

Northeast Greenland

Petermanns Bjerg, Ascents. On June 11, Paul Walker landed a climbing party on an unnamed glacier beneath the unclimbed north face of Petermanns Bjerg (2933m) at 73°N in Fraenkels Land. The group established Base Camp and began their assault on as many new peaks in the area as time and conditions would allow. Characteristic of northeast Greenland, superb weather persisted for three weeks, and a total of 35 ascents were made, of which 30 are believed to be first ascents of previously unclimbed summits. The fifth ascent of Petermanns Bjerg was made via the south ridge on June 15 and was followed by ascents of Lille Petermanns Bjerg (2675m), Kalifbjerg (2632m), Kerberus (2564m), Trappebjerg (2520m), the twin peaks of Baselfjeld (2668m and 2585m), and Gog (2651m). The earlier expeditions of 1929, 1951, 1977 and 1985 had all sailed into the fjords and trekked for several days to reach Petermanns Bjerg. Consequently, time was always short and very little else in the region had ever been climbed. As a result, the group had the enviable pleasure of climbing many of the fine peaks of significance in the region. Climbing conditions were excellent, due both to the stability of the snow and ice at this latitude and the settled weather and 24-hour daylight. One of the most notable ascents was a 600-meter rock climb by Phil Cann and expedition doctor Rod Lindenbaum, who made the first ascent of the northwest face of Kerberus during a 20-hour climb.

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Shackletons Bjerg, Various Ascents. On July 1, Nigel Edwards brought in a group of seven climbers that included the Greenland expedition veteran Derek Fordham. A total of ten ascents, of which seven are believed to be firsts, were made during their stay. Flying in on the Twin Otter arriving to pick up Paul Walker's group (see below), they made a sixth ascent of Petermanns Bjerg via the south ridge, along with repeat ascents of peaks climbed by Walker's group, before embarking on a multi-day ski tour to the fringes of the icecap to the west. From here, the husband-and-wife team of Duncan and Tessa Wardley made several ascents of new peaks (ca. 2150-2350m) while Edwards, Fordham and the remaining members of the team, Sean Crane, Dr. Roos Allsop and Dr. Dave Seddon, skied on for a further day to Shackletons Bjerg (2808m), which had been climbed once previously, by John Haller's 1953 expedition. This posed a suitable objective to end the expedition; however, strong winds forced their retreat.

Meanwhile, at Constable Point airstrip, two further expeditions were busy preparing to visit the region. On July 17, the Twin Otter flew seven members of the Derby Mountain Rescue Team, led by Steve Hilditch, directly to a Base Camp beneath the southeast face of Shackletons Bjerg. The plane then diverted off to the west to collect Edward's group from the icecap, leaving Edwards behind to join an incoming expedition that included his wife Nicky and that arrived in the area the following day. Five members of the DMRT group then reached the summit of Shackletons Bjerg on July 20 via a new route on the southeast face/southwest ridge, thus claiming its second ascent. A further 20 ascents of peaks and tops in the region were made by the group, the majority of them firsts, including Guld tinderne (2470m) and Hamlet Bjerg (2410m).

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