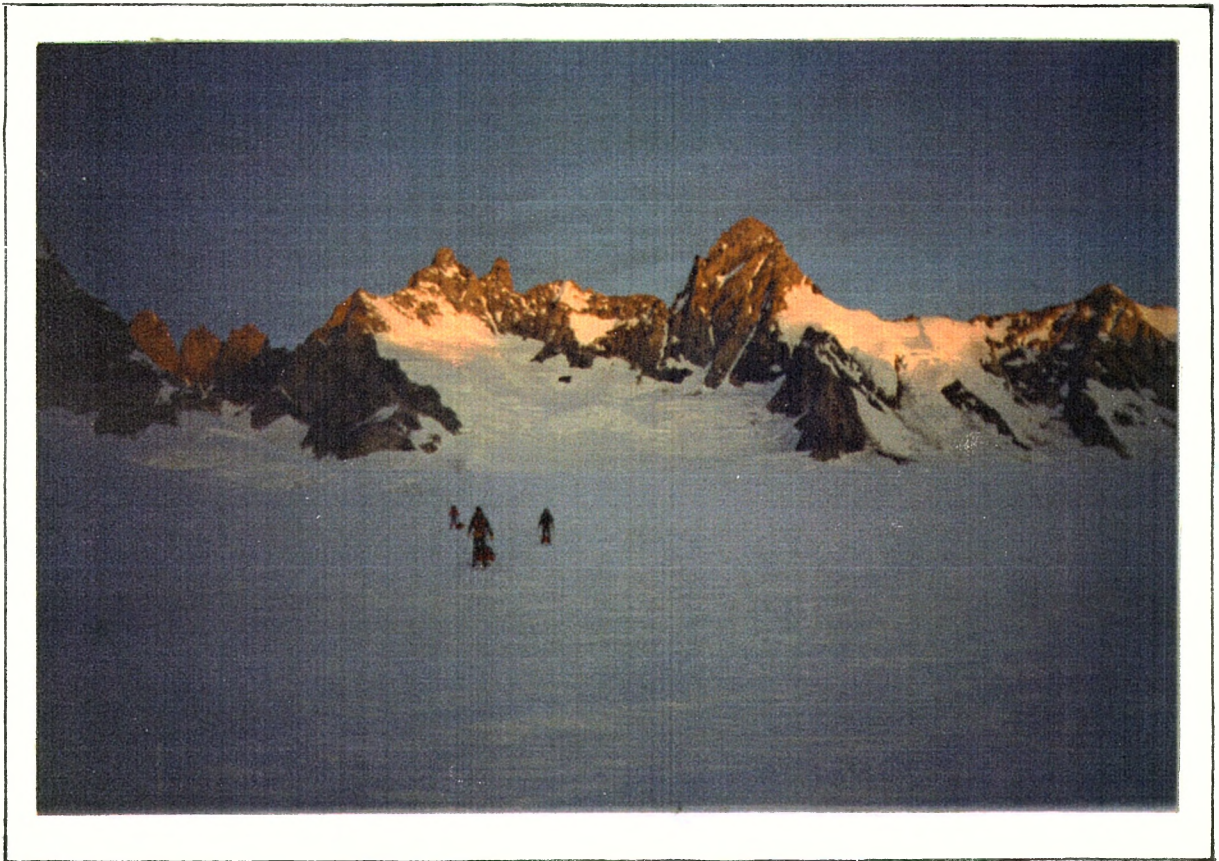


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JORDANHILL COLLEGE
EAST GREENLAND EXPEDITION.
1993.



FINAL REPORT.

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*Note- In July 1993 Jordanhill College amalgamated with Strathclyde University to become the Faculty of Education. It is now referred to as Jordanhill Campus.

1. INTRODUCTION.

The Jordanhill College East Greenland Expedition first entered the World in the winter of 1990. The possibility of undertaking an Arctic expedition was raised by Doug Cooper and the idea was knocked about for a while by a few of the other students on the B.A. course; "Outdoor education in the community". Nothing much was done about it for another year but by the end of 1991, enquiries had been made, rough plans sketched out and the vague idea had taken on a more definite shape. By the middle of the third and final year of the B.A. course East Greenland, more precisely, the 2875m. peak "LaupersBjerg" was the known destination. Time passed and problems arose, were solved and then replaced with further problems. Possible backers were approached, publicity photos arranged, food and equipment was collected and all the normal epics and crises of such an undertaking were experienced and dealt with. At some point in the general chaos we were hit by our first major problem. The expedition team was initially envisaged as being a group of six people and our planning and logistics based on that number. The first blow was that Angus Grassie would be unable to join the group due to work commitments that he was unable to avoid. This left us in the position of having to recruit an extra person so that the "Three on a rope" scenario could be avoided. The search began and was soon to prove more difficult than we first expected. Many wished to go but family, work or financial constraints prevented them from taking the vacant space. Then a further blow rendered our search irrelevant. Pete Rigby had suffered a series of shoulder dislocations throughout his college career and now had been notified of a date for corrective surgery. The operation would take place before our departure for Greenland but the many weeks of convalescence during which his arm would be immobilised meant that he had to rule himself out of the expedition. The operation was good for Pete's long term welfare but bad news indeed to us. The loss of Pete's strong personality and dry sense of humour would deprive us of an important ingredient in the balance of our journey.

The upshot of all this was that the expedition became a four

man team and all our food and equipment needs had to be re-quantified in the light of changed circumstances. Luckily, the changes happened before we had to pay for our airline tickets and we were not in a situation where we lost money on refunding reserved tickets.

At this point in time the list of things which needed to be done by yesterday at the latest was beginning to grow. We spent time running around collecting food from suppliers and packing the same in "two man per day" ration packs. Permission to climb still had not been received from the Danish authorities, our emergency radio beacon had not arrived and most urgent of all, the details of when our freight container would be picked up and how soon it would reach Greenland still had not been confirmed. On top of this money and help was still coming in from sponsors and the administration of liaising with sponsors and arranging publicity shoots was also taking a fair proportion of our time.

Happily the day dawned when the freight was despatched, the last photo taken and everything that could be done at this end was completed. From here on in we could only hope that our gear would be waiting for us on arrival and look forward to the expedition itself.



2. EXPEDITION MEMBERS.

Douglas Cooper. Expedition leader.



Twenty two years old. This was Doug's third expedition to Greenland and his first as leader and organiser. Originally from Devon, Doug worked at an outdoor centre in the Lake District before moving to Glasgow to study outdoor education at Jordanhill. He has worked on several expeditions for BSES and climbs regularly around Britain. Following this expedition Doug left Glasgow to live and work in Wales.



Iain MacDonald.



Iain is a twenty six year old former electronics technician from Kyle of Lochalsh, who gave up full time work to study outdoor education. An accomplished mountaineer he is a regular sight on crags around Scotland. Iain now lives in Glasgow and is competing in this year's Scottish Bouldering League.



Neil Smith.



Twenty five years old . An experienced cross-country ski racer and instructor from Aviemore. Neil has skied all over Europe, Scandinavia and North America. He came to Jordanhill after being forced to quit racing by a knee injury. He will be returning to full time ski instructing this winter.



Adam Hyne.



The only member of the team not to have been a student at Jordanhill college. Adam is a self employed Thatcher from Devon and an experienced all-round mountaineer and expeditioner. Spent three months in Svalbard(Spitzbergen) as a leader on a BSES arctic expedition last year. He has returned to Devon to continue work and awaits the next expedition.



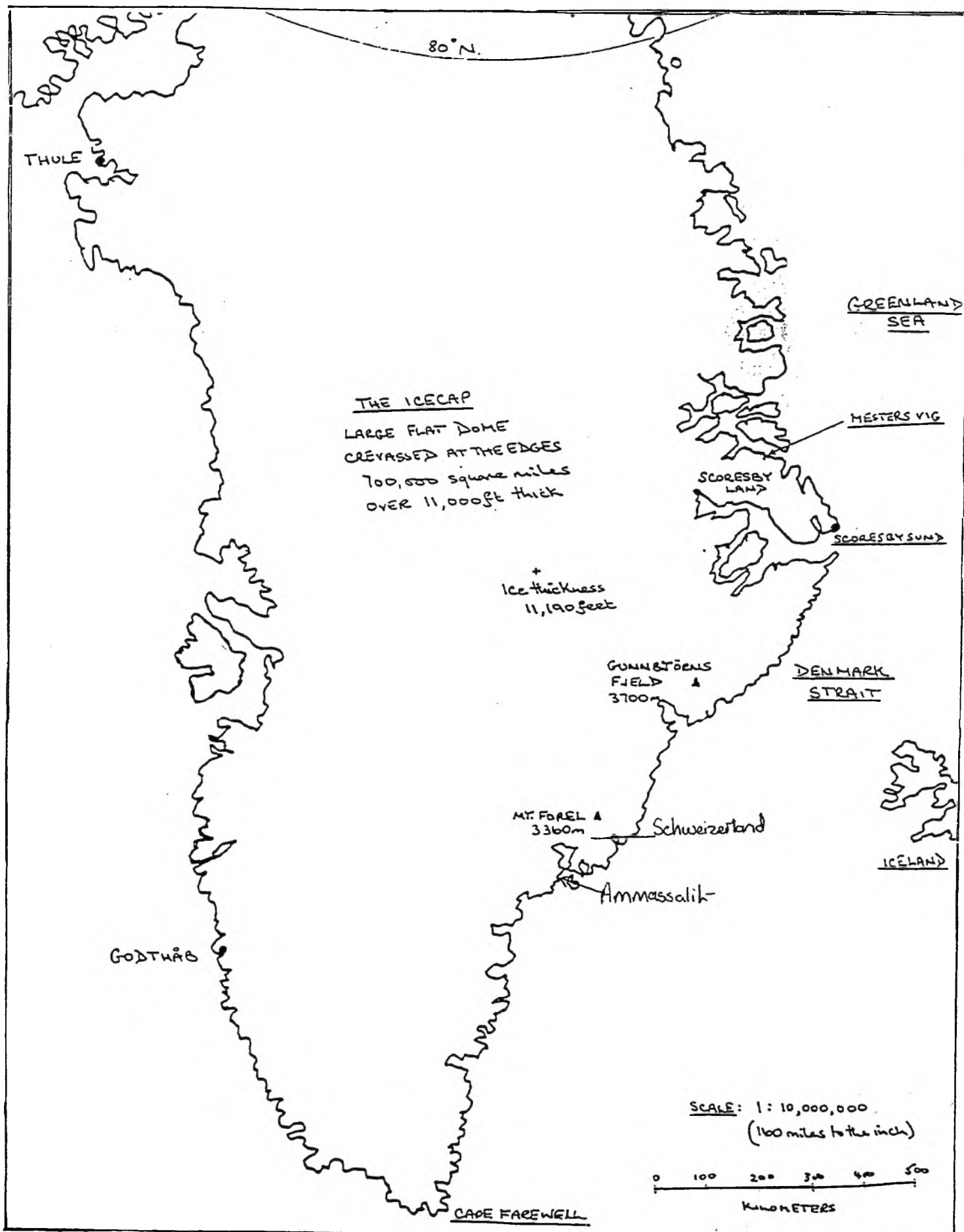
3. OBJECTIVES.

From the start the declared intention of this trip was to make the first ever British ascent of the 2875 metre high peak called "Laupers Bjerg". The previous unsuccessful British attempt was by the British Tasilaq expedition in 1986 and that effort was thwarted by a serious avalanche near the summit. This time we hoped to be able to use the information they passed on to make the final push to the summit. The other aim we had was to put up ascents by two new routes on the North East ridge and the North Buttress. In the event circumstances rendered this impractical despite our best efforts at the time and the eventual, successful route was a repeat of the original Swiss route established in 1938 but much changed by time in terms of snow cover and character.

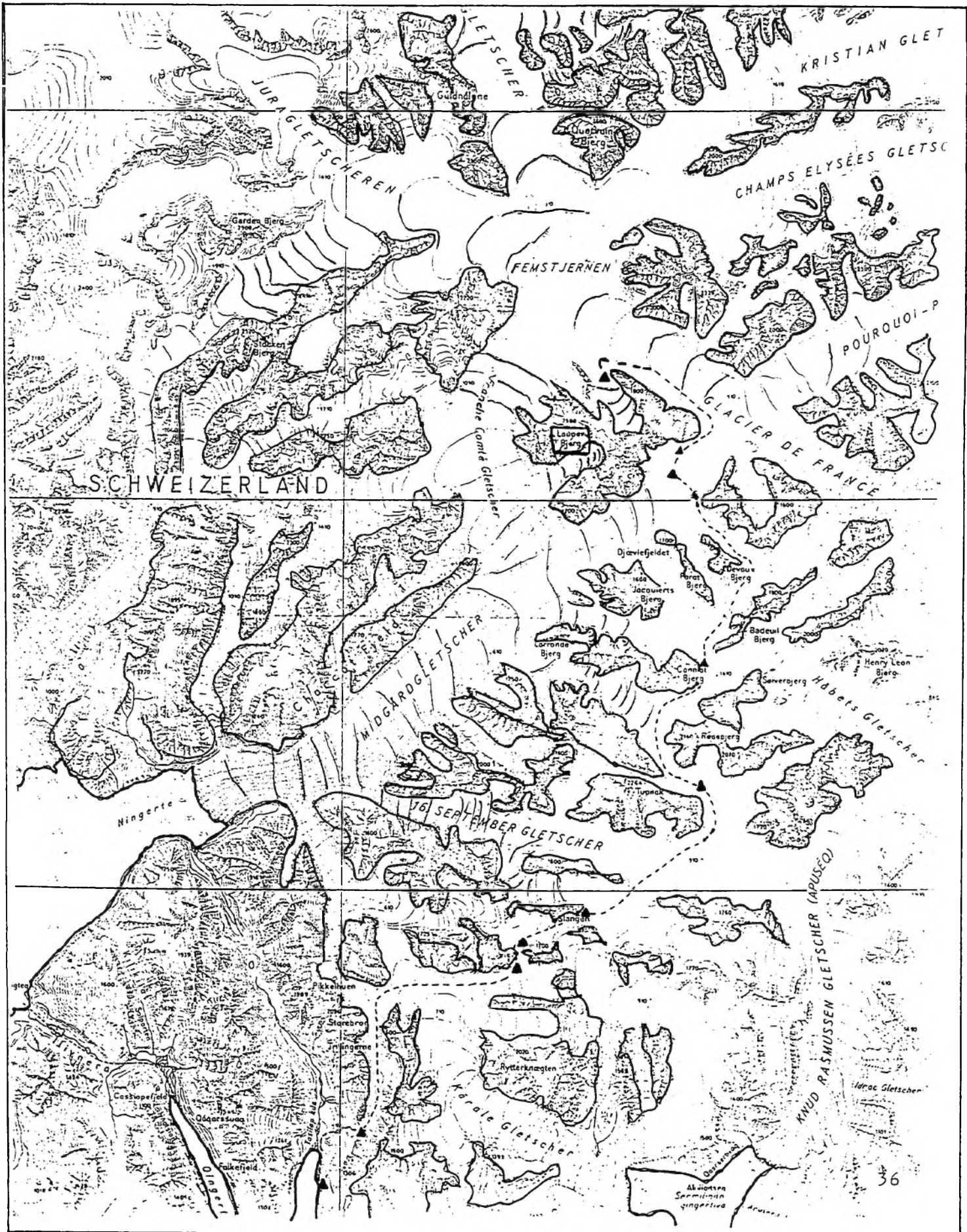
Whilst planning was underway in the comfort of non-Arctic Glasgow we had also spoken of plans to ski into the Schweizerland region of mountains and climb several of the unnamed and unclimbed peaks which cover the landscape in a Tolkienesque manner. Unfortunately the delays which we encountered on the ski in to Laupers Bjerg base camp and the need to take a second attempt at reaching the summit coupled with the seasonal change in Greenland's weather meant that this plan had to be abandoned in favour of getting back to our pick up point at Tasilaq fjord safely and on time.

4. MAPS.

Map 1. Greenland.



Map 2. The Route.



5. SKIING REPORT.

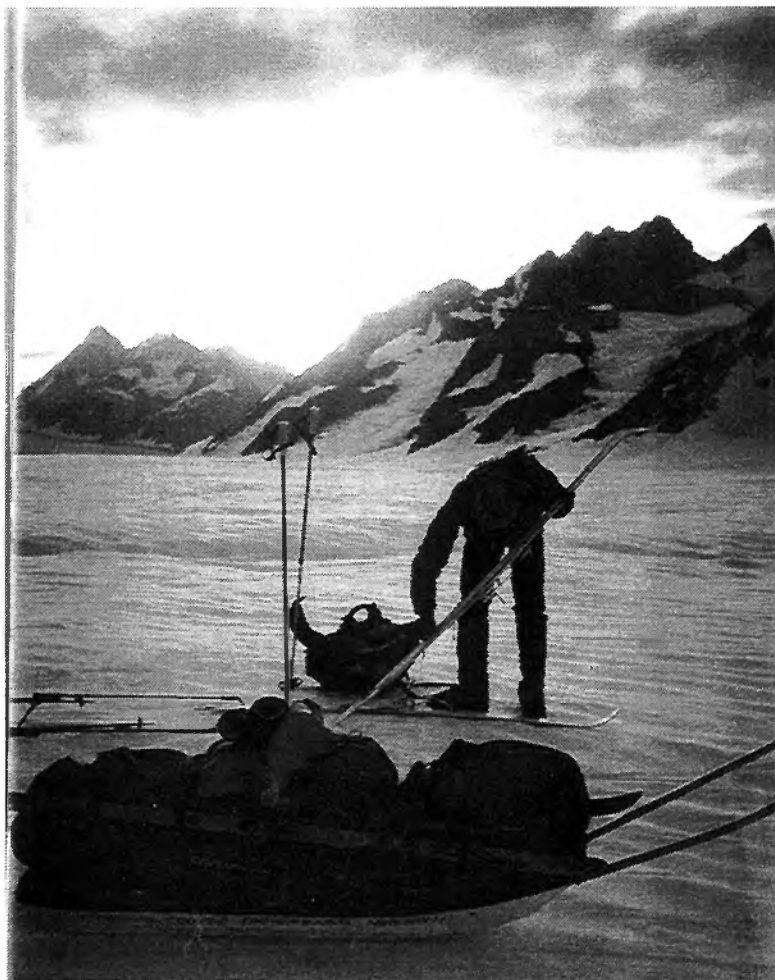
Setting off from our first glacier, base camp brought an immense feeling of relief and excitement. Relief at being away from the mosquitoes in the valley and relief that the excruciating load carrying trips up the moraine to the snow were definitely a thing of the past. The trip lived up to all my expectations in every way. The scenery was spectacular, the snow consistent and the sledges were very, very heavy indeed.



The first three days we used climbing skins on the hills and the flats. Experiments with wax had shown us that on the very abrasive snow underfoot we did not have a wax with enough staying power to be useful. The temperature was about -12 degrees Celsius and silver and universal klistor waxes were being scraped off the ski bases in about five minutes flat. With Skins, progress was steady but slow. On the fourth day the temperature rose and we were able to put the waxes to good use. Now at last we were getting the "something for nothing" effect of a well waxed ski sliding quickly over the snow. For the next few days we move from using universal klistor to red special to blue stick

wax and were able to glide as easily up hills as the weight in the pulks would allow and cover up to five kilometres at a time in huge, extended downhill schusses. Blue stick wax remained the order of the day for most of the time we spent at Laupersbjerg base camp with red special taking over for the majority of the return. Occasionally a freakishly warm day would mean that the klister had to be coaxed out of the tube one more time but on the whole the waxing on the entire journey was predictable and consistent. A future trip would be well advised to take a couple of tubes of green or blue klister for use in the abrasive conditions we encountered early on but for most of the time a combination of universal klister, Red special, Red stick and Blue stick waxes performed adequately with climbing skins an essential back-up for steep or icy conditions.

We very quickly settled into a rhythm in our skiing. Often we would have a long haul up a glacier followed by an equally long effortless descent. The only significant difference was the day spent crossing "16th September Glacier". This was a large expanse of snow stretching about fifteen kilometres across and inclined at the perfect angle to practise flat ground skiing technique with a pulk in tow.



For about two and a half hours we double poled and diagonally strode our way across this snowfield, barely stopping to grab a quick bite of fudge or a handful of raisins before heading off again. There was a feeling that no-one wanted to stop for too long in case the sense of invulnerability would wear off and leave us tired and rooted to the spot.



The next day was a welcome antidote to the antics of the previous few days, when we had wasted a day skiing to the top of a glacier only to find no possible exit save back the way we had come. We followed this by spending a day hauling the pulks up an 1100 foot slope on a system of pulleys and anchors. Eight hours to travel just over a thousand feet! So much effort for such a small result. Just as we thought that no more could possibly befall us we encountered a heavily crevassed icefall which took half a day of reconnoitering before a way through the maze was identified and we could carry on towards our eventual camp at Slangen. This started to become the story of the trip; we would make good progress one day and then be held up by something the next. We encountered icefalls, fog, poor snow conditions and the all too familiar skiing problem of pilot error, for although the

standard of skiing ability was relatively high every so often someone would make a mistake resulting in a tumble and a fall could easily mean damage to equipment which took time to repair.

The problems however were nothing compared to the enjoyment of the trip. The scenery was excellent, the company was convivial and spirits were high. This is surely the best way to view a place such as this, combining mobility, self reliance and light weight for a highly satisfying experience.

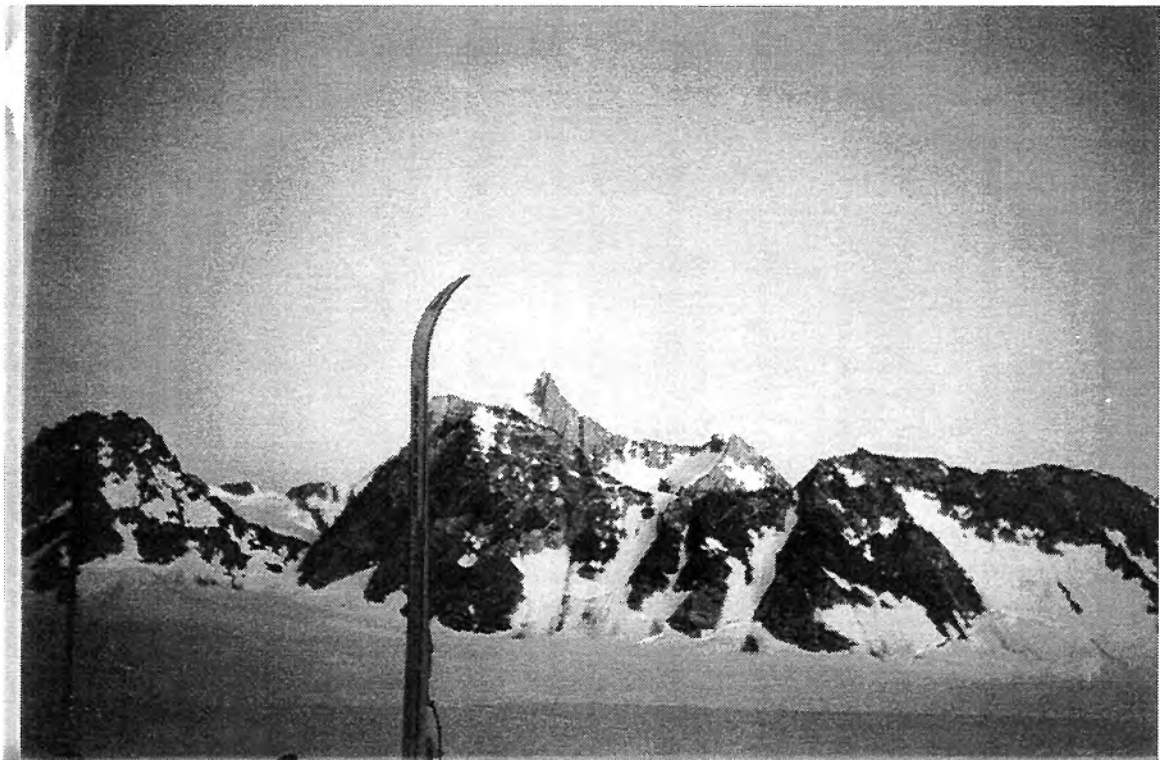


Throughout the trip we had virtually no problems with our skiing equipment. Neil had to repair one of his poles after an encounter with a crevasse and a subsequent fall over a jump. One of the pulk traces was damaged and Doug's completely destroyed after a spectacular head over heels as we left our camp at Slangen. The skis were Åsnes Søndre Telemarks and Nansen Mountain touring skis, supplied by Free Heel Ltd. and they performed faultlessly throughout the expedition. A spare pair was taken in case of an accident but were only ever used to guy the tents down in windy weather. Boots, from the same source, were Artex Tours or the sturdier Artex Telemark and bindings

were the Rottefella TeleCable, a combination super telemark binding with a cable added for situations where extra reassurance may be needed. In our case the belt and braces approach offered by the cable was not necessary but had someone damaged their boots it would not have meant a long walk home.

We had two Snowsled pulks and two Fjellpulken. The large Snowsled was by far the best with the large Fjellpulken second. The other two were too small and too flimsy for a trip such as this but were all that we could get in time. All the pulks suffered some damage but nothing irreparable.

Neil Smith.



6. CLIMBING REPORT.

Laupers Bjerg; North East Ridge.

On the 5th of August, Neil and myself left to attempt our chosen route, the North East Ridge, which would lead to the summit of the subsidiary peak and thence onto Laupers Bjerg summit. Leaving at nine o'clock, a one hour ski took us to the bottom of a 65 degree ice gully and our first obstacle, an enormous bergschrund which barred our way. This was crossed by a tenuous snowbridge on the far right.



The climb proper, started rather unfortunately with Neil snapping his ice hammer pick at the end of the first pitch. Slightly perturbed and with half a pick he decided to carry on. The gully was around 400 metres long and had obviously been the scene of a large stonefall earlier in the year however no stone fall was encountered on the ascent although the ice did run out near the top and an area of very loose stones had to be crossed near its exit.

The route now lay on the rock ridge ahead which proved to be very narrow and incredibly loose. This eliminated the possibility of

using the rope for most of its length as the second would surely get bombarded by falling stone, however on certain sections the rock would improve and on one particularly narrow section this was, fortunately for us, the case. This section, graded severe, involved a very thin traverse on holds of dubious quality. Here the runners were far enough apart to allow one to fully appreciate the distance to the Glacier below without having to take a closer look. Half an hour later we found ourselves at the bottom of a very overhanging section. We had viewed this earlier from base camp and knew it would be the crux of the ridge and as we inspected it at close quarters we saw nothing which altered our opinion. A 20 metre chimney broke through the overhang, but the rock proved to be dangerously loose with very large blocks precariously balanced barring the way. After searching each side of the overhang for a possible route we decided that we had come as far as possible, it would be too dangerous to climb the chimney and we would have to descend.

Having always expected to climb the ridge this decision came as a great disappointment to us both and we sat for several hours taking everything in before descending. In this time we were to see the only wildlife during our time on the ice, a snow bunting and then a bee. A plane then circled overhead and disappeared, this was to be the closest we were to come to another human being in six weeks on the glacier.

Descending the loose ridge proved to be more difficult and dangerous than the ascent but we found ourselves safely at the top of the ice gully at two o'clock in the afternoon. After waiting four hours for Neil to stop shaking, it was time to descend with one climber being lowered 50 metres from the top of the ridge and then the other down climbing the section.

By nine o'clock after three and a half hours of non-stop, skin of our teeth, climbing we were off the ice and back on skis for a speedy descent to base camp. Getting back to the tents was a huge relief and it was only then did it sink in that we were completely exhausted. As we divested ourselves of gear we stumbled around the guy ropes and tripped up on the pulks before crawling into our sleeping bags. We fell asleep having taken no more than a couple of sips of tea. Drained by forty eight hours of preparation, excitement, activity, glorious success and bitter failure.

Iain Macdonald.



Laupers Bjerg; The Second Attempt.

On the 6th of August Doug and Adam set off to attempt a route directly up the North face. The route would run directly up the subsidiary peak meeting the North East Ridge at its summit. A series of abseils would then lead onto Laupers Bjerg proper and a direct line through the rock bands above would lead to the main summit.

After a bivouac below the route they soled up just left of a

large band of seracs. The rope was used on two sections where rock bands had to be crossed. On the subsidiary peaks summit a very narrow ridge lead to the abseil point. However from this point the route ahead could be easily viewed and the difficulties realised. To climb the rock bands direct looked steep grade 5/6 climbing, a traverse left onto the original route was possible but it was decided to return to base camp and reconsider our options.

The ascent of Laupers Bjerg.

We awoke at about 4am - nearly back on our normal time ! Leaving at 7:30 taking with us a small pulk containing the climbing gear and five days food. We skied up to the col that was not marked on the map and looked down into the secluded bowl on the other side of Laupers Bjerg. The sun had not yet reached the bowl and the two large crevasses at the top were crossed without incident. We pitched the tent and then wandered up a small nearby glacier to get a better view of tomorrow's route. I had mixed feelings that night and was scared about doing the climb.

On Tuesday the 10th we awoke to brilliant sunshine after 14 hours sleep. I now felt happier about the climb and after a lazy breakfast we set off at 12:30, the idea being that the sun would be of the lower slopes at around 3. About the time we should finish the rock section. This, however, did not work quite as planned as the easy gully scramble to reach the snow in fact needed to be pitched in a couple of places. One of them about 4b up a steep granite corner. The rock section took 5 hours and we allowed the snow another hour to freeze whilst I cooked a meal. Setting off as soon as we could the huge snow slope ahead looked deceptively small. It was at a steady angle of around 45 degrees getting icy near the top. It took over an hour of soloing to gain the ridge which would lead to the summit. Here at a similar height to our high point of three days ago we both underestimated how far it was to the top. Doug said "the summit is just up there" and on gaining the ridge I replied "it's about six rope lengths". How wrong could we be ?

We wandered up over some windslab and stopped to rope up when we came to steeper ice. Hard solid water ice, great fun to climb. We romped up three pitches alternately leading us to arrive on

a large shoulder where we decided to leave our rucksacks. Stuffing some fudge bars in our pockets we then crossed a huge slot and were back on the ice. It was getting very dark from cloud building up and I was having to peer carefully at the frozen ropes when tying knots. Doug seemed not to have noticed the gloom when I mentioned it to him, absorbed in reaching the summit nothing else could distract him. The wind was also getting stronger but we carried on as we were now so close to the top. The view out to the west was amazing and the exposure immense. I felt I was so tiny in this vast world of mountains and ice. A few more pitches I thought and I could get to the summit. A few minutes later I joined Doug on up there on the pinnacle of Laupers Bjerg. The view was unreal unlike anything I had ever seen before, mountains in every direction. We could see Mount Forrel, the ice cap, an ice choked fjord and our own route in from well over a week ago. Looking down from where we had come up it looked a lot steeper than the 60 degrees it was.

We took the usual summit photos, ate a bar of fudge whilst looking at the huge summit cornice which was defying gravity, then we started to think of our descent. Whilst on the top it had become lighter but the wind had become stronger. The descent was easier for me as I was abseiling down the pitches putting an ice screw in halfway and then Doug would down climb the pitch. We could see the rucksacks down on the shoulder and began to worry that the wind would blow them off, it seemed to take ages to reach them, but we got there eventually. We carried on abseiling on snow bollards or rocks. We were now both tired and not thinking properly, having to concentrate harder on rope-work, but eventually we made it down to the soft wind slab which had now become very unstable by the sun. We put the ropes away and began soloing down the large patch of snow which had taken us an hour to climb but which would take two hours too descend. The crystalline ice was incredibly soft and the top few inches were just running down being blown from higher up, making me slower and more scared. At the bottom we found a sheltered spot and had our first drink for 16 hours. We were so hungry and dehydrated. While cooking a meal and drinking brews, we started thinking about getting down the rock section which could prove to be the most dangerous part of the descent. Our first abseil

took us by a small stream which the ropes kept landing in. We scrambled down some easier but looser sections on which I became really gripped. We abseiled of snow bollards and threads, the one over the crux being in my mind the scariest. On the final abseil, the ropes jammed and we scrambled down the final gully to the first flat ground for such a long time. We trudged back across the glacier in the dark feeling so tired hoping we could avoid the last few crevasses. When we arrived at the tent and looked at our watches we released we had been on the go for 36 hours, we hugged each other happy to be alive. Ten minutes after getting into the tent, it started snowing, a few brews and we fell into a deep sleep.

Adam Hyne.



Miscellaneous climbing.

On the 9th of August Neil and I left base camp intending to visit the mountains to the North West. The particular aim of the trip was to climb Point 1800 and, after a bivouac on the snow, we did this by an enjoyable gully running up the centre of the mountain. A very loose ridge then led on towards the summit. After descending in the first real darkness of the trip, we settled down in another bivouac at the base of the Gully where we were treated to a spectacular display of the Northern Lights with a supporting cast of planets, satellites and shooting stars.

The next evening saw us attempting another peak to the North of Laupers Bjerg, but after ascending 150 metres of a snow gully the route was barred by a deep and wide crevasse and we were forced to retrace our steps back to the rucksacks. A long twilight ski then brought us back to base camp in double quick time.

Skiing in such light was a strange but enjoyable experience, where it was often difficult to tell whether the slope ahead went up or down and judging one's speed could only be done by looking at the amount of slack on the rope and trying to keep it consistent.

Iain Macdonald.

7. EXPEDITION BUDGET.

Expenditure.

Flights ; Glasgow-Iceland.	1601.00
Flights ; Keflavik-Greenland.	1856.00
Ropes	120.00
Wax	56.00
Insurance	556.00
Pulks	50.00
Food	350.00
Freight ; out.	550.00
; back	300.00
Beacon hire	56.00
Helicopter flights	160.00
Ferries	80.00
Boat charters	600.00
Fuel	70.00
General admin.	100.00
Surplus	15.00
TOTAL	<hr/> £6520.00 =====

Income.

Mount Everest Foundation.	500.00
Mountaineering Council of Scotland.	500.00
Scottish Mountaineering Trust.	1600.00
Gino Watkins Trust.	1500.00
Foundation for Sport + the Arts.	550.00
Eagle Ski Club.	150.00
Viscountess Boyds Charitable Trust.	250.00
Viscount Amovy Charitable Trust.	200.00
Arnold Clark Ltd.	70.00
Personal contribution.	1200.00
TOTAL	<hr/> £6520.00 =====

8. EQUIPMENT.

Skis.

The skis used by Doug, Adam and Iain were Åsnes, Sondre Telemarks with a smooth waxing base. These have a fairly stiff touring flex and were ideal for covering the kind of terrain we encountered. They took abuse of some sort almost every day yet came through virtually unscathed and although we took a spare pair in case of breakage they were never needed. We chose waxing skis as we anticipated that snow conditions would be quite stable on the glaciers and by and large, this proved to be true.

I used a pair of Åsnes, Nansen Mountains which are somewhat broader than the Sondres and have a much softer flex pattern. This meant that the ski was slower generally and that the rate of wax wear higher but in return I could have a slightly easier time on the downhills. In choosing these skis in preference to the Sondres I was looking beyond Greenland for a ski I could use for skiing steeper, faster slopes around Scotland and having used Nansens in the past I knew I was comfortable with them. Åsnes have now introduced a version of the Sondre with a softer flex which is probably the best compromise between these skis for this kind of trip.

Boots.

We used three different models of Artex ski boots. The choice being made really by what people felt comfortable in. Iain used Artex Tours, an ankle high, vibram soled touring boot. Doug and Adam went for Artex Telemarks as they preferred a higher cut, somewhat more rugged boot and I chose Artex Telemark Pros which are similar to the Telemark but with two buckles in addition to the laces. These allowed me to stiffen the boot for severe downhills but more importantly meant that I could prevent my perennial blister problem. I often find it impossible to lace my boots tightly enough to stop my heels moving around inside the boot. The leverage provided by the buckles eliminated this problem.

Bindings.

Rottefella TeleCables. A 75mm toe binding with an additional cable in case things go wrong. They worked well, the only problem being that the cable thrower at the front of the ski tends to rattle about if you are not using the cable option.

Poles.

Two types were used; the telescopic Gipron Telemark and the single piece Swix Mountain. The only breakage was to one of Neils Swix Mountains after a trip into a crevasse, followed, a couple of days later by an awkward fall. The Giprons bent but did not break. It is basically down to personal preference whether you use telescopic poles or not. It takes a lot of effort to break either single or telescopic poles and they both do the job. I am going to replace my Swix Mountains with another pair of Swix Mountains and the people who used Telescopic poles are going to continue using them. The only recommendation that we would make is that the plastic Gipron basket should be replaced by the leather Swix touring basket. The performance and security difference is incredible, especially on icy slopes.

Skins + Waxes.

We used Pomoca nordic skins which worked well but needed regluing early on. Not having brought extra glue with us we used silver klister instead. Next time we will just apply Coll tex Glue to Pomoca skins which seems to be the best combination available at the moment.

Waxes used were all Swix and were as follows; Red special, Red stick, Blue special, Universal klister and Silver klister. The latter was a waste of time and could have been more usefully replaced by a couple of tubes of green klister.

Free Heel Ltd.

Ski road.

Inverdrue.

Aviemore.

PH22 1QH.

Vango Apollo 1000 sleeping bag.

The Apollo is a four season sleeping bag rated down to -20 degrees Celsius. The outer and lining are pertex and the filling is ninety percent white goose down. Throughout the trip my bag managed to keep me warm in the coldest of the weather which we encountered including a few frosty days when we were bivying on the snow. The only complaint we have is that there is a huge amount of space inside the bag. Far more than in my old one. This means that unless the baffles are kept drawn in then draughts may be a nuisance down the length of the bag. This however was far from being a serious problem and the Apollo is significantly cheaper than any other sleeping bag offering the same features without showing any signs of sacrificing performance or quality to meet a budget. This seemed to be one of those rare occasions when it is possible to get more than you pay for.

Vango (Scotland) Ltd.
70 E. Hamilton street.
Ladyburn.
Greenock.

Neil Smith.

Tents.

Vau-De Space Explorer.

Vau-De kindly provided us with two of their expedition tents which they fitted with snow valances and double poles. The tents were of geodesic design with single door entry. Overall the tents performed very well with us rarely having to use the double pole system, they also remained totally waterproof throughout the seven weeks. For me the best thing was the fact that they were the quickest and easiest to pitch tents we had ever used. Slot the poles into the sleeves on the flysheet and all that remained to be done was to peg down the outer at a couple of strategic points and that was that. The negative points were the fact that there was no rear bell end in which to store equipment and the guy lines provided were very short indeed. The guys we simply extended with baling twine but the lack of porch space was a nuisance. This could be eliminated if the design were changed so that the tent was symmetrical in profile and had a zipped entrance both front and rear. The tents however performed very well throughout the expedition. There was plenty head room, they were very spacious inside and incredibly light for their size.

Vau-De (U.K.) Ltd
Unit DC 72/5
Haltwhistle Industrial Estate
Haltwhistle.
Northumberland. NE49 9HA.

Climbing Ropes.

Cairngorm Ropes, Osprey 9mm.

We took four 50 metre ropes which were to be used for ski-ing as well as climbing. They performed very well indeed throughout the trip considering some were being continually skied over with sharp metal edged skis, yet none of the sheaths were cut through. The waterproofing also stood the test of time providing us with very little problems from frozen ropes despite combinations of wet days and cold nights with rain and snow at times. This is the cheapest rope in the Cairngorm range and they did all that we asked of them and are still being climbed on now.

Cairngorm Rope Company.
Industrial Estate.
Station Road.
Newtonmore.
Inverness-shire.
Scotland.

Communal Climbing Equipment.

- 4 9mm * 50 m climbing ropes.
- 6 Ice Screws (Drive in, Screw out) .
- 2 Sets of Rocks.
- 6 Pitons.
- 8 Slings 240cm.
- 1 Set Of Friends (Size 1/2 to 2.5).
- 8 Extenders with Snap Gate Karabiners.
- Abseil Slings

Personal Climbing Equipment.

Harness.
Belay Plate.
3 Screw Gates Karabiners.
Ice Axe.
Ice Hammer.
Crampons.
Helmet.

The climbing gear we chose performed well throughout the trip, it would have been preferable however to have taken long ice screws rather than short for cutting abseil slots and to perhaps have taken two more ice screws. No pegs were placed throughout the trip.

Iain MacDonald.

9. ONLY THREE ROPE LENGTHS.

This is the section where each member of the expedition team gets to write a short piece about anything they like connected with the expedition. Opinions, reflections and memories all have their place here. The title comes from the habit we fell into, of misjudging the height of every slope we planned to climb. What looked, from a distance, like a reasonably short three or four pitch climb invariably turned out on closer inspection, to be at least twelve pitches and much harder than expected.

ADAM.

The expedition was an amazing experience for me. I found it extremely rewarding even though it was physically hard. There were high and low points. One such low point occurred whilst pulling into Laupers Bjerg when on a steep part of the glacier I was grasping for breath, really struggling to keep my pulk moving, yet behind me Neil was singing! The high points were the amazing runs we had ski-ing down the glaciers seemingly making the effort of just having gone up disappear. The climbing on Laupers Bjerg was something I will never forget and the view from the summit was just incredible. Mountains and ice in every direction. The everyday views were beautiful and varying light made them, at times, quite astounding. It was a sad time for me when we all came down off the glacier snout, standing amidst the moraine, in the evening gloom. Looking at the rain in the distance it dawned on me that it was all nearly over. The expedition was superb and I will cherish the memories.

NEIL.

This expedition was a completely new experience for me. Before I arrived I had absolutely no idea what I was letting myself in for. The reality turned out to be different to my expectations but far better than my worst fears. Over time the one thing that has stayed with me was the feeling of how *unsafe* it was out on the glacier. Every time I took a step there was the feeling that I could fall down a crevasse, be avalanched or stop a falling rock. This I am sure contributed to the rampant paranoia Iain and I felt

whenever the conversation turned to Polar bears, although Iain had more to worry about than I had as I could ski faster than him.

The sense of space was wonderful. Everything was bigger and further away than expected which took some getting used to and the almost complete silence all around produced some odd moments. For long periods at a time I was able to hear the distant rumble and hum of factory machinery and one time I found myself singing along to a band. The only consolation I had was that other people seemed to be hearing impossible things also so that when I was woken up by the non-existent 'phone ringing on the glacier, I did not feel too stupid, honest.

Travelling in East Greenland is like moving through a Tolkien novel. The mountains are spectacular, the landscape is vast and the whole place is at right angles to real life. I enjoyed the day at Kuumiut school and my time in the village talking to the teachers and hunters; learning a little about a way of life that has not been seen in Scotland for hundreds of years. East Greenland has changed in so many ways since its discovery ninety nine years ago by Gustav Holm. The kayaks, igloos and harpoons of the hunting life have been replaced by Yamaha outboards, high powered rifles and double glazed houses. Yet the people have still to change completely the habits bred through the generations. The coast is being overfished, seals and whales are over hunted. The population is subsidised and supported by the Danish welfare system yet such support cannot continue indefinitely. The country is in a state of transition, trying to do in a few decades what it took mainland Europe as many centuries to achieve, and perhaps another ninety nine years will bring even more changes than the last. The only way to know for sure is to be there.

DOUG.

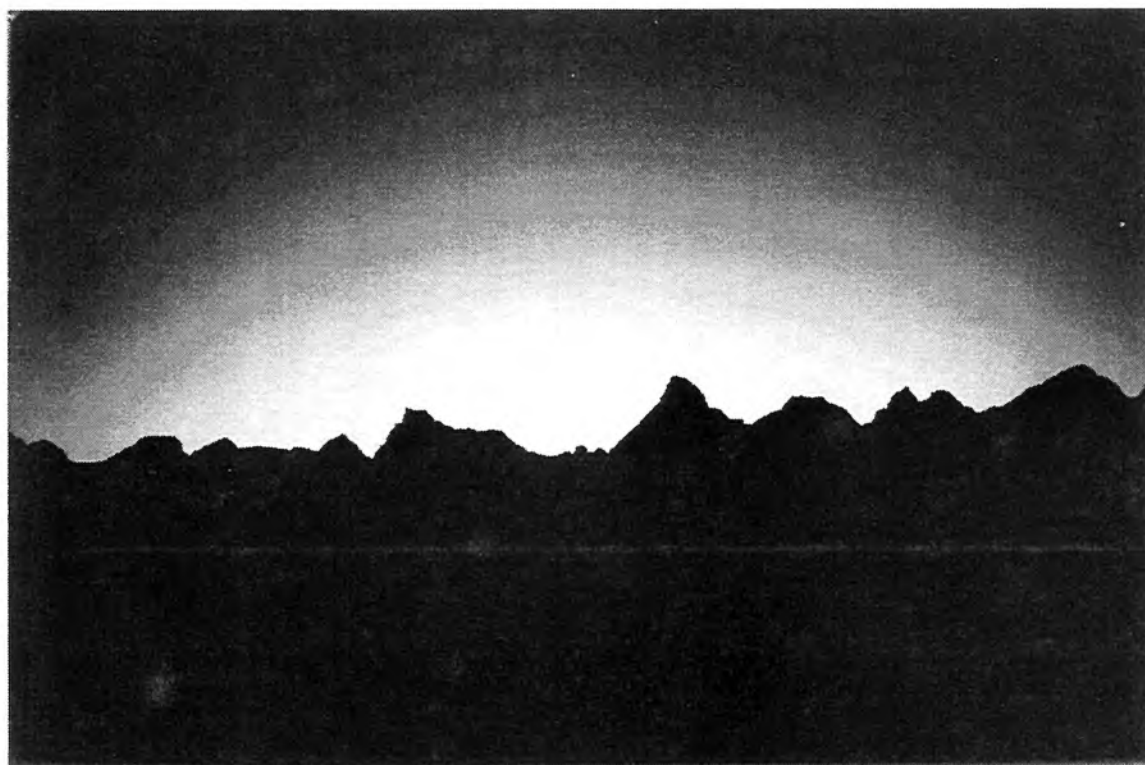
It had taken two years of planning, research, dreaming and fund raising, so when I finally stood on top of Laupers Bjerg I was certainly a deeply satisfied person. As with all expeditions the achievement of the main objective is often an anti-climax, as it is the travelling, seeing, friendships and overall experience which makes it all so worth while. This was certainly true for me, as although having visited Greenland twice before, this new area was

totally breathtaking, along with the silence and solitude I'd experienced on other trips being as absorbing as ever. It was this along with spending time with three close friends who were experiencing the magic of Greenland for the first time, which made the expedition for me. The fantastic climbing and ascent of Laupers Bjerg was really just the icing on the cake.

As with all expeditions I certainly learnt and gained a lot from the experience, none of which is quantifiable, but all of which will be used in some way in it is now just a matter of planning the next expedition, which I certainly hope won't be too far away.

lain.

The trip for me was a step into the unknown for though I had been to the Alps many times in the past, I had never been on an extended ski trip in such a remote area before. For the first two weeks I was absorbed by the remoteness and quietness of the area, then my attention then became directed to the ski-ing which as each day went on interested me more. The climbing on a whole disappointed me. The loose nature of the rock and the snow gullies which would run short of the summits frustrated me. However the volumes one learns from such an experience will both help and direct me for many years to come. I look forward to seeing my reactions to similar situations in the future.



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