A Team of Hardy Men
A Photographic Album
TOUCH SCREEN TO BEGIN

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A Team of Hardy Men
A Photographic Album
Life at Amundsen’s Camp
Bay of Whales, Antarctica
1911

Touch corners or swipe to turn pages

1/16

*Roald Amundsen in furs*

Roald Amundsen, the leader of the Norwegian expedition
Chapter 1
At Base Camp

Ahead of us the vast, endless snowplain; behind us... our dear Fram.... The flag was hoisted, a last farewell from our comrades on board Nobody knew when we should see them again. Roald Amundsen

_Fram in the distance_

After dropping off the Norwegian polar team, The Fram left Antarctica on February 1911, to spend the winter in Argentina.

3/16

_Building Hut at Framheim_

Arriving in Antarctica in January 1911, the Norwegians called their base camp Framheim, named in honor of their ship, the _Fram_.

_Framheim kitchen_

The kitchen stored medicines, food—and the team’s navigation equipment.

4/16
The team encountered emperor penguins. “Not only in their upright walk,” wrote Amundsen, “but also in their manners and antics, these birds remind one strikingly of human beings.”

Chapter 2
The Men at Work

In this manner the winter passed quickly and comfortably. Everyone had his hands full all the time… Roald Amundsen

Men with goggles

The men spent the winter tinkering with and improving their sledging “outfit.” Here, they modeled their snow goggles.

Hjalmar Johansen with biscuits

During the winter, explorer Hjalmar Johansen packed sledging boxes for the dash to the Pole, including 42,000 oatmeal biscuits—a mainstay of the team’s sledging diet.

Prestrud in furs

Norwegian Kristian Prestrud modeled his furs.

Lindstrom on skis

A favorite of Amundsen’s, Adolf Lindstrøm, the team’s cook, had an unflappably cheerful demeanor.
Olav Bjaaland wore windproof garments and a “nose-protector” designed to prevent frostbite.

8/16

Chapter 3
“A Whole Underground Village”

And now began a work of tunnelling which lasted a good while…we did not stop until we had a whole underground village…. Roald Amundsen

Wisting at sewing machine

In a small “ice-cabin,” Oscar Wisting manned the sewing machine, making tents, windproof clothing and “nearly all the outfit for the Polar journey,” reported Amundsen.

9/16

Prestrud and Hanssen packing sledges

Kristian Prestrud and Helmer Hanssen packed the sledges for the Pole. The room where they worked was under the ice, but its temperature was still only -15 °F (-26 °C).

Bjaaland and sledges

Olav Bjaaland, ace carpenter, worked under the ice to lighten the sledges.

10/16
In addition to wood and coal, the Norwegians used kerosene for lighting and heat. Sverre Hassel was in charge of the under-ice fuel stores.

Underneath the ice, the Norwegians built a “vapour bath,” or sauna. The water was heated from below by two oil lamps.

There can hardly be an animal that is capable of expressing its feelings to the same extent as the dog. Joy, sorrow, gratitude, scruples of conscience, are all reflected as plainly as could be desired in his behaviour, and above all in his eyes. Roald Amundsen

Numbering more than 100, the Greenland sled dogs kept the men at Framheim busy and entertained.

Sometimes, the dogs held “howling concerts”—baying for two or three minutes, then stopping just as suddenly.

Dog teams pulling sledges averaged about 30 miles (50 kilometers) a day.
Dogs and packed sledges
On one banner day, the dogs pulled for 62 miles (100 kilometers).

14/16

Depot at 80 degrees south
Dog harnesses, sledges, tents, men and resting dogs spread out over the ice at the “depot” at 80° South.

15/16

Man with whip facing away from camera
The South Pole was about 830 miles (1,340 kilometers) away from the Norwegian base camp.

The End
“At last we got away…”

16/16