

Yesterday in the Signal Corps

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Adolphus W. Greely led a party of 24 men on one of the first Signal Corps weather expeditions to the Arctic in 1881. Two of the men—2nd Lt. James Lockwood and Sgt. (later Brig. Gen.) David Brainard—traveled to 83° 24'N or “Farthest North.” On August 8, 1883, Greely’s party began a cruel journey from Fort Conger. They landed at Eskimo Point after having been adrift for a month on an ice pack. They established Camp Clay at Cape Sabine, Alaska, and awaited rescue—which did not come until June 22, 1884. Only seven survived, and one died shortly after rescue. The six sat for this picture aboard the rescue ship on the route home. They were: (seated left) Sgt. David Brainard and Greely. Standing (from the left) are Sgt. Francis Long, Pvt. Julius Fredericks, Pvt. Maurice Connell and Pvt. Henry Biederbick. (US Army photo)