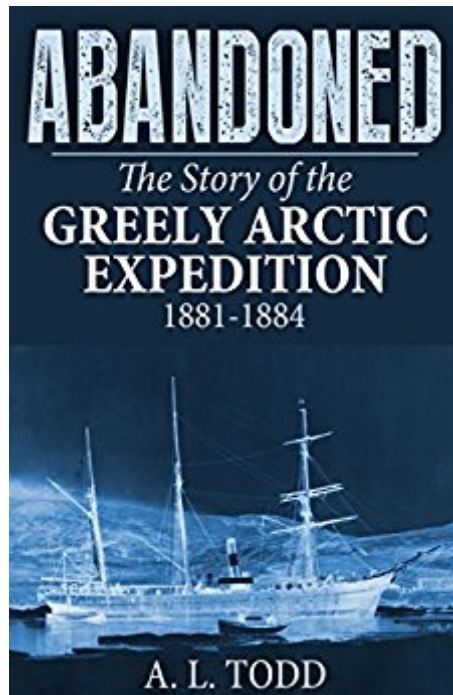




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Abandoned: The Story Of The Greely Arctic Expedition 1881-1884



Synopsis

Abandoned, first published in 1961, is the riveting story of the ill-fated Greely Arctic Expedition. Launched in 1881 as part of the International Polar Year, the U.S. stationed a party of twenty-five men on what is today called Ellesmere Island off the northwest coast of Greenland. The volunteer crew was made up of 3 Army officers, 19 enlisted men, a civilian surgeon, and 2 Eskimo hunters. The commander of the group was thirty-seven-year-old Signal Corps Lieutenant Adolphus Washington Greely. During their first year on the ice, members of the expedition went farther toward the North Pole than anyone had gone before and collected a body of invaluable scientific data. The first supply ship sent to the men in the summer of 1882 was forced to turn back, and the men passed their second winter in isolation at their frigid basecamp. Personality clashes developed and grew steadily more intense. The second relief ship, sent in 1883, was crushed in the ice. Greely led his men south according to a prearranged plan, and they spent their third ice-bound winter encamped at Camp Sabine. Supplies ran out, the hunting failed, and the men began to die of starvation. In Washington an amazing controversy grew out of the failure of the rescue expeditions. Congress was reluctant to launch another attempt, but at last, largely because of the heroic efforts of Greely's wife, Henrietta, the Navy was authorized to go in search of survivors. In the summer of 1884 the 6 survivors of the Greely expedition were safely returned home. The excitement which their rescue generated soon turned into a national scandal when rumors of cannibalism were supported by forensic evidence. Abandoned remains the most complete and authentic account of the Greely Expedition ever published. Included are 15 pages of maps and photographs.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Excellent story of survival and challenges of exploring and being stranded while sailing in the arctic region in the 1920s. The hardships endured by this expedition were beyond anything we would ever like to find ourselves in. Enjoyed reading the story and the book pulled many key excerpts from diary entries from all the members of the expedition. Worth the read...

The details of the day to day life on the ice are great. What I really enjoyed is the aftermath of the accounts and the public reactions to the three year voyage. A classic.

Todd's narrative makes you feel a part of the expedition...including the anguish and despair of the dying days. A page turner that kept me up till all hours with an almost desperate need to know the conclusion. A bittersweet story of the best and worst of American military leadership.

This is an amazing case of truth being stronger than fiction. To see the remarkable fortitude of these men under such brutal conditions of weather and conflicting personalities is almost unbelievable. Add to that the obstacles of finally getting a rescue operation after such a terrible and frustrating wait underscores the nasty business of political forces. I was so glad to read an (almost) happy ending.

A good read if you like this kind of stories of adventure.

If you like arctic expedition stories this is for you.

Such detail I've never read before in any survival story. Excellent transcript, such harsh conditions, how they all survived is amazing. One of the best reads ever. Thank you.

very readable. shows Greely as a competent leader, not the buffoon other books about his expedition have shown. Straightforward writing style. would recommend.

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