

# **EXPEDITION REPORT**

## **BRITISH DRONNING LOUISE LAND EXPEDITION, NORTH GREENLAND, MAY 2007**

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## **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The British North Greenland Expedition, 2007 was completed during the month of May and comprised a 3-man expedition to the Dronning Louise Land area of North East Greenland, circa 76° North, 26° West. The expedition commenced on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2007 and lasted 27 days (after a delay we were picked up on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2007) and included climbing 10 mountains (8 of which were first ascents) as well as covering over 200km of the icecap.

The expedition fulfilled its purpose – to consolidate polar travel skills and cover distance on the edge of the Greenland icecap, as well as making and recording a number of first ascents.

Whilst on the expedition, a Welsh mountaineering expedition (Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue; 3 team members) also took place in the Dronning Louise Land area, covering the area further to the east but getting dropped and picked up at the same RV points.

Logistics for the expedition were organized via Tangent Expeditions.

The only recorded expedition to the NE Dronning Louise Land area was the British North Greenland expedition of 195-54. This was a military expedition with led by Captain Mike Banks and Hamilton. It lasted 2 seasons and triangulated the northern part of Dronning Louise land.

A tangent led expedition took place in 2001 that explored the area to the east, and near the pick up RV, over a 10 day period.



## **2. OBJECTIVES**

The team's objectives for the expedition were as follows.

- i) Climb and record (making a number of first ascents) mountains in the NE Dronning Louise land area.
- ii) Undertake journey north on Greenland icecap learning and consolidating skills for polar travel.



### 3. TEAM PROFILE

| <b>Name</b>                          | <b>Age</b> | <b>Occupation</b>                |
|--------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| Gavin Booth                          | 31         | Surveyor.                        |
| Adam Wilton                          | 28         | Entrepreneur.                    |
| Nigel Edwards<br>instructor (UKMIC). | 40         | Mountaineering/outdoor education |

#### **Gavin Booth**

Gavin is a chartered surveyor, based in London and born in Aberdeen. Gavin has competed in many ultra marathons including Marathon des Sables Mont Blanc Ultra and Yukon Arctic Ultra. From 2005 Gavin took up mountaineering, and has climbed in the French and Swiss Alps as well as Sardinia.

#### **Adam Wilton**

Adam is businessman based in London. Adam has also competed in many ultra marathons including Marathon des Sables, Mont Blanc Ultra and Guadarun. Since 2005 Adam has also climbed in the French and Swiss Alps and Sardinia.

#### **Nigel Edwards** (Tangent expeditions)

Nigel is an outdoor education instructor and UK MIC qualified mountaineering guide, based in the Lake District, England.

He has represented Tangent Expeditions on numerous previous expeditions to Greenland and holds Mountain Medical qualifications. He also is a canoe instructor in the summer.

Nigel was the technical mountaineering guide and tangent contact for the expedition.



## 4. EXPEDITION LOG

Expedition log - summary

D.L.L. 2007

| Day | Date      | Activity  | Camp GPS posn              | Camp Altitude | Approx. Distance | Activity time | Barometer | Comments   |
|-----|-----------|---|----------------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|-----------|--|
| 1   | 13-May-07 | Fly into mountains. Land on ice. Base camp 1.           | 76°11'407N;<br>026°32'811W | 1,885m        | 0km              | -             | 797       |  |
| 2   | 14-May-07 | "set up day" camp. pm-went for short ski to scope area. |                            |               | 10km             | 2h15          | 794       |  |
| 3   | 15-May-07 | First climb. 2,096m.                                    |                            |               | 3km              | 3h            | 792       |  |
| 4   | 16-May-07 | Second climb. 2,272m.                                   |                            |               | 10km             | 6h            | 795       |  |
| 5   | 17-May-07 | Third climb. 2,170m.                                    |                            |               | 11km             | 5h30          | 791       | v windy & cold at night-wind changed direction (NW to SW). |
| 6   | 18-May-07 | Fourth climb. 1,971m.                                   |                            |               | 20km             | 8h            | 788       | high cloud. Very cold -25 to -30.                          |
| 7   | 19-May-07 | Decamp and moved to camp 2.                             | 76°12'321N;<br>026°45'813W | 1,878m        | 8km              | 2h30          | 784       | wind dropped to zero.                                      |
| 8   | 20-May-07 | Fifth climb. 2,002m.                                    |                            |               | 8km              | 3h            |           | Very cold. -23. Windy. -15 in tent at night.               |
| 9   | 21-May-07 | Moved camp.   | 76°18'677N;<br>026°46'206W | 1,943m        | 12km             | 7h            | 794       | cold -25 at least. Technical problems.                     |
| 10  | 22-May-07 | Moved camp.   | 76°25'437N;<br>026°45'108W | 1,942m        | 15km             | 8h            |           | crevasse field   |
| 11  | 23-May-07 | Sixth climb (Punktun) 2,175m.                           |                            |               | 3km              | 2h30          | 793       | cold -30   |
| 12  | 24-May-07 | Moved camp.   | 76°34'088N;<br>026°37'727W | 1,903m        | 17km             | 6h            | 797       |  |
| 13  | 25-May-07 | Moved camp.   | 76°43'563N;<br>026°32'999W | 1,780m        | 18km             | 6h            | 807       | windy.   |
| 14  | 26-May-07 | Seventh climb. 1,851m.                                  |                            |               | 18km             | 5h            |           | stormy.  |
| 15  | 27-May-07 | Moved camp.   | 76°37'627N;<br>26°18'097W  | 1,876m        | 13km             | 4h            |           | windy.   |
| 16  | 28-May-07 | Moved camp.   | 76°36'247N;<br>025°58'175W | 1,935m        | 9km              | 2h30          |           |  |
| 17  | 29-May-07 | Tent bound.   |                            |               | 0km              | -             |           | stormy   |
| 18  | 30-May-07 | Eight climb (2,053m), and moved camp.                   | 76°32'995N;<br>026°10'296W | 2,011m        | 12km             | 4h40          |           |  |
| 19  | 31-May-07 | Ninth climb. 2,222m.                                    |                            |               | 6km              | 2h40          |           | cold   |
| 20  | 01-Jun-07 | Moved camp (to RV point).                               | 76°28'152N;<br>026°11'590W | 1,870m        | 10km             | 3h            |           |  |
| 21  | 02-Jun-07 | Tenth climb. 2,253m.                                    |                            |               | 20km             | 7h30          |           |  |
| 22  | 03-Jun-07 | Waiting at pick up RV.                                  | 76°28N;<br>26°11W          | 1,870m        | 0km              | -             |           |  |
| 23  | 04-Jun-07 | Waiting at pick up RV.                                  |                            | 1,870m        | 0km              | -             |           |  |
| 24  | 05-Jun-07 | Waiting at pick up RV. On stand by.                     |                            | 1,870m        | 0km              | -             |           |  |
| 25  | 06-Jun-07 | Waiting at pick up RV. On stand by.                     |                            | 1,870m        | 0km              | -             |           |  |
| 26  | 07-Jun-07 | Waiting at pick up RV. On stand by.                     |                            | 1,870m        | 0km              | -             |           |  |
| 27  | 08-Jun-07 | Picked up from RV by twin otter.                        |                            | 1,870m        | 0km              | -             |           |  |



## 5. RECORD OF ASCENTS

10 ascents made in total. 8 of these were first ascents.

| Date      | Climbers   | GPS posn                   | Altitude | Name                  | Route Description  |
|-----------|------------|----------------------------|----------|-----------------------|--|
| 15-May-07 | GB, AW, NE | 76°11'038N;<br>026°30'716W | 2,096m   | Mount Middlemass      | Wide gully, north side. *First ascent.   |
| 16-May-07 | GB, AW, NE | 76°13'588N;<br>026°25'766W | 2,272m   | Charlotte's Fjeld     | West gully to south ridge. *First ascent.  |
| 17-May-07 | GB, AW, NE | 76°14'427N;<br>026°34'013W | 2,170m   | Juan Hamilton's Bjerg | South ridge/ *First ascent.  |
| 18-May-07 | GB, AW, NE | 76°06'628N;<br>026°33'017W | 1,971m   | Balgownie             | North ridge. *First ascent -30°C.  |
| 20-May-07 | GB, AW, NE | 76°12'141N;<br>026°49'851W | 2,002m   | EjaBjerg              | South face. *First ascent.   |
| 23-May-07 | GB, AW, NE | 76°25'709N;<br>026°45'589W | 2,175m   | Punktun               | West face to west ridge. New route. 3rd ascent.  |
| 26-May-07 | GB, AW, NE | 76°48'391N;<br>026°31'074W | 1,851m   | No' Point             | South face. *First ascent.   |
| 30-May-07 | GB, AW, NE | 76°36'198N;<br>025°54'527W | 2,053m   | Nunatak 67            | West face. *First ascent.  |
| 31-May-07 | GB, AW, NE | 76°31'539N;<br>026°10'271W | 2,222m   | Kaldbakur*            | North face, then ridge to summit. *Climbed already- British 1953 expedition- Kaldbakur? Trig point at top. |
| 02-Jun-07 | GB, AW     | 76°30'156N;<br>025°56'000W | 2,253m   | Vivien's Fjeld        | North gully to west ridge. *First ascent.  |

GB (Gavin Booth); AW (Adam Wilton); NE (Nigel Edwards).



## Photographs of Ascents

| Ref.  | Name             | GPS posn                   | Altitude  | Ref. | Name              | GPS posn  | Altitude | Ref. | Name                  | GPS posn                   | Altitude |
|---|------------------|----------------------------|---|------|-------------------|---|----------|------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| 1   | Mount Middlemass | 76°11'038N;<br>026°30'716W | 2,096m  | 2    | Charlotte's Fjeld | 76°13'588N;<br>026°25'766W  | 2,272m   | 3    | Juan Hamilton's Bjerg | 76°14'427N;<br>026°34'013W | 2,170m   |
|    |                  |                            |    |      |                   |    |          |      |                       |                            |          |
| 4   | Balgownie        | 76°06'628N;<br>026°33'017W | 1,971m  | 5    | Eja Bjerg         | 76°12'141N;<br>026°49'851W  | 2,002m   | 6    | Punktun               | 76°25'709N;<br>026°45'589W | 2,175m   |
|   |                  |                            |   |      |                   |   |          |      |                       |                            |          |
| 7   | No' Point        | 76°48'351N;<br>026°31'074W | 1,951m  | 8    | Nunatak 67        | 76°36'198N;<br>025°54'527W  | 2,053m   | 9    | Kaldbakua*            | 76°31'539N;<br>026°10'271W | 2,222m   |
|  |                  |                            |  |      |                   |  |          |      |                       |                            |          |
| 10  | Vivien's Fjeld   | 76°30'156N;<br>025°56'000W | 2,253m  |      |                   |   |          |      |                       |                            |          |
|  |                  |                            |   |      |                   |   |          |      |                       |                            |          |



## 6. PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE EXPEDITION



Adam Wilton manhauling on the icecap.



Gavin Booth with manhauling gear on the icecap.



Adam Wilton & Gavin Booth at summit of No'Point.



Camp on the Greenland Icecap, ~76° N, 26° W.



Adam Wilton in tent.



Gavin Booth in tent.