

# NEWS



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USCGC EASTWIND, Antarctic, 3 February 1961--

Two scientists waved goodbye to over half a million penguins today, when the Coast Guard Icebreaker EASTWIND arrived to take them off wind-swept rock-bare Cape Adare, Antarctica, their campsite for three lonely weeks.

The scientists, Brian Reid, 30, of Rotorua, New Zealand, and Colin Bailey, 26, of Adelaide, Australia, were the first men in 50 years to spend over a day at the site of the first land wintering-over party in the Antarctica.

"We wanted to study an isolated penguin rookery", explained leader Reid, "so naturally we chose a place that was fairly accessible but untouched."

Along with 400 pounds of food and supplies, the EASTWIND landed the scientist by helicopter on January 13. Then she headed north for a week in Wellington, New Zealand for reprovisioning after spending over a month breaking ice for cargo ships supplying scientific stations throughout the South Polar regions.

A typical day for the two men at Cape Adare started at 9:30 in the morning with a hot breakfast of pork and beans, coffee, and cereal.

"Then we'd tramp about and count the penguins," said Bailey, an Australian medical doctor who is assisting Reid.

Going from colony to colony of squawking, squabbling, birds, the scientists made preliminary estimates from which final figures will be worked out. They also counted the number of skua gulls, large grey-brown Antarctic birds which prey on penguin chicks.

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"In all, it proved to be a very fruitful mission," explained Reid, "We now have the basis for future study of this rookery. Scientists examining this same group in years to come will be able to tell if the penguin population is declining, remaining steady, or on the increase."

During their stay, the men were frequently buffeted by cold, cutting, winds that picked up rocks and hurled them through their tents.

"Guess it was the inconvenience of getting literally rocked to sleep that made us decide to dig out one of the old huts," said Reid with a smile.

There are three wooden buildings still standing at Cape Adare. One was built in 1899 by the first party of men ever to winter over on the Antarctic continent, headed by a Norwegian-born Australian named Borchgrevink.

The other two, built by Scott's northern party when they wintered over in 1911, have fallen apart, mute testimony to the fierce winds which blast the exposed Cape.

"It's quite amazing that the oldest building is still standing," said Reid. "It was filled with hard-packed snow, and we worked like the very devil digging it out."

Once excavated, however, it formed a perfect shelter for the scientists, in addition to providing some excellent reading material. They found scientific journals and covers dating back to the mid 1800's.

In addition, the two men found old unexposed photographic glass plates, tins of fine chocolates, cans of pea soup, safety matches, knife grinders, and enough bunks to accommodate 10 men.

One day, while counting skua gulls on the sheer cliffs near the campsite, Reid and Bailey discovered an iron cross on a boulder, marking the grave of the first man to die while living on the Antarctic continent.

Crudely chisled on a metallic plaque was the terse epitaph: "N. Hanson, Zoologist, Norge, 28-10-1899, 28-year." Also on the plaque was a six-pointed star with the letters "S.C." within it. Although neither of the scientists could figure the meaning of the "S.C.". It is possible that it stands for "Southern Cross", the name of the ship which brought the party to Antarctica.

A 12-man landing party from the EASTWIND was sent into Cape Adare by boat to assist the two scientists in moving out. The Coast Guardsmen also boarded up the excavated hut to prevent additional interior damage by winter blizzards.

Before leaving, the scientists requested the EASTWIND be represented in a record book that could be left behind in the hut for future explorers and scientists. The officers and men complied by writing a page-long dedication, part of which went:

"We salute the men of science who have braved the rigors of the Antarctic in the past, and who will continue to do so in the future to gather vital information. To them we say 'Nil Sine Magna Labore', We are proud to have assisted as part of Operation Deep Freeze 1961."

The book was signed by the EASTWIND's commanding officer, Captain Joseph W. Naab, Jr., and by all the other officers and men in the landing party.

Once aboard the EASTWIND and headed back for the joint American-New Zealand base at Hallert Station, 60 miles away, Reid and Bailey admitted that their greatest pleasure in the three weeks was a good hot shower, enjoyed aboard the 269-foot white cutter.

"I may still smell like a penguin on the outside," joked Bailey, "But I feel fresh inside."

After leaving the scientists at Hallett, the EASTWIND will return to McMurdo Sound, Antarctica, to resume her duties as a key icebreaker in Operation Deep Freeze.

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