# 7  turnagain coat



The Dena'ina called Turnagain Arm *Tutl'uh*, meaning "back water"

Turnagain Arm was named by William Bligh of HMS *Bounty* fame. Bligh served as Cook's Sailing Master on his third and final voyage, the aim of which was discovery of the Northwest Passage. Upon reaching the head of Cook Inlet in 1778, Bligh was of the opinion that both Knik Arm and Turnagain Arm were the mouths of rivers and not the opening to the Northwest Passage. Under Cook's orders Bligh organized a party to travel up Knik Arm, which quickly returned to report Knik Arm indeed led only to a river.

Afterwards a second party was dispatched up Turnagain Arm and it too returned to report only a river lay ahead. As a result of this frustration the second body of water was given the disingenuous name "Turn Again". Early maps label Turnagain Arm as the "Turnagain River".

**The story:  The well-known name Willam Bligh belonged to a British guy who went to sea at age seven, "at a time when it was common to sign on a 'young gentleman' simply to gain, or at least record, the experience at sea required for a commission." He became a real sailor at age 16 – HMS Hunter**

**In 1776, Bligh was selected by Captain [James Cook](#) as [sailing master](#) of the *Resolution* on Cook's third voyage to the Pacific Ocean, during which Cook was killed and was succeeded by Captain Charles Clerke, who was dying from TB.  Due to his weakened state, Clerke placed Bligh in charge as navigator of the expedition and attempted to explore the Northwest Passage for a second time. Following Cook's and Clerke's deaths, Bligh played a significant role in navigating the beleaguered expedition back to England in August 1780. He was also able to supply details of Cook's last voyage following the return.**

**Fourth Anglo-Dutch War –  in August 1781, he fought in the [Battle of Dogger Bank](#) under Admiral Parker, which won him his commission as a lieutenant. For the next 18 months, he was a lieutenant on various ships. He also fought with [Lord Howe](#) at [Gibraltar](#) in 1782.**

Between 1783 and 1787, Bligh was a captain in the  Merchant Service.  Like many lieutenants, he would have found full-pay employment in the Navy; however, commissions were hard to obtain with the fleet largely demobilised at the end of the War with France when that country was allied with the North American rebelling colonies in the  War of American Independence  (1775–1783). In 1787, Bligh was

selected as commander of His Majesty's Armed Transport *Bounty*. He rose eventually to the rank of <u>vice admiral</u> in the Royal Navy.

1787 – Bounty Tahitian breadfruit to Caribbean – Fletcher Christian

## mutineers went to Pitcairn

## Bligh went to Timor

## Jules Verne

## another breadfruit voyage

## ackee soapberry

## echidna

## French Revolutionary Wars …  vs. Batavia

As captain of *Director* at the Battle of Camperdown on 11 October, Bligh engaged three Dutch vessels: *Haarlem*, *Alkmaar* and *Vrijheid*. While the Dutch suffered serious casualties, only seven seamen were wounded on *Director*.

*Director* captured *Vrijheid* and the Dutch commander, Vice-Admiral Jan de Winter.
For his actions during the battle, Bligh was awarded the Naval Gold Medal.

Bligh went on to serve under Admiral Nelson at the Battle of Copenhagen on 2 April 1801,

## Governor of NSW and another mutiny:  The Rum Rebellion

## Bligh, deposed, headed for Hobart on a the HMS Porpoise

## two more courtmartials

Perhaps significantly, he never again received an important command, though with the Napoleonic Wars almost over there would have been few fleet commands available.

## 1984 Anthony Hopkins
##      and Mel Gibson