

AUSTRIAN ALPINE CLUB U.K. SECTION

1986 EXPEDITION TO MILNE ISLAND

GREENLAND

MEMBERS:

	Mike Garrett	
	Margaret Graham	
	Malcolm Sales	
	John Shrewsbury	LEADER
	Anne Wheatcroft	
	Henry Wheatcroft	
	Chris Whitford	

DATES:

	<u>United Kingdom</u>		<u>Greenland</u>
Dep.	24.7.86	Arr.	26.7.86
Arr.	16.8.86	Dep.	13.8.86

OBJECTIVES:

To travel in a remote and previously unexplored area. Easy ascents of mountains where no technically difficult or severe climbing would be attempted.

ACHIEVEMENT:

During our stay on the island we undertook two six day backpacking expeditions.

The first, to the south, crossed the Charcot Gletscher. We climbed two unclimbed summits, 1320 and 1510 m. plus 1028 m. (Bays Fjelde) and 960 m. which had summit cairns upon them.

The second expedition was north, along the coast. Attempts to cross a glacier carving straight into the sea failed. We climbed the snow summit 1120.

From our base camp we climbed 388 and 1247 m. (we believe the height of this second summit is incorrectly marked on the map and should be nearer 1270 m.). Both previously unclimbed.

WEATHER:

For the duration of our stay we experienced a period of continual high pressure. Light rain and low cloud arrived at the end of our expedition and lasted for three consecutive days.

ACCIDENTS:

There were no accidents or serious injuries.

MALCOLM SALES,
5 WIVERTON ROAD,
BINGHAM,
NOTTINGHAM.

A C C O U N T S

	<u>£</u>
Return Flights U.K. to Akureyri (Iceland)	1,812
Charter Flight Akureyri to Milne Island	4,867
Food	501
Insurance	352
Radio Distress Beacons	231
Satellite and Aerial Photographs	177
Medical Supplies	20
Miscellaneous (costs within Iceland etc.)	225
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	8,185
M.E.F. Grant for Insurance	350
Members Contributions	7,835
	<hr/>
	8,185

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Kavli Ltd.	Primula Cheese
Haldane Foods Ltd.	Raven Foods
Wild Country	Quarsars (seconds)
Croxson European Transport Ltd.	Shipping food and equipment to Akureyri
M4 Design	Photographic Film



AUSTRIAN ALPINE CLUB U.K. SECTION1986 EXPEDITION TO MILNE ISLANDGREENLAND 70° 50'N 25° 25'WDATESUNITED KINGDOMGREENLAND

DEP. 24.7.86

ARR. 26.7.86

ARR. 16.8.86

DEP. 13.8.86

OBJECTIVES

To travel in a remote and previously unexplored area. It was hoped to make some first ascents of the mountains in the near vicinity of our landing site. Whilst each member of the expedition had 20 or more years mountaineering experience, it was not expected that difficult or technical routes would be attempted.

MEMBERS

Mike Garrett	Insurance
Margaret Graham	First Aid
Malcolm Sales	Food
John Shrewsbury	Leader
Anne Wheatcroft	Equipment
Henry Wheatcroft	Finance
Chris Whitford	Radios

AREA (MILNE ISLAND)

The criteria set for choosing a likely area for our expedition was,

1. Remote. Away from the normal expedition areas.
2. Unexplored. Therefore would give us the opportunity of making some first ascents.
3. Challenge. Contained an environment that would test the abilities and competence of the team members. Difficult to ascertain bearing in mind 1 and 2 above.
4. Access. Must be outside Greenlands National Park where our type of expedition would not get permission to enter.
5. Constable Pynt. 1986 was the first year the airstrip at Constable Pynt was being used following the closure in 1985 of Mesters Vig. This would give us a first opportunity of suitable areas within reach of this new airstrip.

RESEARCH

Extensive research was undertaken by John Shrewsbury, the expedition's leader. Reports lodged at the RGS and SGS were consulted. Use was also made of grapevine information given by people who have experience of exploring Greenland.

When a suitable area came to light reference was made to the best available maps, 1:250000 to check suitability.

Milne Island was chosen as fulfilling all of our criteria. Use was then made of aerial photographs we purchased from the Geodetic Institute, Denmark. We also purchased a Landsat of Scoresby Sund.

Suitable landing sites on Milne Island were selected by Flugfelag Nordurlands. Although they have no previous experience of landing on the Island, their vast experience of flying in Greenland allowed them to suggest three possible alternative sites.

FRIDAY 15.8.86

Fly Akureyi to Reykjavik	M. Garrett
	M. Graham
	M. Sales
Stay overnight Reykjavik Youth Hostel	J. Shrewsbury
	C. Whitford

SATURDAY 16.8.86

Bus Reykjavik to Keflavik	M. Garrett
	M. Graham
	M. Sales
Fly Keflavik to Glasgow	J. Shrewsbury
	C. Whitford
Fly Akureyi to Reykjavik	A. Wheatcroft
Bus Reykjavik to Keflavik	H. Wheatcroft
Fly Keflavik to Heathrow	

EQUIPMENT

It was intended that no special equipment would be purchased for this expedition. Inevitably some members had to buy certain items to update their own kit. All equipment used was owned and supplied by members of the expedition. Normal spring Scotland/summer Alpine equipment is perfectly satisfactory.

TENTS

Ultimate	Phazor Dome	Henry
Winter Gear	Gemini	John Shrewsbury
" "	Quasar x 2	Chris & Malcolm
* Ultimate	The Tent	John Shrewsbury
* Vango	Force 10 Mk.3	Mike Garrett

* Used only at base camp to give extra space.

ROPE

2 x 45 m. x 9 mm.	Chris & Mike
1 x 18 m. x 8 mm.	Henry

HARNESSES

Karrimor	Klimlite	Each member
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PLANNING

Every member of the expedition was given a task, as shown against their name in the members listing. Progress was communicated by letter to every member and occasional meetings.

All members came together for one pre-expedition weekend in the Southern Cairngorms. This weekend proved our choice of food and equipment and above all team work.

TIMETABLE

THURSDAY 24.7.86

Fly Glasgow to Keflavik	M. Garrett
Bus Keflavik to Reykjavik	M. Graham
Fly Reykjavik to Akureyri	M. Sales
	J. Shrewsbury
Stay overnight Akureyri Youth Hostel	C. Whitford
Fly Heathrow to Keflavik	A. Wheatcroft
Bus Keflavik to Reykjavik	H. Wheatcroft
Stay overnight Reykjavik	

FRIDAY 25.7.86

Fly Reykjavik to Akureyri	A. Wheatcroft
	H. Wheatcroft

Expedition meets at Akureyri

Departure to Milne Island is delayed for 24 hours due to technical problems with Twin Otter aircraft.

SATURDAY 26.7.86

Expedition flies to Milne Island.

WEDNESDAY 13.8.86

Expedition flies out of Milne Island back to Akureyri via Constable Pynt.

THURSDAY 14.8.86

Spare day in Iceland (went to Lake Myvatn).

EQUIPMENT contd.

STOVES

Optimus 1 pt. for base camp	Malcolm
Gaz S200 x 4	Anne, Henry, Chris & Mike

ALTIMETER/BAROMETER

4 x Thommen TX-21	Anne, Margaret, John & Chris
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BILLIES

Sets of 3 nesting.	Malcolm, Mike & Henry
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FUEL

50 Cylinders Gaz	26 used
12 Litres Paraffin	8 used

RADIOS

We took two emergency radio beacons with us. They both operate on the standard emergency frequencies of 121.5 and 243 MHz.

EMTRAD LDT 31	Beacon only 100 hrs
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GRASEBY RT 130	Two way speech over limited range.
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It must be stressed that both units could only be used in an emergency and did not allow us the luxury of chatting with the civilised world.

INSURANCE

West Mercia supplied us with two policies which satisfied the requirements of the Danish/Greenland Authorities.

1. Their normal mountaineering/travel policy was extended to cover Greenland (normally Europe).
2. Search and Rescue up to £20,000.

FOOD

Arranging an attractive and varied menu for any expedition is very important but difficult. Each member has their own perception of attractive and varied expedition food. The final menu was, as ever, a compromise and took into account the following factors.

- a) Everybody approved of most of the food.
- b) Balanced diet.
- c) Ease of cooking.
- d) Ease of purchase.

Each member received copies of the proposed menu very early in the expedition's planning stage. They were invited to make comments which lead to the revised menu we tested in our Cairngorm pre-expedition weekend.

Most of the food was purchased from Asda. This was the cheapest source of the quantities we required. We are also grateful for the help given by,

KAVLI LTD.

PRIMULA CHEESE

HALDANE FOODS

RAVEN

MENU

BREAKFAST

Porridge/Muesli
Oat Cakes/Krisprolls
Honey/Primula Cheese
Tea/Coffee

LUNCH

Peperami
Cluster
Mini Chocolate Bars

Bounty
Lion
Marathon
Mars
Twix

EVENING MEAL

Knorr Quick Soup	Chicken Mushroom Tomato Vegetable	
Raven	Rice with Chicken & Mushroom Potato with Beef & Spices Rice with Beef Bourguignonne Potato with Shepherds Pie Rice with Chicken in Sweet & Sour Potato, Vegetables and Beef	Custard & Banana Rice Pudding Apple & Strawberry
Beanfeast	Mild Curry with Savoury Rice Bolognese with Pasta Choice (Tomato) Mince & Onion with Smash Potato Mix	
Mattesons	Smoked Sausage with Savoury Rice or Pasta Choice (Mushroom) or Smash Potato Mix	
Plumrose	Ham & Chicken Roll with Savoury Rice Garlic Sausage Roll with Pasta Choice (Cheese) Turkey Roll with Smash Potato Mix	

Dried Apple with instant custard.
Dried Apricot with instant custard.

For base camp we also took,

Plumrose Pate	Florida Spring Vegetable
Knorr 1½ pt. Soups	Crofter Thick Vegetable
	Northumberland Potato and Vegetable
	Farmhouse Chicken & Vegetable
Cook in tin Kippers Potatoes	
Tinned Pilchards, Tuna and Salmon	
Tinned Fruit (unsweetened)	
Cadbury's Chocolate Break Drink Sachets	
Surprise Peas	
Boil in bag Rice	

QUANTITIES TAKEN

Quaker Oats	17 x 750g Pkts.
Muesli	2 x 680g Pkts.
All Bran	1 x 750g Pkts.
Oat Cakes	72 x 300g Pkts.
Primula Cheese	70 x 175g Tubes
Honey	36 x 70g Tubes
Tea Bags	1 x 550 bags
Instant Coffee	1 x 350g Jar
Dried Milk	17 x 5 pts.
Chocolate Bars	
Bounty	13 x 400g Pkts.
Lion	11 x 200g Pkts.
Marathon	9 x 400g Pkts.
Mars	9 x 400g Pkts.
Twix	13 x 390g Pkts.
Peperami	105 sticks
Cluster	58 x 3 bars
Raven meals	60
Knorr Quick Soup	40 x 4 serving sachets
Knorr 1½ pt. Soups	8 x 1½ pt. sachets
Savoury Rice	24 Packets
Pasta Choice	21 Packets
Smash Potato Mix	12 sachets
Surprise Dried Peas	9 x 125g Pkts.
Smoked Sausage	14 x 241g
Oxo Beanfeast	12 x 113g Pkts.
Plumrose Roll	21 x 255g
Dried Apple	7 x 125g Pkts.
Dried Apricot	7 x 250g Pkts.
Kippers	7 x 200g Tins
Pilchards	7 x 190g Tins
Tuna	7 x 185g Tins
Salmon	7 x 213g Tins
Potatoes	14 x 200g Tins
Rice	4 x 500g Pkts.
Chocolate Break	72 Sachets
Krisprolls	7 x 200g bags
Plumrose Pate	7 x 95g Tins
Instant Custard	32 Sachets
Salt	
Sugar	3 x 1 Kg bags

All items were purchased in the most economical quantities and then where necessary re-packaged into one person portions e.g. Porridge, Tea Bags, Instant Coffee etc.. Along with some of our heavier equipment the food was shipped out to Iceland in June to await our arrival in late July.

FIRST AID

We took the following first aid kits.

PERSONAL KITS

2M	Elastoplast Strip 1" wide
2	Elastoplast Dressings
4	DF118
1	Blade

MOBILE KITS

DRESSINGS

SMALL LARGE

2	2	Injection Swabs
2	2	Gauze Swabs Sterile
1	1	Melolin 10cm/10cm
1	1	Bactigras 10cm/10cm
6	9	Elastoplast Dressings assorted
1FT	1FT	Elastoplast Strip Dressing
1	1	Steristrip
1	1	Crepe Bandage
1	1	Safety Pin
1	2	Scalpel Blades
2	4	Blood Lancets
1	1	Triangular Bandage
1	1	Fracture Straps
1	2	Filter Paper
1	1	Needle & Cotton/Darning wool

DRUGS

SMALL LARGE

10	16	Paracetamol
20	25	DF118
6	10	Temgesic
6	6	Benoral
12	15	Augmentin
	1	Dioralite
1	1	Vaseline

BASE CAMP KIT

MAJOR DRUGS - ALL PACKED TOGETHER

50	Paracetamol
100	DF118
24	Bradosol Throat Lozenges
27	Augmentin
100	Amoxil
20	Lomatil
6	Benoral
1	Chloramphenical Eye Ointment

MINOR DRUGS - ALL PACKED TOGETHER

1 Tube	Tunes
40	Antacid Boots
16	Senokot Laxatives
10	Diocalm
6	Bocosan
50	Sterotabs
1 Tube	Savlon Cream

LIQUIDS - ALL PACKED TOGETHER

50 ml	Savlon Concentrate
50 ml	Methylated Spirits
50 ml	Calamine Lotion

DRESSINGS

EMERGENCY RESERVE

	<u>KIT</u>	<u>STOCK</u>
Injection Swabs-Alcohol-Small	2	8
" " -Large	-	2
Savlon Concentrate 50 ml	1	1
Gauze Swabs Sterile 5cm/5cm	2	2
Melolin Dressings 20cm/10cm	1	2
" " 5cm/5cm	1	4
Cotton Balls Sterile	10	20
Bactigras 10cm/10cm	1	1
Elastoplast Strip Dressing		
" Dressings - Assorted	4	10
Steristrips 3 in packet	1	2
Elastoplast Adhesive Bandage 3" wide	1/2	1/2
" " " 1" "	1/2	1/2
Comforting Bandage Sling	1	1
Crepe Bandage	1	2
Tubigrip		
Micropore Tape		
Triangular Bandage	1	
Scalpel	1	2
Fracture Straps	1	
Scissors	1	1
Sterile Needles		
Safety Pins		

BASE CAMP KIT contd.

Also

Filter Paper
Pegs
Wool
Thread
Needles
First Aid Books

The only use we made of our First Aid Kits was for the run-of-the-mill injuries such as headaches, cuts, grazes and blisters.

Fortunately we suffered no major accident or mishap.

THE EXPEDITION DIARY

SATURDAY 26.7.86

The expedition took off from Akureyri, in a Twin Otter, at 11.00 a.m.. Although noisy the flight was uneventful but did give us a view of the tremendous scope Greenland has to offer. 2½ hours after take off found us flying along the east coast of Milne Island viewing possible landing sites. Our pilots chose a smooth sandy flood plain north of Charcot Havn. By 2.30 p.m. we were unloaded, said our farewells and watching the aircraft take off and fly towards Constable Pynt to report our arrival.

Establishing camp on a safe site away from the flood plain took until 9 p.m.. Still daylight we went to bed at 11 p.m..

SUNDAY 27.7.86

Today was spent exploring our surroundings. Anne and Henry checked the terrain towards point 1247m., a mountain that dominated our camp site. Malcolm and Mike went to the summit of point 388m. This gave a view along the Korridoren and of its adjacent peaks.

Margaret, Chris and John went south. They made two river crossings (each way) and got to a position which allowed them a view of Charcotgletscher, the approach route and the terrain further south.

Back at camp we reported upon our various expeditions and formed a plan for the next six days. Namely to go onto the Charcotgletscher and to try for some unclimbed summits in the Bays Fjelde area.

MONDAY 28.7.86

Left the base camp at 11 a.m.. The river crossings, even with heavy packs, were not difficult. Walking to the Charcotgletscher was also relatively easy until we reached its lateral moraine. This was loose and arduous. Started on the glacier at 6 p.m.. Being dry the glacier posed on unseen problems. Crossing one water channel we did have to belay each member. It was making this crossing that Margaret Graham lost her camera, the neck strap came loose as she was being helped over. Our intended camp site turned out to be inappropriate so at 11 p.m. we camped by the glacier's edge.

TUESDAY 29.7.86

Moved on to a much better camp site. 3½ hours walking from last night's encampment brought us to an excellent site. Sheltered, drained, flat with running water close by.

John and Margaret climbed point 960m. On its summit they found a well made cairn.

WEDNESDAY 30.7.86

All members went up Bays Fjelde 1028m. Here again a cairn was found on the summit. We then traversed the ridge and came down at the col between 1028m. and 1320m..

Mike returned to the camp. The rest of the team ascended 1320m. No cairn was found on the summit, therefore we presume this to be a first ascent.

Both of these summits were rock ascents with a minor snow field to cross above our camp site.

THURSDAY 31.7.86

Climbed 1510m. by its east ridge. We crossed a small glacier to the foot of the ridge. The ridge was very loose basalt blocks and required extreme care. The summit was of friable lava. Without doubt this was a first ascent. We descended via an icy snow field on the east flank.

FRIDAY 1.8.86

Started back for base camp. Kept to the sand stone hills on the true right of the Charcotgletscher until we came to cross its snout (still 1 km of roped glacier travel). Once across the group split into two teams. Margaret, John and Chris pushed on to the base camp, they found the rivers higher than on the outward journey. Meanwhile, Anne, Henry, Mike and Malcolm camped by a large lochan and watched Great Northern Divers, Stoat and Musk Ox.

SATURDAY 2.8.86

Anne, Henry, Mike and Malcolm returned to the base camp. Margaret and Malcolm went hunting a local family of Arctic Foxes (with cameras!).

Mosquitoes were becoming a distinct nuisance at base camp. Copious quantities of Repel 100 kept them at bay for a while. One member resorted to wearing Gore-Tex Jacket and Trousers, despite the sunshine! In the end we retired to our tents and zipped up the net doors.

SUNDAY 3.8.86

Climbed 1247m. another first ascent. Basically a glacier climb. The summit is composed of a jumble of basalt blocks. All the altimeters in the party, which had been set at sea level that morning, indicated the true height of this summit is nearer 1270m. Not the first error we found on the maps. Anne, Henry and Mike returned to camp whilst Margaret, Chris, John and Malcolm explored the west side of the summit, looking for possible routes to the summit of 1867.

Back at camp we produced another six day plan, this time north along the coast as far as we could go.

MONDAY 4.8.86

Left camp at 11.30. No river crossings this way. Walked along the coast on easy terrain between sea level and the 100m. contour. Found an idyllic camp site at 6 p.m., flat but drained, running water, excellent views of the iceburgs in Scoresby Sund.

TUESDAY 5.8.86

Continued our journey along the coast. The terrain became rougher. Boulders the size of our tents were not uncommon. A river crossing followed by an icy snow slope brought us to the lateral moraine of a glacier calving straight into the sea. The moraine was steep and loose. The view was intimidating, our packs were heavy. Everybody had the impression that here we are staring an epic in the face. This is no place to have epics so we retreated as far as reversing the river crossing and camped where we could. This was to be the worst camp site of the expedition. Drinking water was scarce and a long walk from the tents.

WEDNESDAY 6.8.86

Back to our previous idyllic camp site. Anne and Henry followed by Margaret, John and Chris reversed yesterdays route. Mike and Malcolm climbed up to a shelf on the 300m. contour, here the views would be better, meeting the others at the camp site.

THURSDAY 7.8.86

Climbed 1120m. The map indicated 1000m. but again our altimeters were at variance. Another first ascent. A glacier walk the views across to Renland made this ascent very worth while.

FRIDAY 8.8.86

A dull morning. Margaret, Chris and John went back to base camp. Anne, Henry, Mike and Malcolm remained at this place for another day to go Musk Ox hunting (with a camera).

SATURDAY 9.8.86

Dull morning with light drizzle. Anne, Henry, Mike and Malcolm returned to base camp to rejoin Margaret, Chris and John.

The mosquitoes seem to be more populous than before.

SUNDAY 10.8.86

Snowed overnight. Light rain all day until 3 p.m.. Stayed close to camp all day.

MONDAY 11.8.86

Wet and windy night. Rained all day until mid afternoon. Re-commenced raining early evening. Nobody moved far from their tents.

TUESDAY 12.8.86

Rained all night and morning. Became bright and sunny in the afternoon. John and Malcolm went onto the flood plain and marked out a 300m. runway for the Twin Otter.

WEDNESDAY 13.8.86

Sea mist covered the flood plain as well as the camp site. By the time everything was packed and ready to move to the runway the mist had cleared.

The Twin Otter arrived at 3.40 p.m. and took off with us in it at 4.05 p.m.. Landed at Constable Pynt to change aircraft. Arrived Akureyri 6.15 p.m..

FUTURE POSSIBILITIES

Greenland offers boundless opportunities for future mountaineering expeditions, regardless of the climbing abilities of the members. For the small expedition of competent alpinists limited by time and funds then Greenland offers the ideal challenge. Milne Island satisfied all of our needs and desires for mountaineering adventure without imposing an unacceptable risk factor.

Future expeditions to Milne Island using the same landing site as we used, should find plenty to challenge them by going along the Korridoren. Limited to less than a month they should still be able to achieve some noteworthy first ascents on either side of this awe inspiring glacier.

Charcotgletscher is also worthy of further attention. An expedition proposing to land at Charcot Havn will need to employ a Helicopter. Perhaps hired from Constable Pynt.

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