

about six kilometers from the hut. (Contact for hut use: Hans Christian Florian at Mount Fokol Expedition Support, Box 116, 3913 Tsailaq; Phone +299-98 1320; email-florian@greenet.gl)

JAMES GREGSON, *Alpine Club*

## Northeast Greenland

*Dronning Louise Land, New Routes.* A British group led by Scott Umpleby traveled out to the airstrip at Constable Pynt, from where they were due to fly on by Twin Otter up to the Dronning Louise Land mountains at latitude 76° N. The chartered airplane was delayed by a combination of bad weather and commitment to rescue operations with the Dutch climbers (see below), so Umpleby's group was delayed from May 11 through May 19 before flying north to land and set up base camp at 76° 22.491' N, 26° 20.056' W. From this camp at ca. 1870 meters, the group members made first ascents of 34 summits, the highest being 2275 meters, in ten days. Group members report that these mountains were mostly relatively easy, with some extensive boulder fields and rather poor rock; their attraction lies in their far-northerly remoteness and scenic quality. As far as is known, only one other party has ever visited this region.

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*Ejnar Mikkelsens Fjeld, Various Activity and Tragedy.* A British group led by Nigel Edwards was flown into the east branch of the Kronborg Gletscher at ca. 68° 55' N, 28° 25' W. During their stay, which was marred by periods of very poor weather, this group made the second ascent of Bargtinde (3338m) and a couple of first ascents. An attempt to climb Ejnar Mikkelsens Fjeld was abandoned due to very dangerous conditions in the approach icefall from the southeast. A pair of Dutch climbers who had shared flight arrangements with the British group were also active in the Kronborg Gletscher area. Sadly, one of them disappeared in a crevasse fall when returning on skis from a peak on the east side of the glacier. His partner returned alone to the British group's camp, from which an Icelandic SAR team was alerted by satellite phone. Despite their best efforts on arrival some time later, no trace of the missing Dutchman could be found. All personnel were further delayed by bad weather before they could be flown out.

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*Rignys Bjerg Mountains, Various Ascents.* A group of eight Britons led by Brian Needham was flown into the eastern part of the Rignys Bjerg ranges in June. They experienced excellent stable weather and were able to explore new mountain groups, making several first ascents. Two climbers from this party, John Hulse and Al Read, left the others to travel west on skis as far as the Watkins Bjerge, taking two weeks to cover the distance. Their route passed through large unexplored parts of Knud Rasmussen Land (69° N). At the end of their skitrek, Hulno and Read made a successful ascent of Gunnbjorn's Fjeld (3693m), Greenland's highest peak.

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