

rock. Some belaying was required but pitons were not used. The total climbing time from the road was $10\frac{1}{4}$ hours for the ascent and $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours for the return.

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GREENLAND

Royal Navy East Greenland Expedition. A 12-man Royal Navy expedition visited the Angmagssalik area of East Greenland between July and September. The main aim was exploratory mountaineering in an unexplored group of peaks of Schweizerland ($66^{\circ} 30' N$, $37^{\circ} W$.) about 50 miles inland from Angmagssalik and west of the prominent area of open glacier called Femstjernen. Geological work was also planned. These and various minor aims were achieved. A total of 31 first ascents were made, 15 of these in Schweizerland including the two highest points, P 2520 meters (8268 feet) and P 2500 (8202 feet). Owing to the difficulty of access in summer thaw conditions, it was decided to lay depots of food and fuel in the spring. Mike Banks and I did this using local dog teams and drivers between April 6 and 16. We travelled via the Rasmussen and Haabets glaciers and placed the main depot at 4625 feet at the southeast corner of Conniats Bjoerg. An intermediate depot with a man-hauling Nansen sledge was laid at the confluence of the Rasmussen and September 16th glaciers. We had intended to place the main depot further forward and our inability to do this meant that it was not possible for all the summer party to reach Schweizerland; about half the climbing was done in the Conniats and Devaux Bjoerg regions.

The summer party of Stocken, leader, Wallis, geologist, Dilly, doctor, Keelan, Dearman, Agnew, Garden, Collins, Twigg, Rowe, Corner and Kirkpatrick reached the main depot on July 25. There they found the advance party of the Imperial College expedition, whose leader had broken an ankle. They had been on their way to Femstjernen to receive an airdrop, but since at least two of them were now tied to our base at Conniats Bjoerg, a mutually advantageous exchange of food and fuel was arranged. The expedition now divided and eight, led by Stocken, set out to prospect the route into Schweizerland while four remained to climb near Conniats Bjoerg. On August 4 Dearman of the Conniats Bjoerg party had a minor fall whilst leading and it was decided to return to camp. It was whilst escorting Dearman across the glacier back to camp that Garden fell through a crevasse bridge and was killed instantly. This shocking news greeted the rest when they returned to Base the next day. It was agreed that the

expedition should continue, that Agnew, Dearman and Collins would go down to the coast to break the news, that Twigg and Corner would remain in the Conniats Bjoerg area with the Imperial College men and that the remainder would return to Schweizerland. This final phase provided the most rewarding and successful climbing of the expedition. It was doubly tragic when on the descent from the final climb, Stocken, whose physical and mental toughness had been the main factors in their success, was struck by a falling boulder and died a few hours later without regaining consciousness. The return journey was hampered by heavy snowfall and the expedition reached the coast at Kungmiut on September 5.

MICHAEL B. THOMAS, *Lieutenant Commander, Royal Navy*

Imperial College East Greenland Expedition. An eight-man expedition from Imperial College, London, worked in the Mount Forel district of East Greenland. The members were M. C. Clark, A. G. Cram, C. D. Dean, F. Ekman, M. H. Key, R. W. Rowe, J. R. Taylor and myself as leader. As this region is 70 miles from the nearest accessible point on the coast, the bulk of the equipment and food was air-dropped. We walked in from the coast in eight days. During the march I fell and broke my ankle whilst skiing and had to be left with one companion at Conniats Bjoerg, about halfway in. The ankle was set by the doctor of the Royal Navy expedition and after five weeks in plaster had healed sufficiently to march out. The accident disrupted plans. It had been hoped to drop the loads to a ground party, which had not yet arrived when the loads were dropped blind; much was consequently blown down crevasses. Recovery was not difficult but took time. Despite this, we climbed a total of 16 peaks. Seven were major peaks along the Paris Glacier: Pointe du Harpon (9515 feet) by Clark, Cram, Ekman, Rowe on August 3; de Quervain's Bjoerg (8530 feet) by Clark, Cram, Dean, Key on August 13 and 14; Table Mountain (9843 feet) by Rowe, Taylor on August 17 and 18; "Sérac Peak" by Clark, Key on August 19; "Fortress Peak" (8530 feet) by Rowe, Taylor on August 13 and 14; "Pyramid Peak" (8200 feet) by Clark, Cram, Dean, Key on August 8 and "Bastille" (7550 feet) by Cram, Dean on August 17. The mountains rose high above the 4000-foot main glacier; the climbs often comprised a difficult glacier followed by fairly loose rock ridges. North ridges were usually difficult ice climbs. None of the routes took less than 14 hours and two 25-hour ascents were made. Several peaks, notably de Quervain's Bjoerg and "Sérac" required difficult rock climbing. Nine other peaks were climbed near Conniats Bjoerg, six by Taylor with the Royal Navy expedition. We sledged back to the coast at the end of August in very