

APPOINTMENT IN GREENLAND

Deep in the Arctic - beyond the mountain barrier that has kept Greenland so long a lost world; and only a few hundred miles south of the pole, a British survey party of four has completed its dangerous task and now waits for the R.A.F. (who flew them in to almost-unknown Seal Lake) to fly them out again. And at Pembroke, South Wales, a Sunderland prepares for the Appointment in Greenland. They're taking plenty of stores in case of ill fortune. In those dreary latitudes near the pole nothing is sure; and an unknown, rock-and-iceberg studded lake is their destination. With the Sunderland goes Pathe cameraman Ced Baynes to record this daring R.A.F. adventure ... and there she goes on the first leg of her flight of over 2,000 miles. They'll go first to Iceland and then across to Greenland before heading for Seal Lake.

We're over Ireland now, steering almost due north. Conditions are none too good and there's quite a sea running as the big flying-boat makes landfall near Reykjavik. But at Reykjavik there's a three-day delay through bad weather before the Sunderland heads for Ella Island off the Greenland coast. They're three days behind schedule and the land party may be out of supplies. Against a 70-knot wind the pilot drives the big boat to Ella island, last touch-down before the big job.

The Danish colony welcome the crew. For over a thousand years the Northmen have had colonies in Greenland. Chiefly trappers, they use huskies and there's a fine litter of pups handy but no time to make a fuss of them - it's time to say Goodbye and head over the vast barrier towards Seal Lake where the expedition should be waiting.

We're flying over dangerous territory now. The Sunderland's done the trip before (when she landed the naval expedition) but there's only one emergency landing place if there's trouble and that's Seal Lake, their destination. Over the huge glacier in the background the naval party was to climb to explore uncharted territory. Now the radio-man reports 'Over Target' and the Sunderland prepares to land. There's the tent but there's no sign of life.

What tragedy will they find, Wing-Commander Barrett wonders as the dinghy beaches.

In the little hut - an outpost of Britain - there is no-one. Worn boots show someone's been back and gone away. Just as Barrett decides to take off again to search Commander Simpson arrives. He's

run for two hours down the slippery slopes of the glacier, trying desperately to get to the plane before it leaves. Now Lieutenants Erakine, Brooke and Captain Banks arrive and the party's complete.

Landed to explore an unknown lake near Seal Lake and prepare the way for a big expedition next year, Commander Simpson said the expedition had gone through a tough time. But now all is well as they board the dinghy and begin the first leg of the long journey home. In a last world they had endured hardship and privation, yet confident that the R.A.F. would not fail them.

"Operation Completed" the Sunderland reports, and heads for home, her job done. It will be a strange-looking, spruced-up party that steps out after she's touched down at Fombrohe.

Journey's End, and leading his gallant party, Commander Simpson steps ashore. Thus one more British achievement goes on record.