

Correspondence

Ike Schlossbach: survey in north-west Greenland

John Wright

Webbs Farmhouse, Cakeham Road, West Wittering, Chichester, West Sussex PO20 8LG

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As Ike Schlossbach's companion on the Greenland ice cap journey mentioned in this month's issue of *Polar Record* (pp 119–24), I was very much interested in his account of it. There is no doubt that the land Ike had seen from the air was that at the head of Inglefield Gulf. In fact, when only thirty miles from Etah and surmounting the local ice cap, this came into sight, Ike thought it was the 'nunatak'. However, we had to go further to make sure.

Although the journey had a negative result in this respect, thanks to the excellent meteorological records maintained by MacGregor's expedition at Etah, and to the very stable pressure conditions, we were able to establish much better heights in the area than had been possible for

previous travellers like Peary, Lauge Koch, and Peter Freuchen; and our observations moved the 2000 m contour in that area about 200 km westwards. We also passed over a strong magnetic anomaly which was probably a buried meteorite.

Not having expected to work at so great a height, the barometer we had taken to Ellesmere Island had too small a range, and I had to make a major adjustment to it when we reached about 1500 m on the way out and then again on our return to this level. This exercise was repeated by the Meteorological Office, who estimated that our heights were accurate to about 50 m. This, together with an account of surveys round Thule in the autumn of 1937, were all published in 'Contributions to the glaciology of north-west Greenland' (*Meddelelser om Gronland* 125(3), 1939).

This was a typical example of the sort of work we did, and of the reliance on our own efforts instead of on aerial rescues, which led me to write to *The Times* (published 15 April 1988) after the two recent abortive attempts to reach the North Pole, which seemed such a waste of money and effort. I only regret that details of the support we received from the Scott Polar Research Institute, and of some of our scientific achievements, had to be omitted from my letter.

CORRECTION

We regret that, in our review of *Pôle Nord: Histoire de sa conquête et problèmes contemporains de navigation maritime et aérienne* (*Polar Record* 24 (149): 141), the name of one of the authors, J. Malaurie, was mis-spelt.