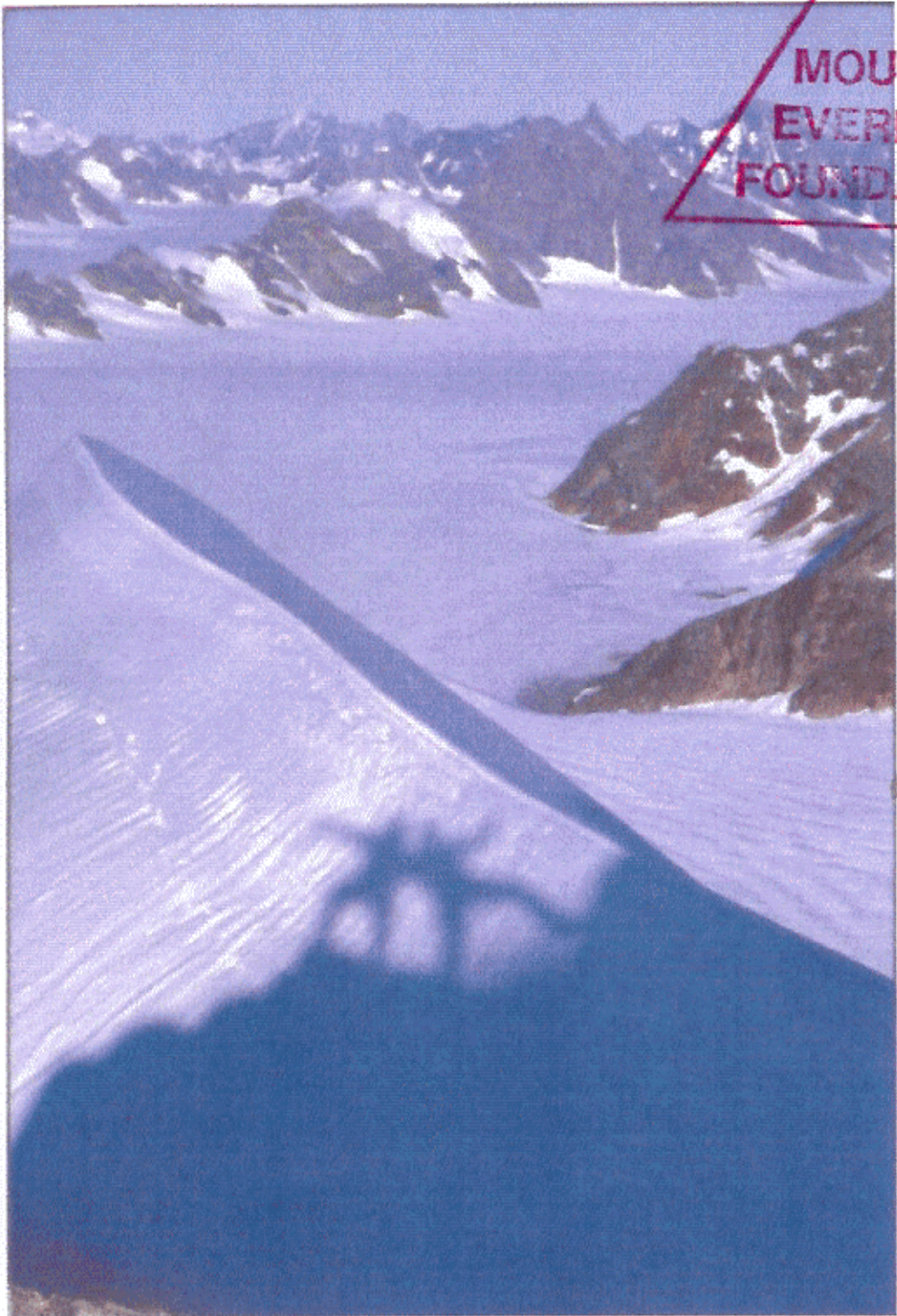
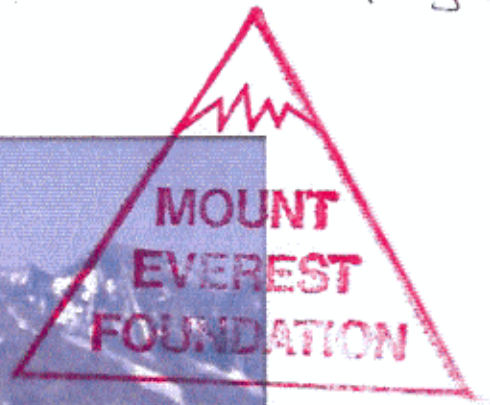


B.72

03/17

WELSH WOMEN'S SCHWEIZERLAND EXPEDITION Exp Pg  
EAST GREENLAND



SCHWEIZERLAND MOUNTAINS  
17<sup>TH</sup> JULY – 16<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2003

## **Introduction**

Between July 19<sup>th</sup> and August 19<sup>th</sup> 2003 a five strong female climbed a variety of alpine routes in the Schweizerland Mountains of East Greenland. This included routes on the 1200 metre South Faces of Tupilak and Rodebjerg, as well as other new routes in the area. The team also completed a ski crossing from East to West of the range, and made a film (for National Geographic) of their adventure.

## **Routes Climbed**

- South Ridge of West Peak of Tupilak TD
- South Pillar of Rodebjerg D+
- North East Arete of 'The Coven' TD-
- North East Face of The Coven TD-
- West Arete, Pt 1760m PD
- South Face of Pt 1760 'Unfinished Symphony', HVS 5a

## **Main objects of the expedition:**

The intention of the expedition was:

- To climb new routes in the Schweizerland mountains.
- To make the first female ascents of these mountains
- To explore the subsidiary peaks in the area making first ascents and further new routes
- To make a film of a women's mountaineering expedition
- To traverse the Schweizerland Range by ski.

## **Summary of Expedition**

The primary aim of the expedition was to climb new routes and make first ascents in the Schweizerland Region of East Greenland. The mountains in this region are up to 2200m high, composed of granite, schist, snow and ice. However in this particular year, due to higher than average Summer temperatures, there was very little ice around. The area had a variety of routes to offer, of varying difficulty, some purely snow, some purely rock, and some very hard long mixed routes.

The expedition concentrated primarily on new routes in the Tupilak / Rodebjerg area. Routes started off the glacier at around 900m and went up to 2200m. The aim of the expedition was exploratory, and as with previous expeditions of this nature, we climbed a number of routes at a range of grades.

The area is about a 100km up the coast from the small town of Tasilak (AKA Ammasalik). We flew via Iceland to Kulusuk airport, from where we took a small boat taxi to Ammasalik Island, and from here chartering a small fishing boat to take us up the East coast and the Sermiligap Fjord. We were then dropped off at the snout of the Knud Ramundson glacier. At just 7 knots per hour the boat took 6 hours to travel up to the Sermiigaq Fjord, dropping us off at 2am (still daylight though) in the morning.

From the snout of the Knud Ramundson glacier it is around 30 kilometres to the base of the Tupilak. The next morning we ferried 3 loads about 5 kilometres up the dry glacier (staying on the right, initially on the moraine), camping on the edge of the glacier. Day 2 saw us still ferrying our loads, another few kilometers to the medial moraine. From here in, day 3, we were able to load up the sleds and haul for about 6 hours to camp once again on the medial moraine higher up the glacier. At this stage we found traveling at night (usually starting out around midnight), safer and easier on the glacier. On day 4 we managed 8 hours up the glacier before being stopped by incoming weather, and digging the tents in to prepare for the bad weather. We were then stuck here for two and a half days before being able to travel the last 5 hours to our base camp below the south face of Tupilak.

Base Camp was situated on a small heap of moraine, with a glacial stream supplying running water. This gave us good access to the Tupilak and Rodebjerg and made a good center point for exploring other peaks in the area. Most other peaks were around one to two hours ski away. We spent 9 days at BC with perfect weather, climbing a total of eight routes in the area. We then took 2 long 12 hour days to ski out over the Slangen Pass to the east and on to the Tasilak Mountain Hut. On our last day we spent a long day lowering the sleds down the steep snow gully descent from the hut and then load carrying out to the Tasilak Fjord, to be collected our friendly fishermen again. In a slightly faster boat this time it only took 3 hours to get back to Ammasalik.

## **The Team**

### ***Sue Savage Expedition Leader***

Mountaineering Instructor at Plas y Brenin, the UK's National Mountaineering Centre. Sue also works as an Expedition Leader on 6000m plus peaks worldwide. In winter Sue climbs Scottish Grade 6 in the winter and on summer rock, at E2. She has also climbed extensively in the European Alps including

last year an ascent of the North East Spur Direct on the Droites at ED1. In the last few years Sue has climbed over 30 new routes and first ascents up to E25c in the UK, Bolivia and South Africa.

**Catrin Thomas** Catrin works as a Mountaineering Instructor and outdoor education teacher from her home in North Wales. She has recently returned from her second visit to the Antarctic where she worked as a field Assistant for the British Antarctic Survey.

Catrin also has an impressive list of new routes and first ascents in Bolivia made in 1999, 2000 and 2001. In 1996 she led a ski mountaineering expedition in the Pas Pourquoi Glacier area of Switzerland making many first ascents on ski. She has also climbed extensively in Europe and around the world with mountaineering experience in Nepal, North America, Canada and Patagonia.

#### ***Di Gilbert***

Working from her home in Aviemore, Di is another freelance Mountaineering Instructor and an Associate Instructor at Glenmore Lodge. She also works as an Expedition Leader worldwide on 6000metre peaks.

This winter Di spent her time in the Patriot Hills region of Antarctica where she worked as a guide for Adventure Network. In 2000 and 2001 Di was a member of the two Bolivian expeditions supported by the Mount Everest Foundation, where over 30 new routes and first ascents of mountains up to 5,800metres were climbed.

#### ***Justine Curgenvin***

Justine works as an Independent film-maker running her own company 'Cackle TV' (named after her laugh). Specialising in Adventure and Travel films around the world. Justine is currently working for National Geographic editing a series on extreme adventures, and has also worked for the BBC and Channel 4. In 2002 Justine summited on Aconcagua in whilst making a film for National Geographic.

#### ***Rosie Goolden***

Rosie works as a Freelance Mountaineering Instructor. As an expedition leader she has worked in South America, Tanzania and Nepal. Her climbing and mountaineering have taken her to Canada, the States, Europe and Norway. New to the expedition world this was Rosie's first major mountaineering expedition.

#### **Planning and Research**

Little formal information exists on this area. Initially I met with Al Powell (British Switzerland Expedition 1999 & 2000) and he showed me some photos of the area giving me some ideas for new routes in the area. I then traveled to the Alpine Club Library in London to do further research on the area. Articles in various publications dating back to around 1967 mainly showed ascents of the easier peaks by easier lines having been completed. Further information on more recent harder alpine style routes was gleaned from 'High Mountain Info'. The Lonely Planet Guide supplied general information on travel, accommodation and touristy things in the area.

Maps at a scale of 1:25000 are available from Saga Maps (Stanfords, London) and generally very good, though recent changes in the glaciers and the small scale of the map meant that there were lots of small vagaries and inaccuracies. Good quality maps with a more up to date survey can be bought at the small bookshop in Ammassalik once in Greenland or over the Internet.

Further help and information came by email from Dr Hans Christian Florian in Greenland. Hans Christian has mountaineered extensively in the area, and was very patient answering our hundreds of questions.

#### **Travel and Accommodation**

At the time we traveled, Air Iceland/Iceland Air had a virtual monopoly on flights to Greenland. Despite Greenland being just 4 hours flying time from the UK, a stop off in Reykjavik is required, cunningly requiring you to spend lots of money in Iceland. Luckily for us we had a contact in the area and so for the price of a bottle of fine Scottish malt got a floor to stay on for the night (cheers Gunny). Had we not been so lucky it would have cost us around £30 each to stay in the Youth Hostel. We flew from Glasgow, cheaper than London and better parking, and after flying to Reykjavik, flew on to Kulusuk, each arm of the trip taking around 2 hours.

In Ammassalik you have the choice of camping or hotel. We initially stayed at the Hotel Nansen (run by a local cooperative), probably the best of the three on the island, and we were very well looked after

(thoroughly recommended). They were absolute saints when we had to get up at 5am every morning to try to track down our freight back in England. This cost us around £20 a night each, but with a kitchen you could self cater in, email and a big comfy lounge, cheap at half the price. Eventually though, when money started running out whilst waiting for freight, we had to head down to the local camp site run by local expedition outfitter Robert Peronni, a lot cheaper at £5 per tent per night. Very basic but fine views of the bay to the North. On our way out from Tupilak we spent a couple of nights in the Tasilak Mountain Hut, built by local doctor Hans Christian Florian, this was a great little escape from tent life for a few days and gives you access to some amazing skiing and climbing at the head of the Tasilak Fjord. Nights at this hut can also be booked and paid for at the Hotel Nansen.

### **Internal Travel, Boats & Stuff**

In order to keep the trip affordable we chose to go into the area by boat and ski. Whilst this was backbreaking work it did save us around £1000 each on helicopter flights. For those expeditions who are rather more flush, a helicopter with Air Alpha can be arranged to take you to and from base camp. We originally arranged a boat to take us up the Sermiligaaq Fjord the day after our arrival in Ammasilak, through Hans Christian Florian. Unfortunately due to all our problems with freight, we had to let this arrangement go. But we were able to arrange another boat at short notice through the Hotel Nansen, who put us in touch with Gert the son of the local mayor and proud owner of a slow but solid little fishing boat. They did a sound job helping us out at really short notice and generally being utterly reliable and flexible. We paid £600 to be taken in to the glacier and £400 to be collected. The same team then took us over to the airport on the last day for a taxi fare of £100.

### **Weather**

The expedition took place mid July to mid August. This being the best time for climbing in the area. We encountered generally stable weather, though unstable weather, when it came did tend to last around a week at a time. Good weather meant, clear skies, no wind and temperatures up to 28 degrees on the glacier, 23 degrees seemed to be around average at base camp in the afternoons. Overnight the temperature usually dropped just below freezing, minus 6 degrees being the coldest we encountered. Bad weather meant, warmer temperatures, low cloud, sometimes giving virtually no visibility on the glacier, and a little drizzle.

Initially we had 24 hour daylight, very strange at first, but it did mean that benightment was never an issue on routes. By the beginning of August we were starting to get some twilight around midnight, and by the time we left in mid August it was genuinely dark in the middle of the night.

### **Environment**

One of the primary aims of our trip was to be as self sufficient as possible and to leave the mountains as untouched as possible. To this end we followed the old adage of 'if you carry it in, you carry it out'. Sadly not everyone else who had been into the area had had the same ethic. The well used base camp at the bottom of Tupilak had several well used fire pits full of tin foil tins and other bits of packaging, as well as this scattered about the camp were various half burnt bits of plastic. The camp out at the head of the Tasilak Fjord was even worse with bags of litter all over the little camp site. Now I know that Greenlanders themselves aren't always that good about rubbish themselves, but there is really no excuse for us as visitors to the country to make sure we do the right thing and take it all with us.

On the mountains though it was a real treat to be in such a pristine environment. Our ethic was to climb alpine style, placing traditional gear and cleaning it as we went. We didn't use any pegs or bolts and left gear or tat behind only when there was no other option. On the whole trip we found only one wire and one peg to show that anyone else had been in the area.

As far as wildlife went we were fortunate not to see any Polar Bears but lucky to see some of the other native wildlife of the area. At our first camp site at the start of the glacier we were visited by a rather cheeky arctic fox, who helped himself to all of our sugar supply before we realized what had happened. Even up on the glacier we saw quite a lot of bird life, Ptarmigan on the moraine and at base camp a pair of Ravens were regular visitors.

Perhaps, the highlight of the trip as far as wildlife went, was the surprise sighting of two Atlantic Humpback Whales, swimming side by side right next to our boat on the way back to the airport. This amazing sight in such an utterly mundane setting i.e. right next to the airport just highlights how special Greenland's Environment is.

### **Kit & Equipment**

In the initial planning process of the expedition it was decided that equipment would be organised for the complete team of 5. However, due to various personal commitments, time constraints and individual preferences it proved much easier to allow the 2 smaller teams to organise and co-ordinate their own equipment. A master spreadsheet was collated with input from various team members and then this was redistributed back out to individuals to decide what they actually wanted to take in with them.

Between the team of 5, we pooled together a range of basic but essential equipment, which would remain at BC for the duration of the expedition. This included things like the Personal Locator Beacon, VHS radio, Medical kit, general repair kit and stove repair kit. Due to the nature of the expedition, apart from the above-mentioned equipment, the 2 teams were completely self-sufficient allowing them a greater range of freedom.

#### Clothing:

We didn't really know what to expect to wear. We had heard various reports about ridiculously low and high temperatures and as a result we packed for all conditions. During the trip the temperatures rarely dipped below -6 degrees and very regularly soared to the high twenties. A mish-mash combination of thermals, power stretch, lightweight trekking trousers, lightweight windproof tops and patagucci puffball type of jacket proved a good combination. Our nice new lightweight sponsorship jackets were taken for a grand tour of the Schweizerland Alps but views were somewhat limited being inside the rucksacks for the majority of the trip. Full weight Gore-Tex trousers were worn on many excursions but proved too hot in the mid day heat.

#### Climbing Hardware:

Once again, a bit of a pot luck. We had taken a wide range of equipment to enable us to climb on all types of terrain. On our trip the ice screws were a complete waste of time as were pitons and the hammer. Depending on how many retreats the teams done depended on how much kit was abandoned – one team only left one nut but then retrieved one nut from a previous expedition, the other team had to abandon a full set of wires so it is hard to recommend what to take. The 50 metres of abseil tat proved to be indispensable.

#### Maps etc:

Maps from [www.sagamaps.com](http://www.sagamaps.com) (1:250,000) proved invaluable, as did previous reports on the area – in particular the British Schweizerland Expedition report from 1999.

#### Camp life:

Two tents, a Wild Country Hyperspace and a Mountain Hardware tent were used and both were fine. Both had snow valances sewn on to them before the trip and these were invaluable for the days when we camped on the glacier. It would have been good to have one tiny lightweight tent between the team to enable mini breaks away from BC. The team had 3 MSR stoves between them. Two were whisperlite 600 international and the other being a Dragonfly – the 600's worked much better and were a zillion times quieter. We used 5 litres of white gas per week but we did not have to melt any snow (except for one day) – it was nice to be able to warm water for washing.

We used a combination of karrimats and thermarests which proved fine and both tents had a sheet of plastic under the ground sheet.

Both teams always carried small emergency shelters but thankfully these were not used (got close though!).

#### Sledges and skies:

Try not to think about carving the turns but more like shuffling along with a pair of planks on your feet! Two different approaches, one team opted for the plastic mountaineering boot option and the other ski mountaineering boots and carrying in lightweight climbing boots. Both approaches worked fine.

Having learnt from previous expeditions mistakes on sledges, we managed to get hold of some fairly robust glorified kiddie slides from snow sled – good colour too. These were a very good compromise between carrying (which most defiantly did happen) and pulling. Proved absolutely crap on the down hill but they survived the trip. 6mm cord was used as lashing and improvised traces clipped directly onto rucksack straps proved a fairly good system.



Top 5 items which I felt were worth their weight in gold:

1. GPS
2. Ortleib dry bags for keeping things dry on the sleds (mega light ones)
3. Undersheet for tent
4. Abseil tat
5. Good stove

Top 5 items which were a complete waste of time:

1. Big winter gloves
2. Head torch
3. Ice Screws
4. Harshisen
5. Monster sleeping bag

**Food**

All of the food for the trip was freighted out from the UK. Although there are a number of supermarkets in Ammasalik, the amount of food available varies depending on how recently the supply boat has come in, so it's bit of a risk to rely on these as the main source of provisions.

If the supermarkets are well stocked, it is possible to get all the necessary staples as well as some treats. The prices don't come cheap (almost double UK prices), so it's probably cheaper to freight from the UK if it's a reasonably long trip.

Our food consisted of a combination of freeze dried, dehydrated and boil in the bag main meals with cracker based lunches and assorted treats. It weighed in at roughly one kilo per person per day, and was put together on the basis of approx 2000-2500 calories per day.

The fuel used was fairly minimal due to the availability of running water at the base camp. It was calculated at two thirds of a liter per day for the whole group, and proved to be more than adequate. We had three to four litres left at the end of the trip, however this would have been used up very quickly had we needed to melt snow.

The fuel itself was very good quality white gas, supplied by Peroni at £4 per litre. Unlike previous trips, we had no problems with the stoves getting clogged up – all the MSR's survived without needing any cleaning.

**Sleds**

These were the Expedition 960 model made by Paris. They are available from either Cambrian Adventure Stores in mid Wales and Snowsled. Whilst more expensive than smaller kiddy sleds, they were worth their weight in gold.

The sleds proved to be a very robust bit of kit, working well on the fairly level terrain that we moved across. They coped well with moderate sastrugi, were adequate in soft snow, but were a bit of a bugSger on steep traverses or descents. The main problems we had could have been avoided by using rigid traces rather than rope, however, the lighter weight rope seemed a good enough compromise one way or another. Their carrying capacity was perfectly adequate for a trip of this length, however I think we'd have struggled to fit everything on to the sledges had we been away for a couple more weeks.

**Freight**

We freighted our kit and food out by air, as ship freight was not due to arrive until three or four days after our arrival. However despite our plans to have our freight waiting for us when we got there, the freight company had managed to leave half of it in Manchester and we had to stay on in Ammasalik 5 days longer than planned while we waited for it to arrive. Ironically during this time the supply boat came and went with everyone else's freight on it.

We freighted out 250 kilos of goods, 150 kilos of this being food, with the remaining 100 made up of skis and boots, climbing and camping kit. On the way back we managed to sneak this extra 100 kilos through as excess baggage, and the nice lady on the checkout only charged us for 2 bicycles.

The moral of this story, take everything that you cannot replace in Greenland with you and sneak it on as excess baggage, and do not trust a freight company known as 'Consolidated Lazer Line' to get your stuff to Greenland.

## Greenland Diary

- 17.07.03 Fly Glasgow – Iceland  
18.07.03 Fly Iceland – Greenland Kulusuk  
Boat to Ammasalik – c.2 hours  
19.07.03 Waiting for Missing Freight  
20.07.03 Waiting for Missing Freight  
21.07.03 Waiting for Missing Freight  
22.07.03 Waiting for Missing Freight  
23.07.03 Freight Arrives  
Boat to Knud Rasmussen Glacier – c.6 hours, arrive 2am  
Camp just off Glacier  
24.07.03 Load carrying up to camp site 1  
3 x load carries on land and dry glacier  
c.11 hour day  
25.07.03 Load carrying up to camp site 2 on moraine – edge of Idrac Glacier  
66 degrees 07' N, 9 hour day  
36 degrees 13' W  
26.07.03 Pulling pulks for half a day to edge of moraine. Camp 3  
27.07.03 Pulling pulks for c.6 hours to camp 4 (626m) on glacier, stopped early due to weather.  
66 degrees 13' N  
36 degrees 15' W  
28.07.03 Camp bound due to bad weather  
29.07.03 Camp bound due to bad weather  
30.07.03 Leave 9am, Ski into Base Camp (904m),  
30.07.04 South side of Tupilak on moraine. 5.5 hours  
31.07.03 Catrin & Di Rece of the South Face of Point 1720m and West Ridge  
Stashed kit in preparation for the following days  
Sue & team reces route on South Face of Tupilak  
01.08.03 C & D Climbed “Western Ridge” of Point 1720m.  
01.08.04 S & Team climb on South Ridge of Tupilak; 28 hours; 1000m of climbing  
02.08.03 S & team rest day  
02.08.04 C & D Climbed “Unfinished Symphony” on South Face of Point 1720m 1.5 hours  
East of Base camp  
03.08.03 C & D Rest Day  
03.08.04 S & team ski 1.5 hours across glacier to rece route on North Face of point 1760m  
04.08.03 Sue & Team climb a direct route up; the North East Face of 1760m named The Coven. 17 hours climbing 800 metres long  
04.08.04 C & D Climbed “South Pillar” on Rodedjerg 1000m climbing; 24 hours  
05.08.03 All Slob  
06.08.03 All Slob  
07.08.03 Sue, Di and Catrin Climb “North Eastern Arête” on “The Coven  
08.08.03 Di’s Birthday. Cheesy puff competition!  
09.08.03 Skied out over Slangen Pass. 11 hour day. Skied out over Pass (66 degrees 10' N, 36 degrees 55' W) and not as advised by various individuals.  
Camped just over the Pass at 66 degrees 11' N, 36 degrees 41' W.  
Melted snow for water – first and only time on trip  
10.08.03 Skied out to Tasilaq Hut and finally found it – marked wrong on map. Headed around North Side of Point 1600m  
10 hour day. Weather clagged in big time once we go in. Helped with a mountain Rescue  
11.08.03 Slob in Hut  
12.08.03 Slob in Hut  
13.08.03 Lower pulks and then carry out to pick up path along Eastern Side of Tasilaq fjord.  
14.08.03 Boat arrives 0900 to return to Ammasalik. Big Swell. 3 hours  
15.08.03 Boat to Kulusuk – Atlantic Humpback Whales!  
Fly Greenland – Iceland  
16.08.03 Fly Iceland - Glasgow

## Budget

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Individual</b>		<b>£</b>
Travel	667.41	Glasgow –Rekyavik £187.41 Rekyavik – Kulusuk £480.00	3337.05
Insurance	165	BMC Expedition	825.00
Permits	N/A		
Fuel		Colemans £4 p litre x 15 litres	60.00
Freight		250 kilos	590.00
PLB Hire			100.00
Boat to Rasmussen Glacier			600.00
Boat from Tasilak Fjord			400.00
Boat to/from Airport		£100 each way	200.00
Pulks		5 @ 32.31	161.56
Expedition Food		27 days x 5 people	577.57
Excess baggage		Return journey (we got away with murder)	32.00
Currency exchange			30.60
Accommodation Ammasalik		Hotel £30 p night p person x 4 nights; Camp £5 pppn x 2	650.00
Food Ammasalik		£10 p day p person 7 days	350.00
Mobile phone		18 – 23 July to recover freight	140.00
Pre-expedition expenses		Phone, travel, research, stationary	187.34
<b>Total</b>			<b>8241.12</b>
<b>Income</b>			
MEF			225.00
Welsh Sports Council			1800.00
Gino Watkins Memorial Fund			1200.00
Interest on account			10.00
			<b>3,235.00</b>
Personal contributions			5006.12
<b>Total</b>			<b>8241.12</b>



## **Contacts**

Most of our contacts came from the British Schweizerland 1999 & 2000 reports, and it is best to refer to these from some excellent information.

Hotel Nansen  
Ammasilak  
Greenland  
[nansen@greenet.gl](mailto:nansen@greenet.gl)>

Snowsled Polar Ltd.,  
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e-mail: [polar@snowsled.com](mailto:polar@snowsled.com)  
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Sea freight  
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Royal Arctic Line  
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## Routes

### Tupilak

#### *South Ridge of West Peak of Tupilak*



#### **South Ridge of West Peak of Tupilak**

##### **To the Grey Tower at 1700m**

##### **1<sup>st</sup> Ascent**

1<sup>st</sup> August 2003. Sue Savege, Justine Curgenvin, Rosie Goolden

Ascent 11 hours, Descent by same route 7 hours. Time taken 24 hours in all.

Overall grade TD with difficulties up to E1 5b.

The route followed a broad ridge, mainly on poor quality rock with a few good pitches of climbing. The route was reminiscent of the South Pillar of the Bar Des Ecrin.

**Ascent.** Start up the left hand side of the narrow glacier just below the South Face of Tupilak Go up the left hand side of this nearest the rocks (lots of big holes), and follow the easy snow slope up left to a small col on the ridge. From here move together up the broad ridge for about an hour to where it steepens.

Just left of the crest continue up a steep crack (5b) and continue up the groove. Another easier pitch takes you onto easier loose ground below a steep corner. From here it is possible to go straight up the right facing corner (5c) or take the easier chimney (10 m) and slab (4a) out right.

From here make a very loose rising traverse across a huge gully heading for the top of the next tower. Towards the top of the tower take the easiest line following a series of slabs and ledges alternating between granite and gneiss. Here the ridge steepens again. Take a 40 metre corner (around 4c) leading up to a large ledge. From here more moving together leads to an airy crest, follow this leftwards to a grey tower.

In the center of the grey tower is an obvious overhanging chimney, jam and bidge up this for 15 m. Belay on pinnacles above this, then make an awkward layback up a steep flake on to a smooth gritstone like slab. Continue on up easier ground to the summit of the Grey Tower.

From here it would be possible to continue in the same manner to the summit of the West Peak of Tupilak, though this would probably require a bivi on route. Unfortunately we had left our stove and duvet jackets halfway up the route thinking we weren't going to need them.

**Descent** was by the same line and various bits of gear and abseil tat were left behind on the steeper sections.

### **Rodebjerg**

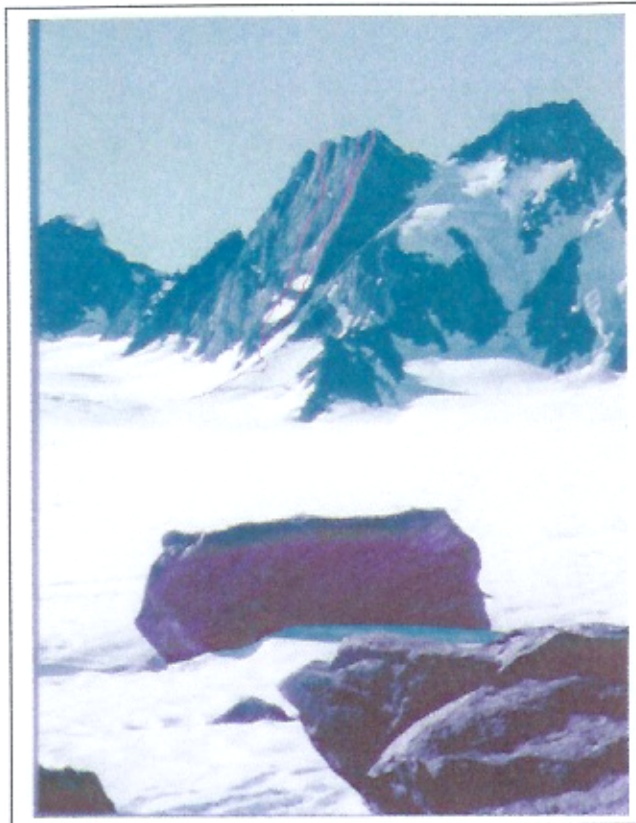
#### **South Pillar of Rodebjerg D+**

Catrin Thomas, Di Gilbert. 04.08.2003

This followed the classic line of previous expeditions (see British Schweizerland 1999). 1000m climbing; 24 hours.

This followed the classic line of previous expeditions (see British Schweizerland 1999). 1000m climbing; 24 hours.

#### North East Face of 'The Coven' (Pt 1670m).



#### Hubble, Bubble, Toil and Trouble TD-

##### North East Face: 800m

New route.

4<sup>th</sup> August 2003.

Sue Savege, Justine Curgenvan,  
Rosie Goolden

This is the obvious north face of the series of alpine peaks directly opposite base camp to the South. This is a beautiful granite face, which gets the sun from around 4am until around 11am. Ten pitches of climbing, mainly at around 4b/c with one harder pitch of 5a on 500m of rock. Ski across the glacier (one and half hours) to below the North East Face. Start up the broad snow apron to the right of the face, shortly after the bergshund heading left on to the broad easy ridge coming down from the right hand side of the face. Scramble up this leftwards, into the center of the wall, until the face starts to steepen. Climb up the side of a huge leaning pillar to start (left of a series of obvious black water streaks). Continue picking a line upwards up a series of flakes and

corners.

Eventually coming to the huge fan shaped gully at the top center of the face, here head off left to avoid heinous looking overhangs (or head straight up if you fancy something harder). Finish easily to the flat topped summit.

**Descent** Continue up easy ground, to the very top, going over this and down to a snow gully. Descend this in ten 50 m abseils (lots of abseil tat left behind), until it is possible to walk off back to the start point

#### North East Arete of The Coven TD-

##### North East Face of The Coven



New route. 800m

August 7<sup>th</sup> 2003. Sue Savege, Di Gilbert, Catrin Thomas

We climbed the obvious right hand arete of the face, keeping as close to the arete as possible. After the initial easy scrambling approach, we climbed 11 pitches over 500m, which gave excellent granite climbing a steady 4c/5a.

Start at the right hand end of the second snow patch and climb pretty much straight up to the summit, with good natural gear all the way up.

A further variation of this route was also climbed on the same day by Rosie Goolden and Justine Curgenvan. They named the route 'Delicate Venom',

This follows an almost continuous crack systems, just to the left of the right hand 'edge' of The Coven's NE face. The line is fairly obvious once on the face, just a matter of following the best line of cracks on fantastic rock. This route also goes at around TD.



### Point 1760m

#### Western Ridge Pt 1760m PD

1st August 2003: Di Gilbert, Catrin Thomas

Possible new route.

This was in essence a straightforward snow plod to the summit with a short section of rock in the lower section. Following the ridge until it ends and then traversing up to the right to regain the summit ridge which was followed to the summit.

As far we were aware, the peak had been submitted by the 2001 Al Powell Winter Expedition using skies by ascending and descending our descent route.

1.5 hours to ski in, 3.5 hours on the route, 1 hour to descend. Grade: PD.

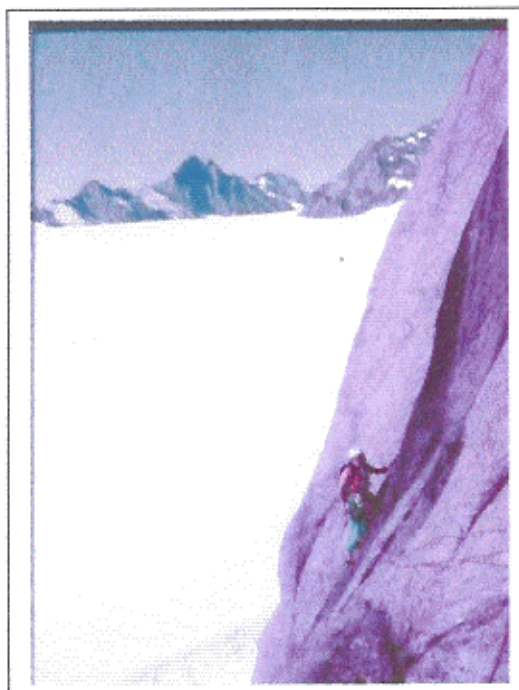
### Point 1720m (East of Base Camp)

#### 'Indigo Play' South face of 1720

Rosie Goolden / Justine Curgenven

Three pitches of delicious South face of the Midi style rock. The climb followed a crack system, that started quite large, but shrank to nothing. The climbing was probably only 5a but very sustained. We abseiled off at pitch three where the obvious crack ran out.

### Unfinished Symphony, South Face of Pt 1760 HVS 5a



2nd August 2003:

Di Gilbert, Catrin Thomas

New route. Most definitely the best quality of rock that we climbed during the expedition. 6 pitches of excellent climbing up to British HVS 5a on slabs, cracks and chimneys. After the 6 pitches the angle of the rock leans back and the quality of rock deteriorated – we would question the quality of rock higher up the face.

Abseiled down the face to regain skies etc leaving behind various tat.

Start by the snow bay to the left of the obvious black streak. Climbing the obvious corner crack before making a traverse right to gain the foot of the obvious crescent shaped crack. Continuing more or less directly up.

### References

High Magazine, Mountain Info

Tangent Expeditions

American Alpine Club Journal

British Schweizerland Expedition

Greenland Winter Expedition

Lonely Planet Guide

December 2002; January 1994; Issue 210 May

Reading List

1989, 1997, 1998, 1990, 1991, 1999, 2001

1999

2001

Iceland & Greenland

### **Sponsors and Thanks**

**A big thank you to those who helped us out, from Trys Morris who provided the initial impetus for the trip, but who sadly couldn't come in the end; Al Powell for his inspirational talk and photos of the area; Hans Christian Florian for answering hundreds of trivial questions; and Emanuel at the Hotel Nansen in Ammasilak for being an absolute saint in helping us to sort out our freight**

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The Mount Everest Foundation  
The Gino Watkins Fund for Polar Exploration  
The British Mountaineering Council

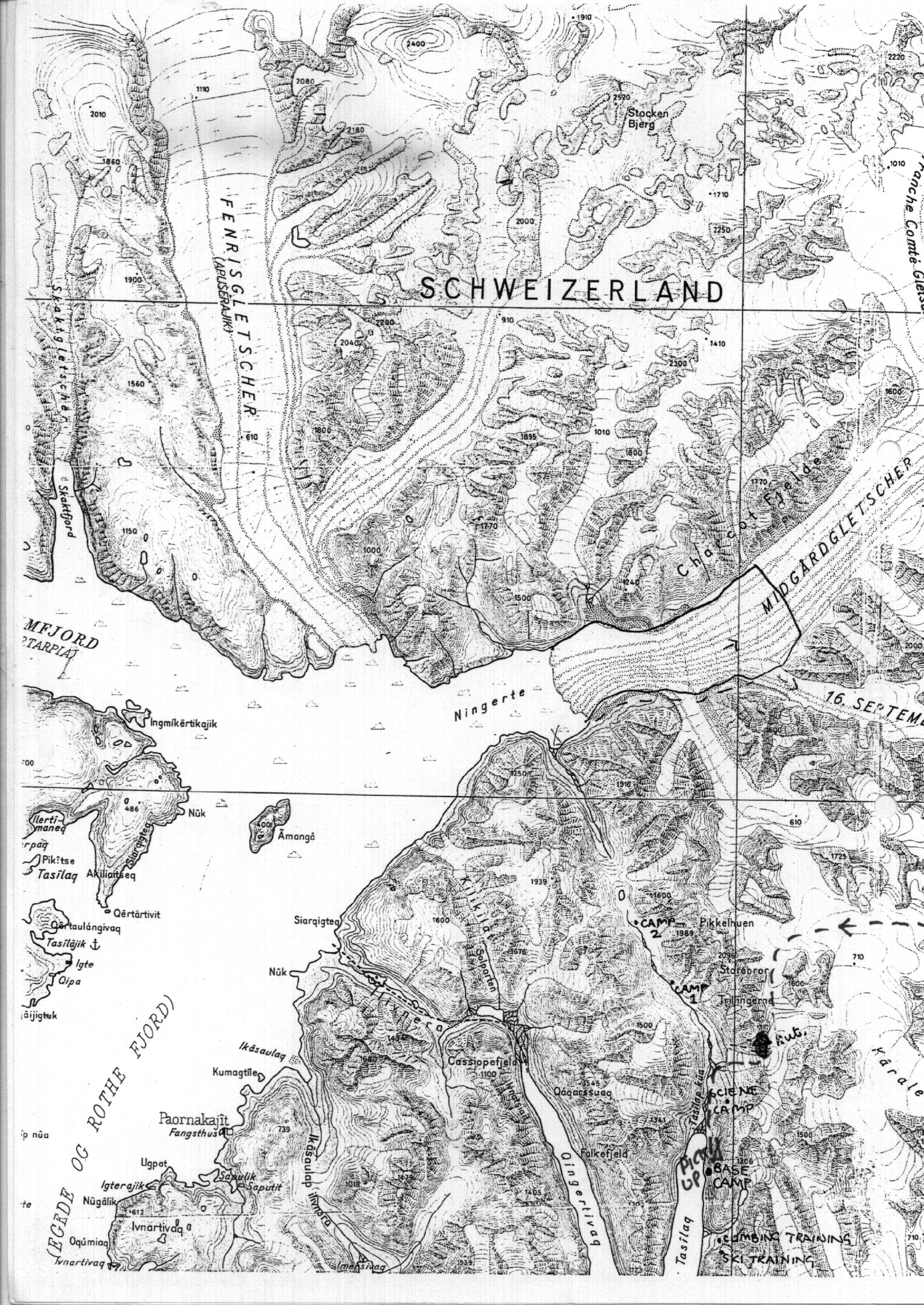
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Karrimor  
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Snow and Rock  
DMM





SCHWEIZERLAND

FENRISGLETSCHER  
(LAPISERAKIK)

MIDGARDGLETSCHER

MFJORD  
(TARPIA)

Ningerte

16. SEPTEMBER

Ingmikertikajik  
Nuk  
Åmangå  
Siarqigtea  
Akiliarsaq  
Qærtartivit  
Qærtaulángivaq  
Tasilájik  
Igte  
Olpa  
Ilijigtuk

(EGDE OG ROTHE FJORD)

Kumagtiler  
Paornakajit  
Fangsthus  
Ugpat  
Iqterajiks  
Nugálik  
Qqúmiaq  
Ivnartivaq  
Ivnartivaq  
Ivnartivaq

Siarqigtea  
Nuk  
Ikásaulaq  
Kumagtiler  
Paornakajit  
Ugpat  
Iqterajiks  
Nugálik  
Qqúmiaq  
Ivnartivaq  
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Ivnartivaq  
Cassiopefjeld  
Qaqassuaq  
Ingertivaaq  
Falkefjeld  
Pikkelhuen  
Storébror  
Trillingrand  
Kub.  
SCIENCE CAMP  
BASE CAMP  
COMBING TRAINING  
SKI TRAINING

Karale



POURQUOI-PAS GLETSCHER

GLACIER DE FRANCE

30'

(66 0.1)

Kagtilersc

Pusugssivit

Djævlefsjeldet

Parat Bjerg

Devaux Bjerg

Jacquierts Bjerg

Badeuil Bjerg

Lacronde Bjerg

Conniat Bjerg

Sølvbjerg

Henry Leon Bjerg

Qingartaulokajik

Apusêq

Håbets Gletscher

Kødebjerg

Tuplak

Akilecit

Kartivivit

Qingaulokajik

Sangmiklik

ER GLETSCHER

BASE CAMP

KNUD RASMUSSEN GLETSCHER (APUSEQ)

15'

(Arpertio)

Slangen Pass

Vestfjord

Rytterknægten

Jarac Gletscher

Sünertivaq

Anånáp kangertiva kiatêq

Akilerut

Gletscher

Ingmikærtikajik

Sünertivaq

Stephan Gletscher

Úpiangaleq

Bjarnebugt (Qavtunâp kangertiva)

Siaktivivit

Qavtunâq

Amangâq

Fladeerne

Akiliitseq

Sermiligâp

ginnertiva

Nügärtik

Tukingaleq

Prus (Arputitea)

Morønes (Qūjūtilik)