

*Watkins Mountains, first ascents from the Fleece Glacier.* Toward the end of May a British expedition comprising Jim Hall, Bob Kerr, Ros Murray and Rae Pritchard was landed on the Wooley Glacier at 2,400m and from here explored a previously unnamed side glacier to the east. This is the next glacier south of the Silk Road and it seemed appropriate to name it Fleece. Three probable first ascents were made: Pt 3,020m (dubbed Afternoon Peak), a subsidiary summit to the north west of Midnight Peak (first climbed by Scott Umpleby's five-person expedition in 1999). The grades of each were not much more than Alpine F and the climbs completed in ski mountaineering boots. Unsuccessful attempts were then made of the attractive Pt 2,725m further east down the glacier, and Julia (3,455m, the 7th highest peak in Greenland), which lies on the west side of the Wooley. Some of the team's original unclimbed objectives from the Wooley were apparently Peak (3,249m) on the south side of the glacier; Pt 2,908m (dubbed Wyvis) and its subsidiary (south west) top (2,750m: dubbed Minaret) on the north side of the glacier. It seems that many of the team's original objectives were climbed the previous month by a Royal Navy expedition, which was just leaving base camp as the four British climbers arrived.

The team completed their stay by moving base camp west to the foot of Gunnbjorns Fjeld (3,692m), the highest peak in the Arctic. From here they climbed both GBF and 3,682m Dome or Qaqqaq Kershaw, the second highest, both long days mainly on ski. [Compiled from Jim Hall's MEF expedition report.]

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*Mikis Fjord, ascent of Red Peak.* Hoping to find anchorage in Kangerdlussuaq Fjord, which would give access to the Lemon Mountains etc, a small British team sailed in mid-May from Portsmouth, UK, via Iceland to the East Coast of Greenland. Bad weather and then the subsequent snapping in two of the boom, forcing the yacht to return to Iceland for repairs, caused delays. When they eventually reached their destination at the start of August, sea ice made penetrating the Kangerdlussuaq impractical and by the time an alternative venue, the Mikis Fjord nine kilometers east up the coast from Kangerdlussuaq, was reached, the five climbers on board, Tim Broad, Rob Jones, Steve Lodge, Peter Watson, and Stewart Wright, had only a week in which to achieve any ascents and were forced to concentrate on the mountains close to the head of the fjord. Unfortunately, the weather that week proved less than favorable, with gales to begin and sunshine appearing only at the end.

Two peaks were attempted from sea level. After climbing through an icefall (300m of climbing up to Scottish III/IV), a crevassed glacier was followed to 876m below the rocky pyramid of Mikis Peak (1,289m) on the south side of the fjord. A shattered rock wall of 100m led to the narrow and crumbly East Ridge but the team retreated around midnight at an altitude of ca 1,100m and returned in a 22-hour day. However, later they were able to climb 870m Red Peak, east of the fjord head, via a long glacier approach followed by scrambling on shattered rock to the broad summit. Two routes of ascent were taken: a dangerously loose gully on the South West Flank, and the rather more stable North Ridge.

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