

rounded the northeastern tip of Milne Land, their final achievement was the Tête de l'Enclume (N 70°57.25' W 25°38.18') above the east coast, which gave a pleasant 700m descent.

This two-week exploration of the ski potential of Milne Land was most likely the first. The French then spent 10 days pulling their pulks across frozen ice back to Ittoqqortoormiut. The area has huge skiing potential; they spotted chutes they believe are more than 1,600m high and found the huge granite walls reminiscent of Sam Ford Fjord. The temperature was -20°C at night in April, rising to a maximum of -5°C during the day; by May it was 5-10°C warmer. The skiing was fantastic, but the pleasure of exploring even greater. They had no idea what they would find, and the first sighting of those beauties remains the best memory of the trip.

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *Mountain INFO*, from information provided by Patrick Huber, France.

*Milne Land, correction, Hermelintop.* The 2007 AAJ, pp. 198, reported a circumnavigation of Milne Land by a three-member British team. This team began its kayak journey from Hekla Havn, which was the 1891-2 over-wintering base used by a Dane, Carl Ryder, and the crew of SS Hekla, who mapped most of the interior of Scoresbysund, the largest fjord system in the world. It was this survey that proved Milne Land to be an island.

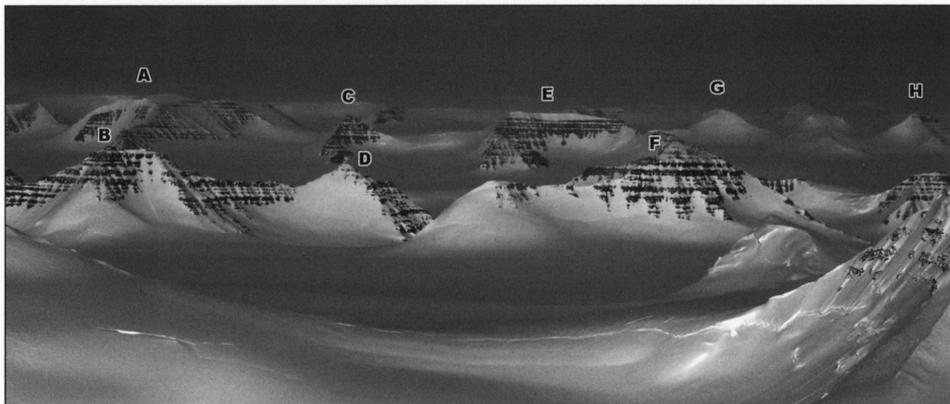
The peak referred to in the report as "Hergelintop," the south face of which was climbed by the British trio, is more properly called Hermelintop. Two weeks prior to their ascent, my own group had climbed the main summit, two of the team continuing across a deep notch to a previously unclimbed subsidiary summit to the north. On the main summit stands a large cairn, possibly dating from Carl Ryder's explorations. This summit offers a superb viewpoint for the little known Paul Stern Land mountains and the gigantic glacier of Rolige Brae descending from the main icecap into the tidal waters of inner Scoresbysund.

JIM GREGSON, *Alpine Club*

*Ski traverse from Knud Rasmussens Land, through the Watkins Mountains and Gronau Nunatakker, to Paul Stern Land; various first ascents, new routes, and repeats.* During April and May Dominik Rind and I made six first ascents in the Gronau Nunatakker and Knud Rasmussens ranges and also became the first to descend the four highest mountains north of the Arctic Circle on skis. To do this we skied 321km across inland ice, and as we were self-contained for our five-and-a-half-week adventure, during which we saw no other person, the starting weight of each of our pulks was more than 100kg.

We flew south from Constable Pynt by helicopter onto the icecap at N 69°30', W 28°00' and from there reached the first mountains of Knud Rasmussens Land in a few days. We made three first ascents: Vollmondspitze (Full Moon Peak, N 69°17.7', W 28°47.3'; 2,793m, northwest ridge and west flank, PD+); Peak Leni (N 69°16.2', W 29°08.6'; 2,554m, southwest flank and northwest ridge, AD+); Geodom Pyramide (N 69°13.2', W 29°09.7'; 2,823m, northwest ridge, D-). We also climbed the highest mountain in Knud Rasmussens Land, unnamed Peak 3,073m (N 69°13.0', W 29°31.1'; south flank, F), and believe this to be a second ascent. All were ice climbs of mostly 40°, with occasional passages of 60°, and one section of UIAA II rock/mixed. Names are provisional, and all readings were made with GPS.

We continued south and reached the Watkins Mountains on the 14th day of our expedition. We climbed the three highest summits with relative ease: Gunnbjorns Fjeld (3,694m), Dome (3,683m), and Cone (3,669m). These were mostly PD (40° ice) but long, strenuous climbs. Frequently we had to climb hard blue ice, which is unusual at this altitude in Greenland,



The view northeast from the highest summit of Knud Rasmussens Land. (A) Name Unknown (climbed by a Tangent expedition in 2002). (B) Unclimbed. (C) Unclimbed. (D) Peak Leni (2,554m, Csak-Rind, 2008). (E) Name Unknown (Tangent expedition, 2002). (F) Unclimbed. (G) Vollmondspitze (2,793m, Csak-Rind, 2008). (H) Great Pyramid (Geoff Mason's expedition, 2002). *Georg Csak*



Traversing Knud Rasmussens Land. The distant, high snow peak above and a little left of the figure is Pt. 3,073m, the highest summit in the range. It is believed to have received only two ascents, the last in 2008. Other summits in the picture are unclimbed. *Georg Csak*

and may be due to an extraordinarily warm summer in 2007.

Climbing Paul Emile Victor (3,609m)—Greenland's fourth highest—was one of the expedition highlights. We chose a new route from the west, starting from the Dome/Cone base camp by climbing over Deception Dome (3,526m, PD+). Massive seracs, a huge labyrinth through towering ice, and a steep face made it a challenging climb, and we were rewarded by breathtaking views over the entire Watkins Mountains. We descended southwest along an exposed 5km ridge, which we named Jubilaumsgrad (Jubilation Ridge, 3,520m), after a famous ridge in the Wetterstein. Leaving the crest and traversing to the base of PEV's west face proved to be the crux, with ice in poor condition and up to 60° (D-). We reached the summit via the west flank (AD-). On our way back across Jubilation Ridge, the weather deteriorated, and within an hour a severe storm broke. We were hardly able to see each other, and it was a battle to return to the tent. Climbing the Arctic's fourth highest had taken us 28 hours.

We now left the area and continued our journey, to the Gronau Nunatak, where we completed three first ascents of prominent peaks: Pilotsbjerg (N 69°26.2', W 30°13.0'; 2,805m, north flank, PD), Woerthseespitze (N 69°28.7', W 30°18.2'; 2,762m, east ridge, AD), and Kirchl (Chapel, N 69°28.5', W 30°15.4'; 2,772m, west ridge, F).

We finally reached Paul Stern Land, where we placed the first cairn on what we named Tiger Nunatak (N 70°24.8', W 30°07.3', 2,048m). However, although steep and rocky from the east, it was a gentle walk from our position on the icecap and hardly merits being called a first ascent.

We were now at our pre-arranged pick-up point, but were unable to fly for another week due to bad weather. We were down to emergency rations before the skies finally cleared and a Twin Otter was able to airlift us to Constable Pynt.

GEORG CSAK, *Deutscher Alpenverein*

*Knud Rasmussens Land, 2006 ascents.* In August 2006 Jennifer Escott, Jonathan Hunter, Nick Mills, and I visited Knud Rasmussens Land, landing on the icecap at N 69°38.9', W 27°44.0'. This spot was the base camp for an out-going expedition from the Brathay Exploration Group, and we took over some of their vital pieces of kit, such as satellite phone and shotgun.

We planned to divide the expedition into three phases of roughly a week each: one on the icecap, exploring an impressive massif near the drop-off; one pulk-pulling across the icecap; and the third attempting unclimbed peaks around the glacier to the south, down from the icecap.

Peaks on the icecap (nunataks) generally rise only a few hundred meters above the ice. Peaks on the lower glacier, although of similar altitude, generally involve climbs of much greater length and commitment, with exposed ridges of snow and friable basalt. From the air these peaks appeared quite challenging.

After establishing base camp east of our drop-off point, we ascended three peaks: Lunar Peak (N 69°34.2', W 27°11.7', 2,230m), Sunrise Peak (N 69°35.2', W 27°12.2', 2,270m), and Bowhead Peak (N 69°33.6', W 27°29.4', 2,065m). During our second week we broke the monotony of hauling pulks south along the icecap by tackling unclimbed summits that lay along our



Moving south down White Bird Glacier in Knud Rasmussens Land, with Big White Pyramid on the left. The high peak in the distance is Ejnar Mikkelsens Fjeld (3,308m), one of the most impressive on the east coast. *Quintin Lake*