

B.M.L.

00/11

EXPPg



BRITISH EASTERN TORSSUQATOQ
SPIRES EXPEDITION 2000



EXPEDITION REPORT

CLIMBERS:

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SUPPORTED BY:

**BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL
MOUNT EVEREST FOUNDATION
THE SPORTS COUNCIL**

ASSISTANCE FROM:

**Rab
Troll
HB**

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INTRODUCTION

This area of granite spires was first spied by Al Powell's expedition to the Torssuqatoq Spires in 1997 and we were unable to find any information suggesting any visits by climbers in the past. Inspired by a couple of Al's photos I decided that I had to go! Over a period of time I managed to get a motivated team of eight friends together to go and explore the beautiful and pristine wilderness of Cape Farewell.

Our mixed team with a wide range in climbing abilities and ambitions worked brilliantly, and we would all highly recommend Southern Greenland to anybody interested.

LOGISTICS

See 'The 1997 Scottish Torssuqatoq Spires Expedition' report for detailed information. However there are a few changes worth noting.

1 Firstly 'GO' airlines are doing cheap flights from Stansted to Reykjavik (Iceland) during the summer, from where we flew to Greenland with 'Iceland Air'.

2 For the leg of the journey from Narsasuaq to Nanortalik we took the chartered helicopter costing about £150 which was delayed for 2 days because of sea fog. One can alternatively take a boat which although takes a full day, is cheaper and the people seem prepared to sail during any conditions.

3 Niels Taekkers Jepsen is the present tourist officer in Nanortalik and will help with all organisation, such as sorting out a boat.

4 We took a satellite phone for use in emergencies, which although did not work to well due to battery problems, was essential in organising a helicopter rescue. A better alternative would be a high frequency radio, which you should be able to hire in Nanortalik (contact Niels Taekkers Jepsen). For this you will need a permit from Greenland Telecom, which needs to be applied for six months in advance.

5 There is no need to bring your own food as there are two big supermarkets in Nanortalik with everything you would find in the UK, but bring lots of cash as some people had problems with credit cards.

6 Speaking to local people, there should be no problem in accessing the fjords by late June and the weather is best during July/ early August.

BASE CAMP

We camped about 100m above the fyord where the valley floor flattens and provides an ideal base next to the river. Here we had an added bonus of staying above most fjord mists which often drifted in from the sea. A large tarpaulin and several yards of mosquito netting were used to create a mess tent which proved invaluable in avoiding the invasions by annoying black flies and mosquitoes during fine weather. A toilet was dug downhill from camp and buried on leaving.

DIARY OF EVENTS

31/7		Fly Stansted to Keflavik
1/8		Bus Keflavik to Reykjavik. Fly Reykjavik to Narsasuaq.
2/8		In Narsasuaq, helicopter delayed.
3/8		Helicopter delayed until 7pm. Arrive Nanortalik.
4/8		Sunny Pick up freight, buy food and fuel. Boat to base camp. +(help in search + recovery of M.Bransby on neighbouring trip)
5/8	Rain	Set up base camp.
6/8	Rain	Recce basin floor. Matt + Jon scramble up to P.1303, WhaleTop
7/8	Rain	Climb snow couloirs, glissading etc....
8/8	Rain	Set up advanced base camp.
9/8	Cloudy	Bouldering in valley bottom.
10/8	Cloudy	Matt + Vicky, FA SW arete of Whaleback (700m, ED) Reny + Virginia FA NW arete of Pyramid, Plankton (600m D) Jon + Steve attempt central line on the Pyramid. Retreat after 230m due to loose rock.
11/8	Sunny	Jon + Steve FA The back Passage (115m, E3 6a) Leave fixed ropes for descents and access to valley's to the north. Charlotte + Alex FA The Fly (500m PD)
12/8	Sunny	Rest day.

13/8	Sunny	Reny + Matt attempt central pillar on Red Walls. Retreat after 450m of climbing to E4 just 1 pitch short of summit, due to loose rock. Jon + Steve FA Over Easy (430m TD,E2)
14/8	Sunny	Jon + Steve attempt SW face of The Great White Spire. Retreat after 170m of hard climbing to E4, due to vegetated seam.
15/8	Sunny	Jon scrambles to The Crest c.1180m. Bouldering.
16/8	Sunny	Virginia + Charlotte walk to Fredricsdal. Vicky + Alex to The Crset.
17/8	Sunny	Reny + Steve FA Sunny side up (490m ED). Jon + Matt FA The Great White Spire c.1050m and FlatTop c.1120m by W and NW ridges respectively.
18/8	Cloud/Rain	Matt + Vicky FA Submarine Wall (220m E3).
19/8	Rain	Rest
20/8	Rain	Rest
21/8	Sunny	Rest, rock drying.
22/8	Cloud/Rain	Jon + Reny attempt The Breakfast Spire via SE face. Reny took large fall 1 pitch from summit when a flake snapped, smashing his heel. We retreated down the north face.
23/8	Rain	Reny taken to Nanortalik hospital by helicopter.
24/8	Rain	Jon strips fixed rope from the back passage. Pack up base camp.
25/8	Sunny	Boat to Nanortalik.
26 + 27/8		In Nanortlaik.
28/8		Nanortalik to Narsasuaq.
29/8		Narsasuaq to Reykjavik.
30/8		Exploring Iceland
31/8		Reykjavik to Stansted.

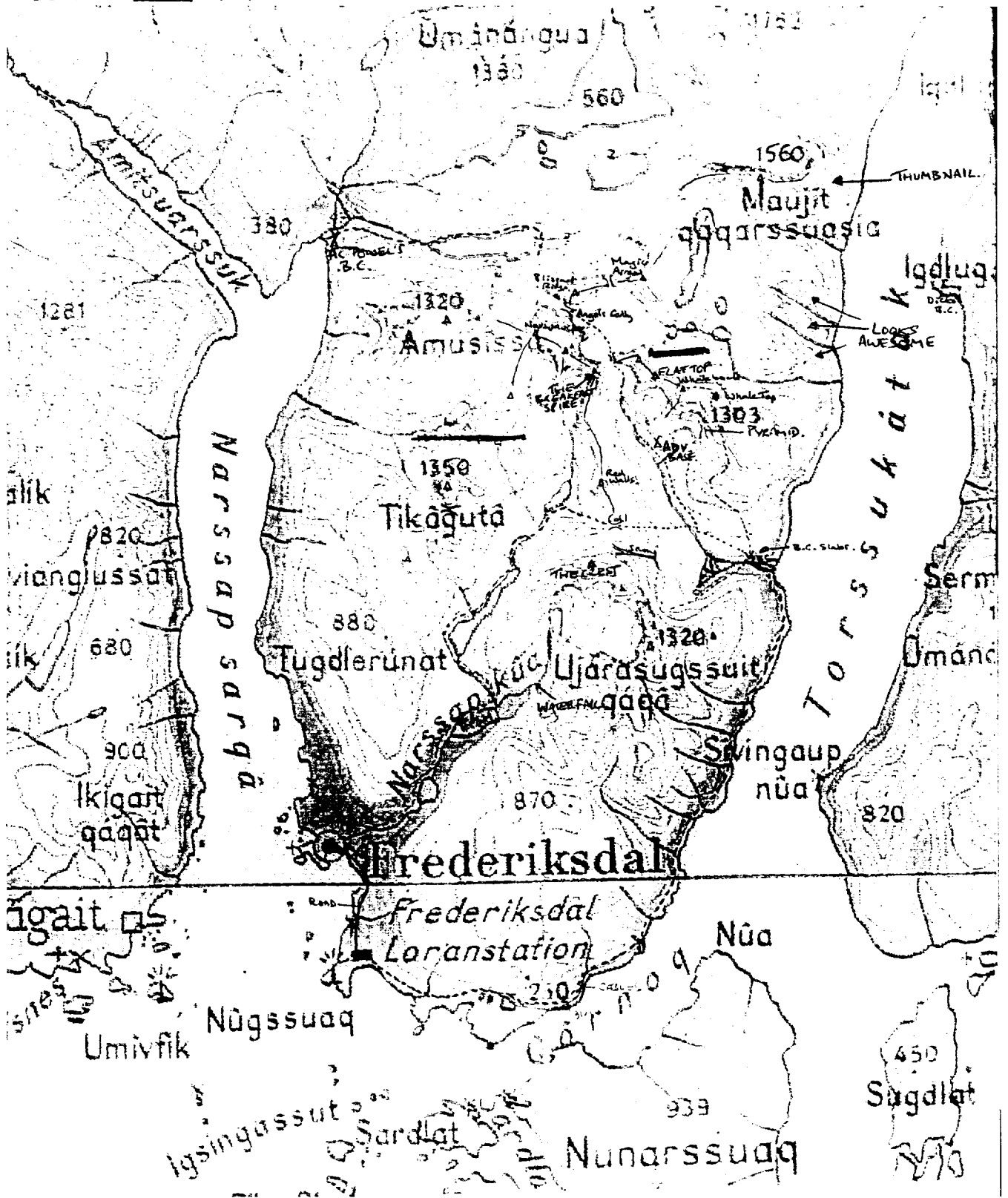
ACCOUNTS:

Income	
MEF grant	900
BMC grant	1800
Personal contributions	6350
	9050

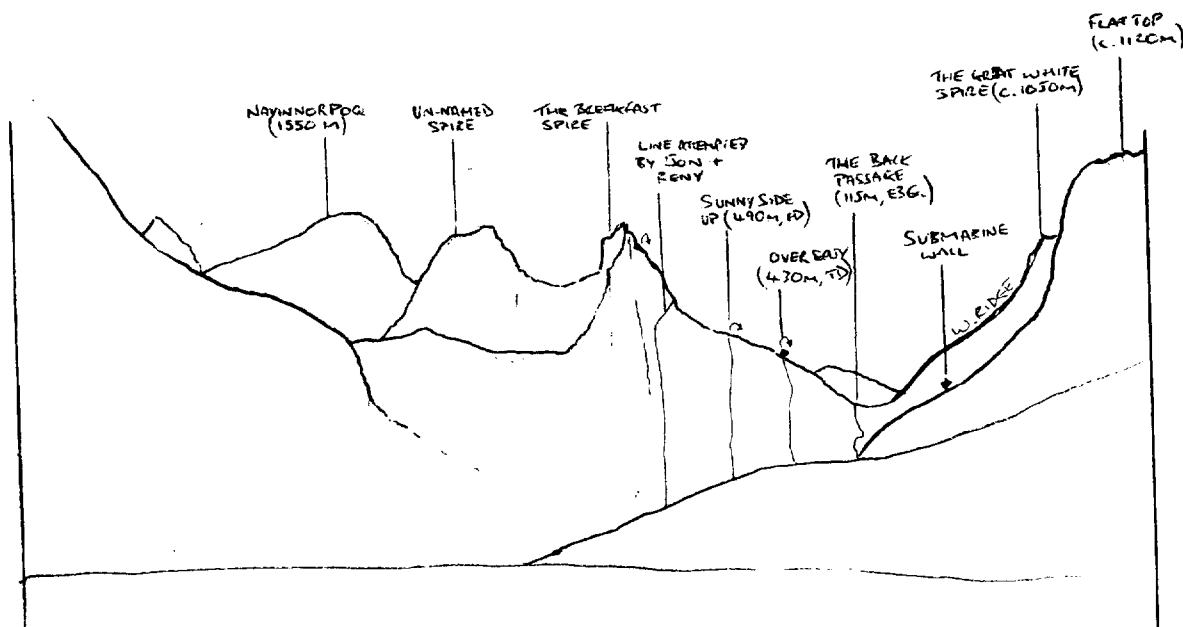
Expenditure	
Travel	6200
Insurance	800
Freight	500
Food + Fuel	750
Equipment	800
	9050

MAP

SCALE: 1cm = 1km



In the interest of adventure for future visitors to topos have been put in this report, although they are available on request.



POTENTIAL FOR GOOD FISHING EVERYWHERE

WHALETOP, 1303M

WHALE BACK

SW. ACETE
FOSSIL
ED.

