

Forsblad Fjord Expedition 2000
DPC Ref No: 532-261
Logistics Report

Summary

The Forsblad Fjord Expedition 2000 (John, Clare and Michael Thorogood) was in the Alpe and Forsblad Fjord Region of N.E. Greenland from 12th until 27th August. Access was obtained by means of inflatable boat from Mesters Vig. Thirteen days were spent away from Mesters Vig in the field. The weather conditions were reasonable with a couple of days with strong winds. A number of short walks were done. The group was well equipped with food, camping and boating equipment, survival suits, heavy calibre revolver, HF radio and ELT beacon. There were no accidents or safety incidents. All waste was returned to Mesters Vig for disposal.

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Date: December 2000

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Access to Area of Operation

The expedition members availed themselves of the DPC charter arrangements to fly to and from Mesters Vig. Clare and Michael Thorogood travelling from London and John Thorogood from Stavanger, via Oslo.

After a flight in that was delayed at Constable Pynt due to adverse weather in Mesters Vig, the Group were transported by DPC lorry to Nyhavn, where the boat was assembled and the group set off to Alpefjord and Forsblads Fjords. The area of operation was as follows:

- departed Nyhavn for Alpefjord on 14th August, 2000.
- Walked in Spaerre Gl snout region..
- By boat to Schaffhausdalen. Visited Vikingebrae area.
- Walked up Schaffhausdalen.
- Boated to the head of Forsblads Fjord with stop at Kap Michel.
- Camped and walked in Taeskelsdal
- Boated back to Mesters Vig with stop at Kap Pedersen
- Reached Mesters Vig on 26th August. Departed on 27th August.

The group travelled in the area of operation on foot or by boat. The total boat distance travelled was 189 nautical miles for a total fuel

consumption of 116 L of fuel. Average speed was 13 kts.

Food Supplies

The team took 16 days of food. Supplies were obtained from supermarkets in the UK and packed into 60L plastic barrels obtained from Kaiser and Kraft, Watford UK. Typical rations consisted of muesli / biscuits each day for breakfast with a hot drink (tea, coffee). Lunch was of a snack - cheese & biscuit, tinned fish, nuts, dried fruit and a chocolate bar. Evening meal consisted of a soup, meat and pasta main dish and a small chocolate bar to finish. Calorific value of the ration was about 2400 per day.

Personal Equipment

The team took with them normal personal wear and camping equipment for Northern European summer mountain conditions. Anticipating generally dry weather, with occasional rain and temperatures from +5 to +15 degC. Cooking was performed on MSR-type pressure stoves powered by kerosene.

The lightweight tent was equipped with valences and was easily secured with rocks against high winds. Standard hill-walking equipment was taken - 50m 9mm climbing rope and crevasse rescue equipment taken but not used, together with crampons and ice axes. Normal three season walking boots were worn.

Boating Equipment

The expedition employed a Bombard Commando C5 inflatable boat with Yamaha 30hp and 4.5 hp (emergency) outboard motors. Fuel was motor fuel obtained from Iceland in 200L drums mixed 50:1 with 2 stroke oil. Fuel was carried in 5x22L and 2x25L plastic cans plus a 25L boat tank. The

emergency engine was tested daily. At the end of the expedition the engines were winterised and stored with the boat in the Expedition Hus at Mesters Vig with permission from Sirius.

Each member of the team was equipped with a helicopter survival suit and a life-jacket.

Radio Equipment

The expedition was granted a permit for and took an HF90 HF light weight radio for listening in to the daily Sirius radio calls. The radio was powered with rechargeable NiCd batteries that were kept topped up with a solar panel. In addition, they took a Tron 1E emergency beacon that radiates on 121.5 MHz. They also took an Icom IC2 airband transceiver. .

Firearms

The expedition leader has a permit to carry a Smith and Wesson 629 model .44 Magnum revolver. There were no occasions requiring its use even though bear were reported in the region.

Health and Safety and Rescue

There was no illness reported by any of the expedition members. There were no safety incidents encountered during the boating or hill walking activities.

Insurance cover was obtained through the British Mountaineering Council.

Equipment Weights

Total weight of all equipment, people, food, boats, engines and fuel for the two week long trip was 780kg. Summary of weights is as follows:

Item	Weight (kg)
3 expedition members	250.0
Outboard motor - 30hp	54.0
Emergency outboard - 4.5hp	20.0
Food - 3 adults, 14 days	42.0

Camping, cooking, climbing	33.0
Personal Equipment	55.0
Bombard C5 boat	116.5
Boat equipment	20.0
185L Boat fuel + 4L kerosine	189.0
Total Weight – start	779.5
Total Weight – end	624.5

Remarks on Wildlife

No bear were seen. An arctic fox was seen in Taeskelsdal. Significant numbers of muskoxen were seen in both Schaffhausdalen and the western end of the north side of Forsblads Fjord.

Collection and Disposal of Waste

Human waste was buried. All other packaging and food waste was collected and returned to Mesters Vig for disposal. Tins and glass being sorted and placed in separate containers located at the base.

Historical Sites

Various tent rings were seen and photographed but left undisturbed. A number of fangsthytte were visited and were left as found with careful checks made to ensure any minor damage was repaired and buildings were secured against bear as far as was practical.

As a point of note, it is recommended that the DPC publish more widely the requirement for expeditions to make good an area after collecting stones for use in securing tents against wind

Acknowledgements

The Expedition wishes to thank members of Sirius and the DPC Logistics Platform at Mesters Vig for their assistance with loading and transporting the equipment between Mesters Vig and Nyhavn.

Appendix A - Daily Log

Date	Location / Activity
11-Aug	Travel to Iceland, stay in Akureyri.
12-Aug	Fly Akureyri - Constable Pynt. Weather prevented arrival at Mesters Vig. Camped near CP.
13-Aug	Fly: Constable Pynt - Mesters Vig. Sort out equipment, check boat gear & fuel
14-Aug	By lorry to Nyhavn. Make boat ready. Depart Nyhavn at noon. To head of Alpefjord with stop at Kap Petersen.
15-Aug	Head of Alpefjord: walked over Spaerre Gl snout
16-Aug	Moved camp to Schaffhausdalen. Climbed to 735m up side valley
17-Aug	Returned to head of Alpefjord campsite to collect some lost gear. Visited Vikingebrae shout . Walked up lateral moraines.
18-Aug	Walked up Schaffhausdalen for about 15km. Encounter with lone bull muskox
19-Aug	Moved camp to Kap Machel - beached boat & waited for wind to die down.
20-Aug	Moved camp to head of Forsblads Fjord on fan to N of Pt 1427.
21-Aug	Walked up glacier to north of campsite.
22-Aug	Boated to head of Forsblads Fjord. Walked up into Taeskeldal and camped.
23-Aug	Walked along past Taeskelso to overlook Violin Gl
24-Aug	Broke camp, returned to boat. Returned to camp of 20th Aug - very strong wind blowing up the fjord. Waited for it to die down.
25-Aug	Boated to Kap Pedersen, walked to Skjoldungebrae.
26-Aug	Boated to Nyhavn. Transported boat to Mesters Vig. Cleaned gear, winterised engine. Stored equipment in Expeditionshus.
27-Aug	Finished checking and packing equipment. Flew to Akureyri & then to Reykjavik
28-Aug	Flew from Keflavik to Stavanger via Oslo.

Appendix B - Weather Observations

Date	Time	Location	Elevation	Temp	Baro	Wind	Comments
12-Aug	12:00	Constable Pynt	Sea level	8.6	1007	Calm	High overcast
	20:00	Constable Pynt	Sea level	8.0	1011	Calm	Rain - high overcast
13-Aug	9:00	Constable Pynt	Sea level	8.0	1014	9/000	Rain - high overcast - Sc030
	17:00	Mestersvig	Sea level	8.5	1019	10/135	Overcast > 3000 ft, clear
14-Aug	9:00	Mestersvig	Sea level	7.0	1017	Calm	Br alto strat, sunny
	21:00	Alpefjord	Sea level	7.8	1018	05/090	Clear sky
15-Aug	11:00	Alpefjord	Sea level	7.9	1024	Calm	Clear sky
	18:00	Alpefjord	Sea level	8.9	1025	05-10/090	Br high overcast
16-Aug	9:00	Alpefjord	Sea level	8.0	1025	05/180	Clear sky
	19:00	Schaffhausdalen	Sea level	10.1	1025	05-10/000	Clear sky
17-Aug	9:00	Schaffhausdalen	Sea level	9.0	1024	Calm	Thin, high overcast
	19:30	Schaffhausdalen	Sea level	11.3	1022	Calm	50% thin cirrus
18-Aug	9:00	Schaffhausdalen	Sea level	10.9	1021	<05/180	Clear sky
	18:30	Schaffhausdalen	Sea level	12.1	1013	<05/000	Clear sky
19-Aug	7:30	Schaffhausdalen	Sea level	13.4	1019	<05/000	Hazy - Sc cumulus 6000 ft
	21:00	Kap Michel	Sea level	8.3	1021	<05/045	During day wind 15-25/045
20-Aug	6:30	Kap Michel	Sea level	8.9	1011	<05/090	Clear sky
	19:30	Forsblads Camp	Sea level	14.6	1010	Calm	Br alto strat, sunny
21-Aug	7:30	Forsblads Camp	Sea level	11.1	1009	Calm	Br alto strat
	19:00	Forsblads Camp	Sea level	9.7	1021	05-10/090	5km vis, 600 ft cloud, rain
22-Aug	9:00	Forsblads Camp	Sea level	7.0	1018	Calm	Recent rain, overcast, br 2000 ft
	18:00	Taeskeldal	660 m	9.7	1014	05-10/225	Clear sky
23-Aug	9:00	Taeskeldal	660 m	6.0	1007	10-15/225	Clear sky
	18:00	Taeskeldal	660 m	10.8	1005	10-15/180	Cirrus during day, clear later
24-Aug	8:30	Taeskeldal	660 m	8.9	1004	05-10/225	Clear sky
	14:00	Forsblads Camp	Sea level	7.8	1001	20-25/090	Strong blow up fjord
	19:30	Forsblads Camp	Sea level	7.8	1009	10-15/090	Overcast
25-Aug	6:00	Forsblads Camp	Sea level	7.0	1003	Calm	Overcast, light rain
	18:00	Kap Pedersen	Sea level	5.3	1006	05-10/160	Overcast, clearing slowly
26-Aug	7:00	Kap Pedersen	Sea level	4.9	1011	Calm	Thin cirrus to SW
	18:00	Mestersvig	Sea level	6.0	1012	05-10/160	Thin cirrus
27-Aug	9:00	Mestersvig	Sea level	6.0	1013	<05/160	Sc cirrus

Appendix C - Boating Log

Date	From	To	Dist Naut M	Ave Spd Kts	Fuel Cons Litres	Notes
14-Aug	Nyhavn	Dammen	59.1	15-16	35	Distances & speeds per GPS incl 8 nm loop to collect lost kit
16-Aug	Dammen	Schafhauserdalen	13.5	15-16	7	
17-Sep	Schafhauserdalen	Schafhauserdalen	28.4	16-18	22	via Dammen & Vikingebrae
19-Aug	Schafhauserdalen	Kap Michel	11	10-12		into choppy sea
20-Aug	Kap Michel	Forsblads Camp	21.9	15	23	Calm, strong Fohn wind in head of Forsblads
22-Aug	Forsblads Camp	Head of Forsblads Fj	3.5	15		Calm
24-Aug	Head of Forsblads Fj	Forsblads Camp	5.1	10-15	5	20-25kt up fjord, landed to wait
25-Aug	Forsblads Camp	Kap Pedersen	30.9	14-16	20	Glassy water & calm
26-Aug	Kap Pedersen	Nyhavn	16	16	4	Wind & sea calm, 4 L from 4hp motor
		Totals	189.4		116	
			Fuel Consumption		0.61	litres per nautical mile