

diminishes. It was here we chose to retreat. We don't know whether this peak has been climbed but suspect that it hasn't.

Peak 1,041m, southeast face, July 20. This gave us a reprieve from sitting out bad weather in the tent and proved to be an enjoyable climb. It could even be done in cloud. Third class scrambling up the face led to the ridge and the summit.

Qinguata Qaqgai (1,216m), northwest ridge, August 4. Third class scrambling up slabs, followed by scree slopes. This peak had a cairn on the summit, but we believe it is popular with heli-skiers and may not have been climbed from the ground.

Peak 1,444m, east ridge, August 8. A long glacier approach and a steep scree valley led to the east col, above which we followed the ridge (3rd class) to a flat plateau surrounded by steep walls, which formed the summit.

Peak 1,775m, southeast ridge, August 13. This is a massive peak with a long, demanding glacial approach. Once on the southwest ridge, reaching the summit proved easy, but the late summer conditions made accessing the ridge difficult.

Peak 700m, southeast face, August 19. A glacier approach followed by 4th class scrambling to the summit. A great bang for the buck.

BRAD WASHBURN CABOT, AAC

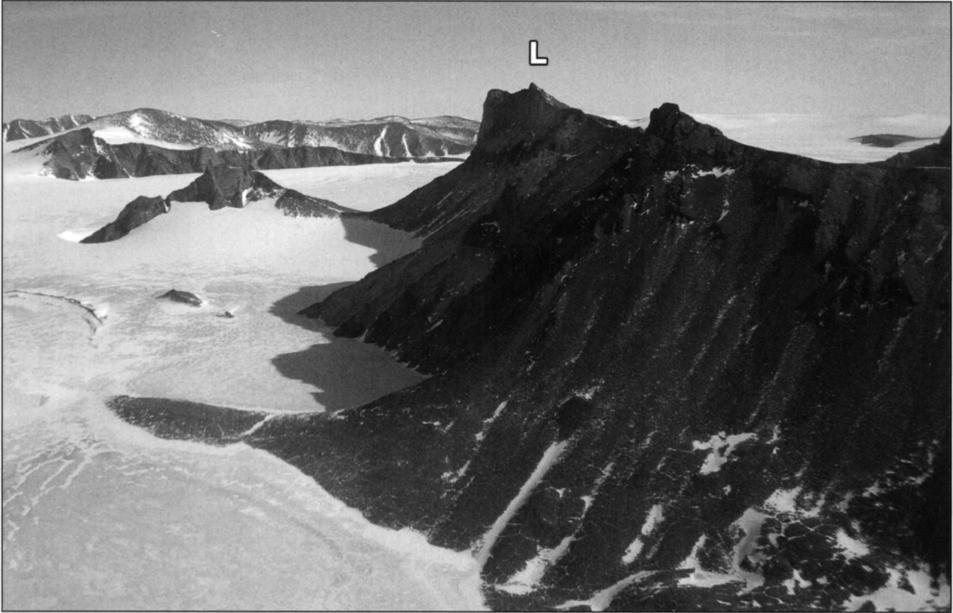
EAST COAST

Dronning Louise Land, various ascents. Gerwyn Lloyd, Tim Radford, and I, members of a North Wales-based mountain rescue team, visited the most northerly significant mountain range in Arctic East Greenland, an area known as Dronning Louise Land. Only two other expeditions had visited this region: a combined British Forces expedition, which traveled south through the area in 1953 for surveying, and a Tangent-organized team, which visited the western sector in 2000. We planned to visit the southeast, an area named The Fairytale Peaks by the 1953 expedition (so called because they did not reach it and said anything they recorded about it would be a fairy tale).

From Constable Point we flew north, refueling at Daneborg. We had requested the Twin Otter to land at N 75°57'59.23", W 25°8'16.30", but after much circling the pilot told us he could not land, due to extensive blue ice and crevasse fields. He flew northwest, looking for a safe landing site, finally dropping us on the edge of the ice cap at N 76°11'24.55", W 26°32'49.73", over 50km from our intended landing point. We estimated it would take us five or six days to reach our original destination, and as our pick-up point was well to the north, we decided it was unfeasible to visit the Fairytale peaks and reluctantly changed our plans, deciding to follow the edge of the ice cap north to our intended pick-up point at N 76°28'8.64", W 26°11'36.48". The majority of peaks we passed along the way would still be unclimbed.

We had a secondary aim: Southwest Dronning Louise Land had been identified as a potentially good site for meteorite collection. Theoretically, any meteorite should be visible as a rock that was distinct from the other specimens in the debris field. Unfortunately and somewhat surprisingly, the geology was so diverse that every rock appeared distinct from every other, and this part of our scientific program was not successful. However, we tried to take a small rock sample from each peak visited, and these were later analyzed.

Arriving on May 13, we made eight camps on our ski journey, being flown out of the area



Seen from 2,048m Carnedd Môr Ladron, Y Lliwedd (2,052m) is the double-summited peak at the end of Iron Ridge. The 2007 Dronning Louise expedition traversed the ridge as far as the summit marked (L) but did not continue to the furthest point. The rocky slopes rise ca 800m to the crest of the ridge from the glacier to the left, and all peaks in the background are believed to be unclimbed. *Russ Hore*

on June 8. The sun never dipped less than 40° above the horizon, but sleep never seemed to be a problem. In total we skied ca 80km and ascended 19 peaks, of which 15 were first ascents. The changes to our intended route meant that the last part of the journey was through an area which had been visited by the 2000 Tangent Expedition, and a few of the peaks had already been climbed.

On May 15 we made the first ascent of Penderyn (2,143m, N 76°13'28.44", W 26°38'21.68"), naming it after a single malt Welsh whiskey. From our Camp 3 at 1,912m we made five first ascents: on the 19th Copa Rhosyn (2,067m, N 76°15'19.10", W 26°21'06.63") and Y Lliwedd (2,052m N 76°15'35.23", W 26°20'03.55"); on the 21st Cornucopia (1,996m, N 76°15'51.53", W 26°22'29.03"), Foel Fras (1,917m, N 76°16'30.00", W 26°24'33.72"), and Carnedd Môr Ladron (Pirate Peak, 2,049m N 76°15'40.32", W 26°22'35.51"). Farther north on the 23rd we made the first ascent of Bryn Poeth (2,084m, N 76°20'59.28", W 26°20'48.18") via snow slopes of about Scottish II and a splendid snow ridge. The name means "warm hill" in Welsh and reflected the temperatures on the day. On the 24th we made the second ascent of Softice (1,833m, N 76°19'52.65", W 26°19'53.72), a peak first climbed by the 2000 expedition, and on the following day the first ascent of Yr Esgair (The Staircase, 2,002m, N 76°17'55.08", W 26°32'58.38"), named for the shape of its east ridge, the upper section of which comprised fantastic evenly spaced slabs. After we moved north to Camp 5 on the 27th, overnight gale force winds eased during the following afternoon and allowed an ascent of the nearest peak, a flat-topped pyramid named Dickens Bjerg, (2,241m, N 76°23'41.30", W 26°21'09.11"). Ours was the second ascent. On the 31st the plan was to climb a peak near to our Camp 6 and then head for

the pick-up point. We split up to make the second ascent of Falkonner Klippen (2,088m N 76°26'55.76", W 26°19'51.40") by two routes: one by a rotten, broken rock ridge and the second by a more direct line up an ice couloir. This peak was first identified by the 1953 team.

During our ski to Camp 7, we passed a tempting ridge on a small peak. Next day we attempted it. The ridge was easy to attain but soon reared up into a steep section, possibly Scottish III. Above a level section a sharp ridge led to a pleasant rock scramble and the summit. A rappel from a double Abalakov and a dodgy ice screw saw us back on safe ground: a fantastic route. We named the formation DB Ridge (1,941m, N 76°27'03.65", W 26°15'28.16"). The same day we made the first ascent of Dinky Do (1,904m N 76°27'17.04", W 26°07'48.66") and on June 2 In-Pin (1,980m N 76°26'21.96", W 26°16'38.58"). We also climbed Aonach Mor (1,941m N 76°26'08.16", W 26°12'43.86") on the 2nd, a second ascent. On the 3rd we moved our camp just over 1km to join an expedition led by Nigel Edwards, which was to be collected by the same Twin Otter. Due to mechanical failure and then poor weather, we couldn't be picked up immediately and in the meantime made first ascents of Carnedd y Genod (1,974m, N 76°27'16.62", W 26°04'59.22") and Mynydd Glaslyn (1,893m, N 76°28'10.32", W 26°00'58.14"), both on the 3rd, and Pod (N 76°29', W 26°16'; coordinates are approximate due to GPS failure) and Golden Dome (1,954m, N 76°27'19.74", W 26°07'0.36") on the 4th.

Southwest Dronning Louise Land is a beautiful part of the world. The mountain vistas rival any other, and with the serenity of the Arctic, they provide a magical and unique setting.

RUSS HORE, U.K.

Andrees Land, exploration and first ascents. Exercise Boreal Zenith was an Army Mountaineering Association exploratory expedition to Andrees Land that was organized to commemorate 50 years of British Army Mountaineering. The expedition took place from July 3–August 3. Members Sally Brown, Cath Davies, Keve Edwards, Beth Hall-Thompson, Ollie Noakes, Dave Stanley, Joe Williams, and I between us made 34 ascents, of which 29 were new. The climbs ranged from simple snow plods to steep north faces, mixed alpine ridges, and steep rock routes. Grades ranged from Alpine PD to D and up to British HVS on pure rock.

Andrees Land is located at N 73°35', W 26°00' in North East Greenland National Park, ca 800km north of the Arctic Circle. The closest permanent habitation is Scoresby Sund, 370km to the south. The area is mountainous and bounded on the south and east by fjords and on the west and north by the permanent ice cap. It is bisected from east to west by the Grejsdallen Valley. We could find only limited information on this region prior to our visit. The only documented mountaineering that we could find took place as long ago as 1950. However, geologists have been to this area more recently. Mountains reach a maximum altitude of 2,300m, mainly rising from glacier plateaus at ca 1,800m, giving ascents of up to 500m. Summits vary from rounded snow domes to small rocky spikes and generally consist of sedimentary rocks that tend to be shattered and loose. That said, we encountered a number of solid gendarmes and butresses. There is also an area of granite, with large slabs that remain unclimbed, and a large, complex granite face on Lizard Peak that offers plenty of options for new routes.

The valleys are steep-sided and glacially eroded, ranging in altitude from sea level to ca 750m. Glaciers are dry below ca 1,600m. During July valley floors are free from snow, with an abundance of vegetation and wildlife. Andrees Land lies just outside an important polar bear denning area, but we had no encounters with the animals. We took simple camp precautions to