

Germany's Second North Polar Expedition (September 11, 1870)

Abstract

This photograph shows members of Germany's Second North Polar Expedition on the day they returned to Bremen harbor, concluding a harrowing voyage of discovery. The crew had embarked from that same harbor on June 15, 1869, with the east coast of Greenland as their destination. Two ships made the journey: Captain Karl Koldewey's *Germania*, a screw steamer of 140 tons, and the *Hansa*, commanded by Captain P. F. A. Hegemann. Only one ship returned. The *Hansa* was crushed in polar ice after being separated from the *Germania*, but her crew disembarked and survived for six months, drifting more than 1,000 miles on an ice floe. Eventually, they reached the Moravian mission station of Friedriksthal, to the west of Cape Farewell, in early June 1870. A cape named after Bismarck marked the northernmost extent of the *Germania*'s discoveries. In March 1870, Koldewey and Lieutenant Julius Payer, the future explorer of Franz Josef Land, led an expeditionary party that managed to travel 100 miles north of the ship, being forced back only by a lack of provisions. Payer, Koldewey, and Hegemann are pictured here in the middle row (sitting second, third, and fifth from left). Koldewey published a two-volume account of the voyage in 1874. He had also commanded the first German expedition, which had sailed from Bergen in May 1868 and returned that same year.

Source



Source: Group portrait of the crew of the "Germania" upon their return on September 11, 1870. Location: Bremen. Top row from left: P. Ellinger, L. Wagner, C. Krauschner, W. Mieders, G. Herzberg, T. Klenzner, A. Pansch, H. Warkmeister, P. Iversen, J. Büttner. Below: G. Laube, J. Payer, K. Koldewey, L. Ollenstedt, P. Hegemann, R. Kobelank, C. Bergen. In front: H. Sengstacke, O. Tramnitz.

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