



(March 27th-28th)

Friday, March 27th

Work continues around camp. There are lists of things to be finished – connecting the shower – adding in the water filters in the kitchen – making a ramp at each end of the strip in case a plane overshoots the runway – widening the runway and making an apron on the side nearest camp for unloading drums.

Julian Goodyear, Janice Lang, Dick MacDougall and Henriette Skourup made the 1 km trek up to the Parks Canada camp and photographed our camp from the hill as well as the Parks camp. The labels on the army ration cans are interesting but no one was willing to try the contents of the “Beef with vegetables and gravy” can. Janice is interested in these cans for a museum that is being put together at Tanquery Fiord.

The DC-3 brought in our Danish colleagues from Eureka where they had been waiting for their Arctic gear to arrive - Christian Marcussen, Morten Sølsten, Uni Ball, and Henrik Anger. The plane also brought material for the northern camp – stove, mattresses, two insulated tents and 5 barrels of fuel.

The DC-3 chose to land on skis on the ice shelf rather than the runway because load was to be transferred to 2 Twin Otters that needed to be re-fuelled before heading out to north camp – and the fuel had been delivered by planes on skis so was up on the snow away from the strip. When the planes land on the ice shelf they actually disappear below the horizon



At one time we had all three aircraft circled around the fuel cache. Unloading the DC-3 is fast because it stops nose-high and the floor slopes steeply down to the rear doors.

We managed to load everything onto the two Twin Otters except a fibreglass sled. We later learned that the 5 barrels of fuel were not intended for the north camp.

Saturday, March 28th

Outside Temperature: -46°C, no wind. We knew it was cold but needed a plane to arrive to confirm the temperature. Even reading the manual and one call south yesterday did not get temperature out of the electronic weather station.



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In the morning the whole camp posed for a group photo – before the flags. Jim Wheedon decided he should appear in his southern attire – shorts – but he did not linger long after the photo was taken.



Photo – Janice Lang

Two Twin Otter went to the northern camp today from Eureka – with one stopping at the Ward Hunt camp to pick up a sled that did not fit on yesterday's load. The other Twin took Jørgen Skafte and Kristen Christoffersen out to set up the northern camp and stayed until a tent was up and the stove working. This camp is located at 85° 30' N – only 270 nautical miles from the north pole. The earlier scouting trip found a flat piece of ice for a runway.

Our cook, Joanne, made history today – at least for our camp – she went skating on the patch of ice behind the kitchen tent – at more than 83°N

Today was a busy day for aircraft – all except the helicopters which were stuck in Resolute due to poor visibility. The DC-3 made two trips with fuel and the De Havilland Buffalo not only left Yellowknife and made it to Resolute, it got out of Resolute before the weather closed the airport and made it into Eureka. While the DC-3 burns 10 barrel s of fuel to deliver 17, the Buffalo can deliver 40 drums to the Ward Hunt Island camp and burn 10.



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One of the Twins, CG-KBC stopped by the Ward Hunt camp and picked up Julian Goodyear, Janice Lang, Dick MacDougall and Christian Marcussen and took them to Eureka enroute to Resolute to catch flights south. The plan was to take them and a co-pilot who was going out and bring back the replacement pilot tomorrow. Unfortunately that journey stopped at Eureka when weather in Resolute closed the airport. The good news is that the First Air flight did not get in either and will run a non-scheduled flight on Sunday.

The HF (High Frequency) radio is much like an old telephone party line in that whoever is listening hears everybody's business. This tidbit was not totally eavesdropping – the other DC-3 is flying aerial gravity and magnetics for us. When they called in to say they were at the north pole and about to run a line back they added that they had flown close to a Russian camp near the pole.

Eureka weather station is very comfortable and the whole station observed earth day, shutting down lights, TV and the internet link – they are after all Environment Canada. With sunset around 9 pm the darkness did not interrupt the Saturday night card game.