

MAWSON'S AID TELLS OF POLAR TRAGEDY

Australian Explorer's Fearful Journey After Loss of His Comrades.

By Marconi Transatlantic Wireless Telegraph to The New York Times.

LONDON, May 19.—Capt. John K. Davis, commander of Dr. Mawson's antarctic ship Aurora, has arrived in London and gives in an interview fresh details of the sufferings of Mawson and his comrades and the deaths of Lieut. Ninnis and Dr. Xavier Mertz, the Swiss scientist and ski runner.

Capt. Davis arrived off Mawson's base in fearful weather and learned by wireless that several of the party were missing. He waited for news of them with intense anxiety, for he had to go 1,500 miles along the coast to pick up Wild and his party before the sea froze and darkness set in. In this dilemma he decided, after many days, to push on and save Wild's party first. In spite of the terrific gales and blizzards, blowing 80 miles an hour, this was safely accomplished.

The ship was called back to Mawson's headquarters after starting on its 1,500-mile voyage, and Davis was informed that Mawson had struggled in alone after the death of Ninnis and Mertz.

"We were not more than half a mile from Mawson when he returned," said Davis, "but could not relieve him and his party. Mawson had gone out with Ninnis and Mertz. Twenty-five days after the little party started Ninnis fell into an unfathomable crevasse, with a sledge full of provisions, and his body was not recovered. For thirty-four days after this catastrophe Mawson and Mertz struggled across the ice on the verge of starvation, until on Jan. 17 Mertz, too, succumbed as the result of exposure and want of food.

"For twenty-two terrible days more Mawson struggled on alone, with a few starving dogs as his sole companions. That he did not go mad under such conditions is wonderful; and the account of his journey, when he tells it, will prove one of the greatest stories of antarctic heroism."

At the urgent request of Mawson, signaled by wireless, Davis has come to England to try to obtain part of the money rendered necessary by the extra season's work which has been forced upon the explorers, who are compelled to remain in the antarctic until Davis relieves them at the end of this year.