

Maria Ø Expedition 1999
DPC Ref No: 532-192
Logistics Report

Summary

The Maria Ø 1999 Expedition (Thorogood, Muston, Dullage) was in the Ymers Ø and Kempesfjord Region of N.E. Greenland from 24th July until 22nd August. Access was by inflatable boat from Mesters Vig. A number of the Devonian Sandstone hills on Yrners Ø were attempted in the Angelins Bjerg - Rødeborg Area. The inner reaches of Rhedin's, Rhøss and Dickson's fjords were visited where various routes up onto the plateaus of Gletscherland and thus the inland ice were explored. The terrain was difficult and, due to extensive ice, a landing was not possible at the foot of the Hisinger Glacier. Inclement weather in mid-August drove temperatures into the 3-5 deg. range with extensive coastal fog in late August. There were no significant accidents or safety incidents. All waste was returned to Mesters Vig for disposal.

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Access to Area of Operation

The expedition members availed themselves of the recently introduced DPC charter arrangements to fly to and from Mesters Vig. Dullage and Muston travelling from London and Thorogood from Stavanger, via Oslo. This latter routing chosen since he worked in Norway and it considerably simplified shipping of the expedition firearm.

From Mesters Vig, the group was transported, with all equipment, boats and fuel to Ella Ø in company with Sirius personnel. Permission was sought for the change of plan, the original intention having been to land at Kirschdalen, as this simplified the flight operation.

The area of operation was, from Ella Ø, as follows:

- departed Mesters Vig to Ella Ø on 26th July, 1999.
- to Ymers Ø, Arentzhytten. Climbed two hills. Visited Stordalen hytte.
- to Konglomeratnæs, attempted Angelins Bjerg and Rødebjerg
- to Kap Hedlund - visited the head of Rhedins Flord and Ø Tvillings Gl
- to the head of Rhøss Fjord via Strømnæs. Failed to reach the top of Skræntdal, climbed two hanging valleys to the west and viewed the inland ice.
- to Strømnæs, unable to ascend Strømnæsadal due to poor weather and lack of time.
- to head of Dickson Fjord. Unable to reach the foot of the Hissinger Gl due to dense pack ice in the fjord. Camped below and ascended Langenthaler Gl to view the inland ice.
- to Lumskebugten, no walking due to poor weather.
- to Kirschdalen and then to Mesters Vig. Trouble with dense pack ice in Kong Oscars Fjord, shore lead clear.
- Reached Mesters Vig on 19th August. Departed on 21st August.

The group travelled in the area of operation on foot or by boat. The total boat distance travelled was 269 nautical miles for a total fuel consumption of 194 L of fuel. Average speed was 13 kts. The group returned from the field to Mesters Vig by boat.

Food Supplies

The team took 27 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. One member took a kerosine stove, another took a spirit stove. Both functioned as required.

The lightweight tents could be easily secure with rocks against high winds. Standard hill-walking type of mountaineering 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 14 x 22L 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 an ex-North Sea helicopter survival suit and a life-jacket.

Radio Equipment

The expedition was granted a permit for and took a Tron 1E emergency beacon that radiates on 121.5 MHz. They also took an Icom IC2 airband transceiver for air / ground communications. In the event, neither piece of equipment was used.

Firearms

The expedition leader applied for and received a permit to carry a Smith and Wesson 629 model .44 Magnum revolver on the basis that the leader owned such an weapon and was practised and proficient in its use and had used it elsewhere in the Arctic for the purpose of self-defence against polar bear.

Health and Safety

There was no illness reported by any of the expedition members. One fall early on resulted in a bruised thigh, scraped scalp and scratched hands. These healed quickly. There were no other safety hazards encountered during the boating or hill walking activities that could be described in any way as unexpectedly hazardous.

Equipment Weights

Total weight of all equipment, people, food, boats, engines and fuel for the four week trip was 953 kg as weighed before the flight to Ella Ø. Summary of weights as follows:

Item	Weight (kg)
3 expedition members	240.5
Outboard motor - 30hp	54.0
Emergency outboard - 4.5hp	20.0
Food - 3 men, 27 days	88.5
Camping, cooking, climbing	90.5
Personal Equipment	55.0
Bombard C5 boat	116.5
Boat equipment / spares	20.0
269L Boat fuel + 8L kerosine	268.0
Total Weight	953.0

Remarks on Wildlife

No bear were seen. The only significant group of muskoxen were observed in Barnabas Dal on Ymers Ø.

Collection and Disposal of Waste

Human waste was buried. All other packaging and food waste was collected into a plastic bag and returned to Mesters Vig for disposal.

Historical Sites

Various tent rings and winter dwellings 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 the building was properly secured against bear.

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 wish to thank members of Sirius and the DPC Logistics at Mesters Vig and Ella for their assistance with loading and transporting the equipment.

Appendix A - Daily Log

Date	Location / Activity
24-Jul	Party travelled from Norway / UK to Akeureyri via Keflavik & Reykjavik - DPC charter. Overnight at Hotel Edda
25-Jul	Party travelled from Akeureyri to Mesters Vig - DPC charter. Prepared boats and transferred boat fuel to jerry cans
26-Jul	Loaded equipment into Twin Otter, to Ella Ø. Moved equipment to beach. Inflated and loaded boat. Set sail, cached fuel at Maria Ø. Camped at Arentz Hytten
27-Jul	Ascended hill NNW of Arentz Hytten, extensive, loose sandstone scree
28-Jul	Ascended hill to NE of Arentz Hytten, extensive loose sandstone scree
29-Jul	By boat to Stordalen hut and then to Conglomeratnæs (Namdalshytten)
30-Jul	Ascended Juluts Dal, camped on SW ridge of Angelins Bjerg
31-Jul	Ascent of Angelin's Bjerg. Reached summit ridge before turning back, very broken rock. Central snow gully on SW face next time.
01-Aug	Return to Conglomeratnæs
02-Aug	Ascended Rødebjerg. Reached SW summit - distance and broken ground prompted retreat. NNW ridge for next attempt - following ascent of Angelin's Bjerg
03-Aug	By boat to Maria Ø, collected fuel and thence to Kap Hedlund
04-Aug	Rest day - Kap Hedlund, visited Eli Knudsen's cairn. Saw rype plus brood
05-Aug	By boat to head of Rhedin's Fjord, ascended snout of Ø Tvillings Gl
06-Aug	By boat to head of Rhøss Fjord, stopped at Strømnæs. Kit plus food up Skræntdal
07-Aug	Moved camp 2/3 up Skræntdal, collected food from dump
08-Aug	Established that W side of valley (true L) unsafe to pass. Investigated routes out of valley to west. Relocated camp 3km down valley
09-Aug	Ascended steep gully into Niklausdal. Walked up to ca 1340m
10-Aug	Ascended steep cleft 2km SW of Niklausdal. Walked through the valley to the hillside overlooking the lake by Concordia Plads (72:37:30 N 27:35:00W).
11-Aug	Descended Skræntdal, packed up boat and travelled to Strømnæs
12-Aug	Camped at Strømnæs, walked locally. Low cloud, rain and snow above 800m. Strong NE wind
13-Aug	Camped at Strømnæs, walked locally. Low cloud, rain and snow above 600m. Strong NE wind
14-Aug	By boat from Strømnæs and to the head of Dickson Fjord. Build up of brash ice prevented access to the Hissinger Gl. Camped at foot of Langenthaler Gl.
15-Aug	Ascended Langenthaler Gl to col. Views over Concordia Plads
16-Aug	By boat to Lumskebugten
17-Aug	By boat to Kirschdalen. Rough crossing of Kempes Fjord. Narhval Sund calm
18-Aug	At Kirschdalen
19-Aug	By boat from Kirschdalen. Problems with pack ice in Kong Oscar's Fjord. Reached Mesters Vig along the wide shore lead.
20-Aug	Checked and packed equipment for storage. Washed boats and winterised engines. Packed personal equipment for return home.
21-Aug	Fog in Mesters Vig. Return flight delayed until evening. Connected with last flight from Akeureyri. Overnight stay in Keflavik
22-Aug	Group flew Keflavik to London and Stavanger as required

Appendix B - Weather Observations

Date	Location	Temp	Baro	Wind	Comments
24-Jul	Akureyri	15.0		Fresh N	Wave cloud, clea
25-Jul	Akureyri	15.0		Fresh S	Clear
25-Jul	Mesters Vig	16.0		Light SE	Clear
26-Jul	Mesters Vig / Ella Ø	16.0		Calm	Clear
26-Jul	Sofia Sund	15.0		10-15 WSW	Clear
27-Jul	Sofia Sund	13.0		10-15 WSW	Thin cirrus
28-Jul	Sofia Sund	13.5		10-15 WSW	Clear
28-Jul	Sofia Sund	10.0	1014	5-10 E	Broken Cumulus
29-Jul	Sofia Sund	14.0	1013	10-15 WSW	Clear
29-Jul	Conglomeratnæs	14.0	1013	Calm	Clear
30-Jul	Juluts Dal	11.0	1013	5-10 SW	Clear
31-Jul	Angelin's Bjerg	10.0	1001 / 330m	5-10 E	Alto stratus, increasing cloud
01-Aug	Juluts Dal	3.0	1013	5-10 SW	600m cloud base, light rain
01-Aug	Conglomeratnæs	7.0	1021	10-15 SW	Clear
02-Aug	Conglomeratnæs	5.0	1013	10-15 E	Local mist banks
03-Aug	Conglomeratnæs	5.5	1019	5 E	Overcast, 800 m base
03-Aug	Kap Hedlund	7.5	1017	Light NE	Br stratus at 900 m
04-Aug	Kap Hedlund	8.5	1019	Light E	Overcast am, clear sky pm
05-Aug	Kap Hedlund	7.5	1021	Light E	Thin, high cirrus
06-Aug	Kap Hedlund	10.0	1023	Calm	Clear
06-Aug	Skræntdal	8.0	1023	Light E	Clear
07-Aug	Skræntdal	9.0	1021	Light E	Thin, high cirrus
07-Aug	Skræntdal	8.5	994 / 250m	Calm	Clear
08-Aug	Skræntdal	10.0	988 / 340m	10 NE	Clear
08-Aug	Skræntdal	10.0	991 / 320m	Light & variable	Clear
09-Aug	Skræntdal	13.0	990 / 335m	Calm	Overcast > 1500 m
09-Aug	Skræntdal	8.0	987 / 360m	5 NE	Overcast
10-Aug	Skræntdal	9.5	992 / 305m	Calm	Broken high cloud
10-Aug	Skræntdal	11.5	991 / 320m	Calm	Broken high cloud
11-Aug	Skræntdal	7.5	991 / 320m	10-15 S	Scattered high cloud
11-Aug	Strømnæs	9.0	1011	10-15 S	Clear
12-Aug	Strømnæs	5.0	1011	10-20 NE	Rain showers, snow at 800m
12-Aug	Strømnæs	7.0	1011	15-20 NE	Overcast, 800 m base
13-Aug	Strømnæs	3.0	1016	10 NE	Rain, snow to 600 m
13-Aug	Strømnæs	3.0	1018	10 NE	Rain, overcast lifting
14-Aug	Strømnæs	5.0	1023	Calm	Broken cumulus, lifting
14-Aug	Langenthaler Gl	5.0	1021	Calm	Clear
15-Aug	Langenthaler Gl	5.0	1020	Calm	Clear
15-Aug	Langenthaler Gl	4.5	1020	Calm	Cirrus, halo round sun
16-Aug	Langenthaler Gl	5.5	1016	Calm	Thin cirrus
16-Aug	Lumskebugten	5.0	1012	5-10 S	Thin cirrus
17-Aug	Lumskebugten	3.5	1015	5-10 S	Thickening fog banks
17-Aug	Kirschdalen	2.5	1016	<5 S	Broken fog banks, cirrus
18-Aug	Kirschdalen	2.0	1014	5 SE	Broken low cloud
19-Aug	Kirschdalen	3.0	1011	Calm	Clear
20-Aug	Mesters Vig	3.0	1010	Light SE	Cirrus
21-Aug	Mesters Vig	3.0	1010	Light SE	Fog, lifted during pm
22-Aug	Reykjavik	8.0		Fresh SW	Rain & low cloud