

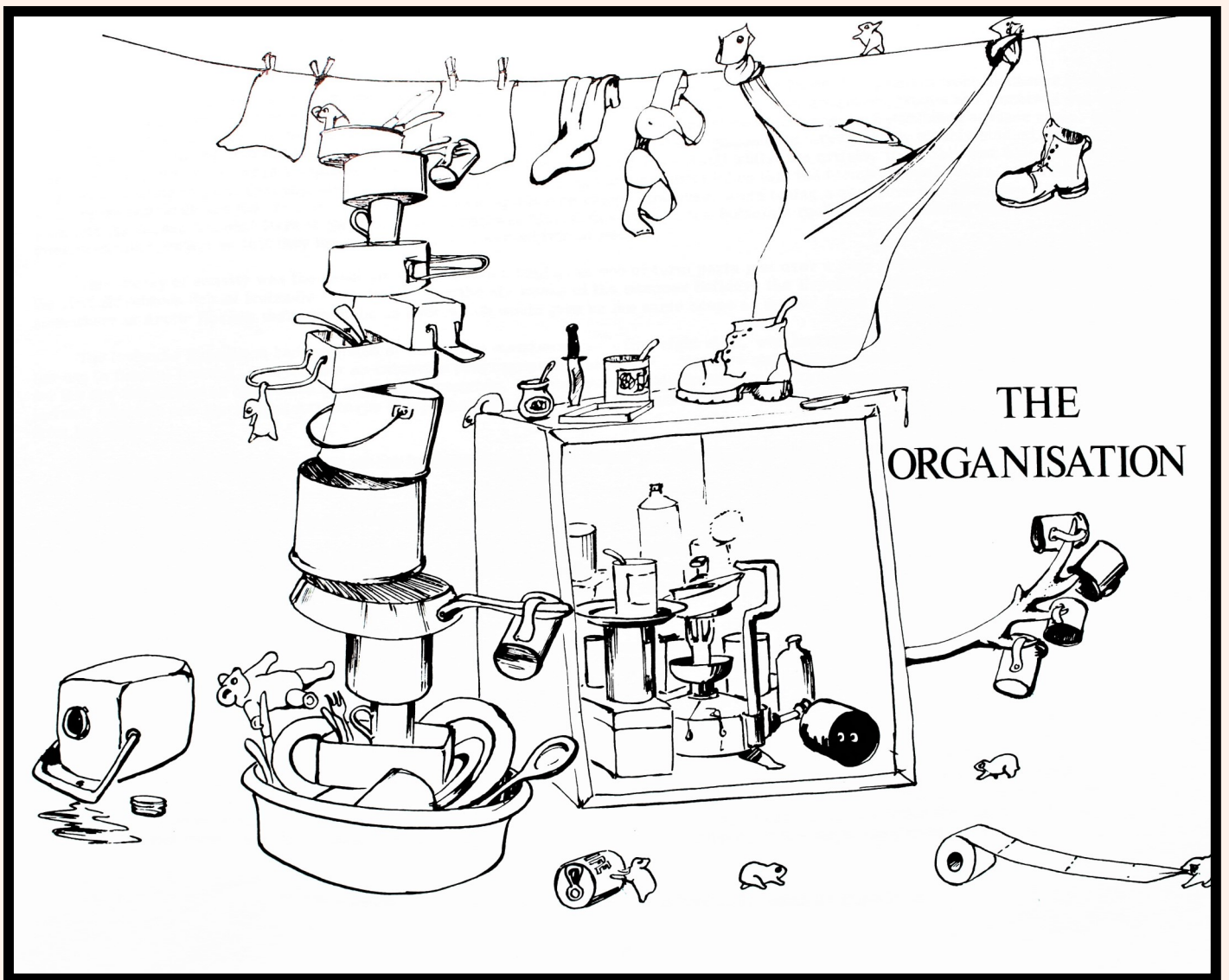
SHIREBROOK AND ARMTHORPE SCHOOLS'

ARCTIC NORWAY EXPEDITION

1970



Sulitjelma was the gateway to the highest mountain region of Arctic Norway but the Expedition started over a year before with planning and training



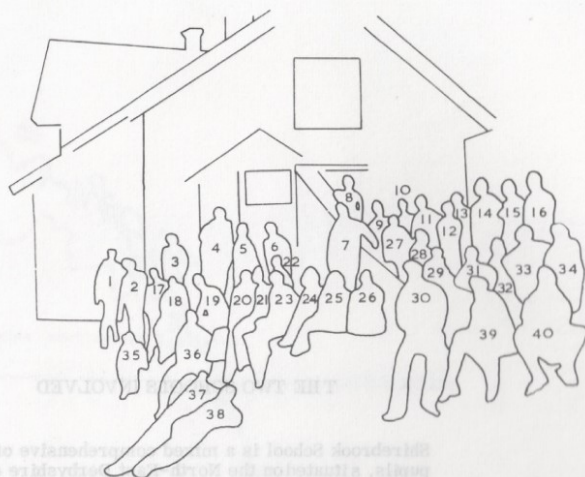


Over three tons of equipment, kit and food packed and sent before the big day arrived 23rd July 1970





EXPEDITION PERSONNEL



No. on Key

- 36 N. E. Grey, Joint Leader, overall co-ordinator, transport officer, Geomorphologist
- 1 W. Reilly, Joint Leader, Treasurer, equipment officer, photographer, sherpa and climber
- 3 I. D. Hammond, Armthorpe contingent leader, food officer and botanist
- 19 R. D. V. Maggs, I/c fund raising, film producer, geologist
- 18 E. J. Gent, Packing Officer, geographer
- 38 B. M. Booth, Fund raising, Artist
- 39 C. T. J. Pearson, Fund Raising, Scientist
- 13 T. Bridal, Assistant Food Officer, Botanist
- 12 Mrs. H. Bridal, Quartermistress, Botanist
- 27 D. Smith, Botanist
- 28 Mrs. J. Smith, Quartermistress, Nurse
- M. Webb, Geographer

No. on Key

- 5 Jimmy Baker
- 24 Glynis Bidwell
- 9 Paul Coggan
- 14 John Cooksey
- 23 Andrew Dearnaley
- 17 Peter Duckmanton
- 33 Nigel Fern
- 34 Brian Fretwell
- 25 Janice Glossop
- 32 Chris Green
- 22 Susan Lawty
- 7 Ashley Lowe
- 35 David Marples
- 40 Arthur Marshall
- 29 Hugh McCreddie
- 21 Janet Murfin
- 30 Chris Newton
- 31 Guy Pacey
- 6 Martin Pulford
- 26 Rita Schmidt
- 15 Terry Stubbs
- 39 Colin Walker
- 2 John Walters
- 16 Robert Ward
- 20 Shirley Widdowson

Shirebrook School

Age

- 15 Geography
- 15 Art
- 15 Geology
- 18 Sherpa
- 16 Art
- 18 Geography
- 18 Geomorphology
- 18 Sherpa
- 16 Art
- 17 Science
- 16 Botany
- 16 Geography
- 17 Geomorphology
- 18 Botany
- 16 Science
- 18 Geography
- 18 Science
- 18 Sherpa
- 15 Geology
- 16 Botany
- 16 Science
- 16 Geology
- 17 Art
- 18 Geology
- 17 Botany

Armthorpe School

- 10 Neil Corbett
- 8 Tom Hodby
- 11 Stewart Lindemann
- Glen Smirthwaite

- 16 Botany
- 17 Science
- 18 Botany
- 15 Geomorphology

Sulitjelma School

- Stein Raae 15 Geomorphology/Interpreter and Liaison Officer

Mrs. M. Grey, Editor, Home Base Liaison

OVERNIGHT SEA FERRY TO BERGEN



Newcastle to Bergen by Ferry





And on to Bodo by plane at midnight then to the local cinema, base for three days.

Entertained by the midnight movie before sleep!



Catering facilities were very limited but a local ex fisherman let us use his garage. His wife was away!

A bit of brilliant fishing in the harbour landed some 27 fish in 30minutes. Were they edible?

Whilst our 3 tons of stores were being reclaimed from the docks we made friends with the local Norwegians



Then on the train to Sulitjelma, a copper mining town some 20miles inland towards the Swedish border.





Sulitjelma is the gateway to the highest mountains in Arctic Norway and two ice caps. Exciting opportunities just out of sight but Base Camp was some 500m up the mountain side.

Luckily, or by good organisation, “tractors” were there to help



Some got a ride



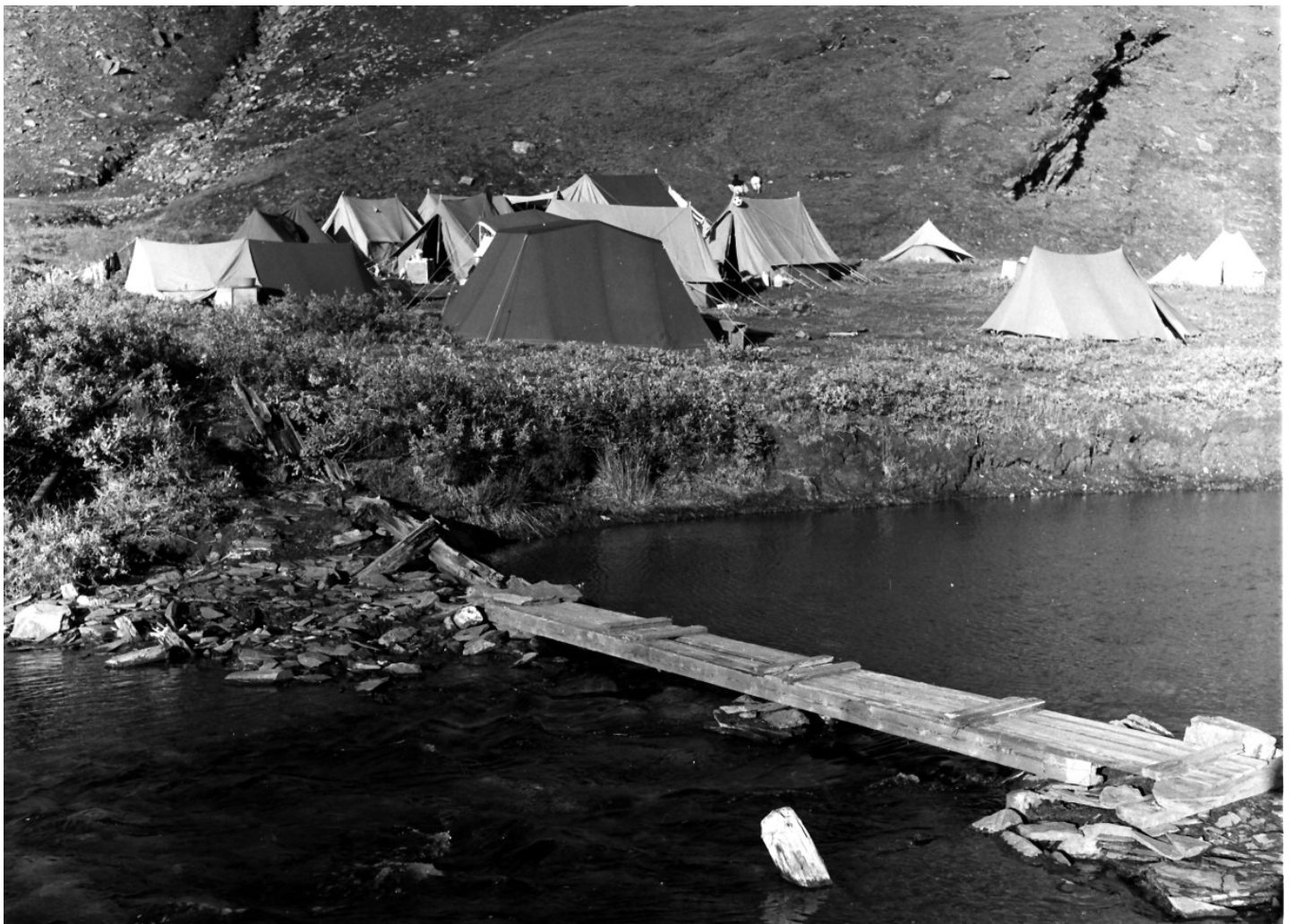
Until the trailer turned over

And so we arrived at Ny Sulitjelma, base camp for the next 4 weeks. Old mine workings still existed



And all the stores arrived safely





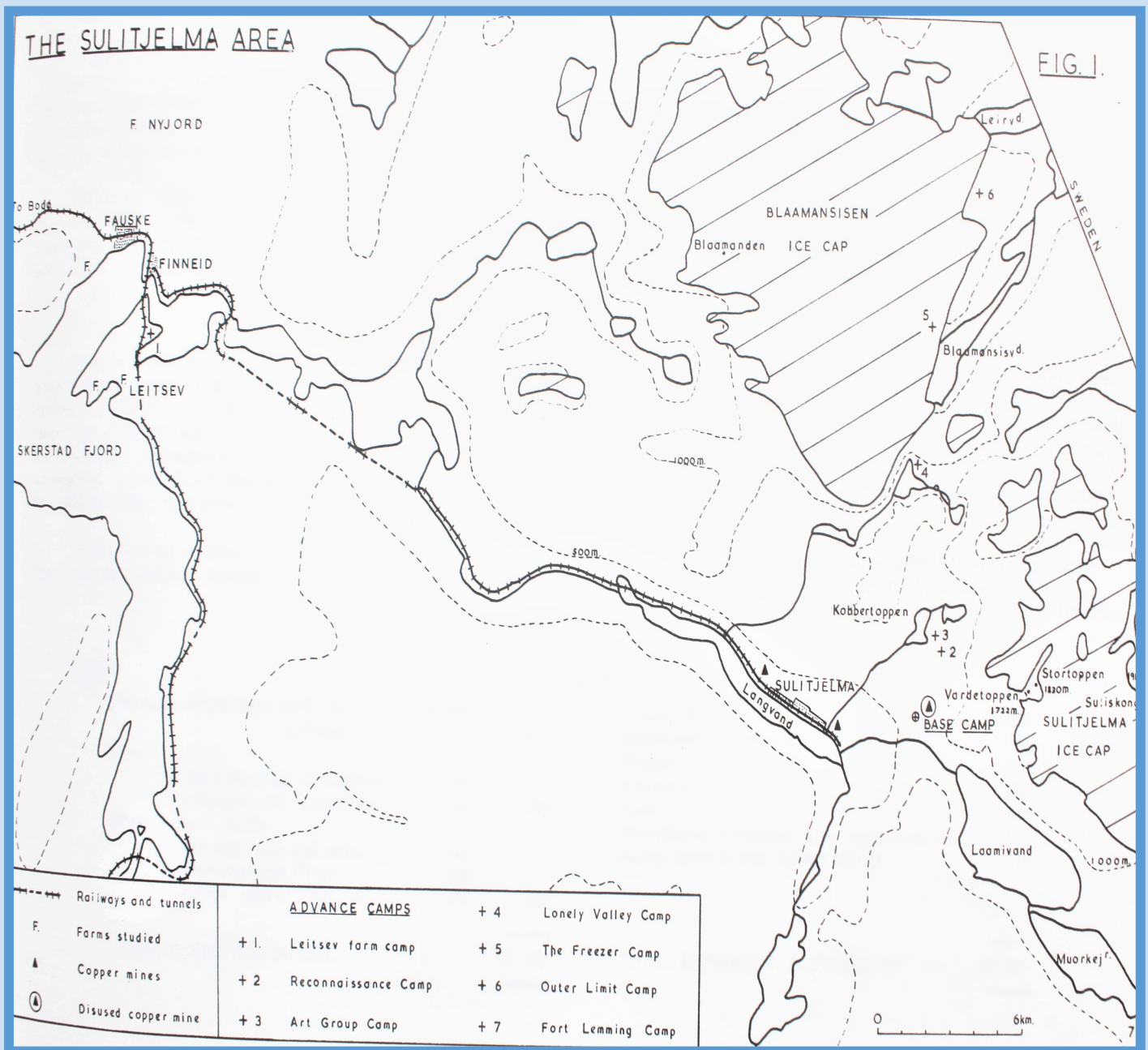
BASE



CAMP

SCENES







THE EXPERIENCE



Up from Base Camp the “Gateway to Isolation” led to some of the most spectacular scenery in Norway.

The 42 members of the expedition, including 12 staff, subdivided into small groups Human Geography, Geomorphology, Science, Geology, Botany & Art.

In addition a climbing and exploring group also acted as Sherpas



VARDETOPPEN



RECONNAISSANCE CAMP





With tantalising
glimpses of spectacular
mountains and
glaciers

And here we should be introduced to Stein,
a 15 year old Norwegian student from Sulitjelma,
who joined us for the expedition.



A permanent advance camp was set up near Blamansisen Ice Cap and named Lonely Valley. It was occupied in turn by the Geomorphology & Science group, Geology & Art



With no photos available for Lonely Valley in 1970 this was taken on the 1977 Expedition when snow cover was much greater

In 1970 the lake was unfrozen and camp was on the “beach”

Just over the hill was the ice cap, the very spectacular scenery we had hoped for

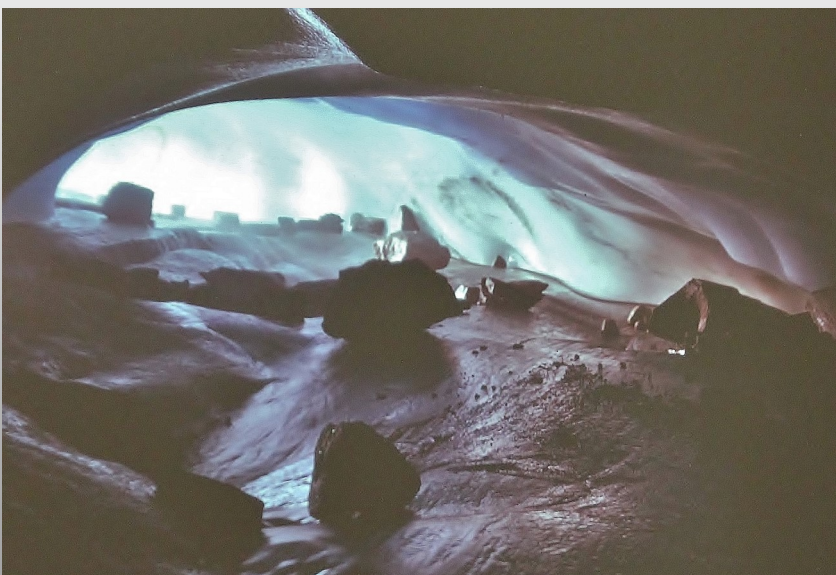




**The first there were the Geomorphology & Science groups
studying the glacier margins and ice flow**

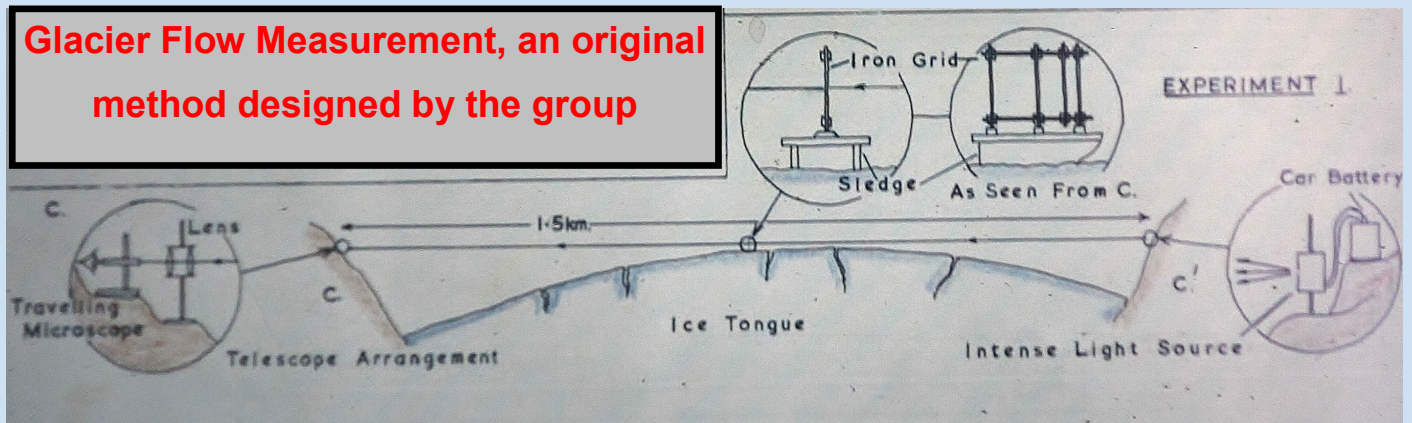


The ice caves were explored and even lit using the portable generator used by the scientists





Glacier Flow Measurement, an original method designed by the group



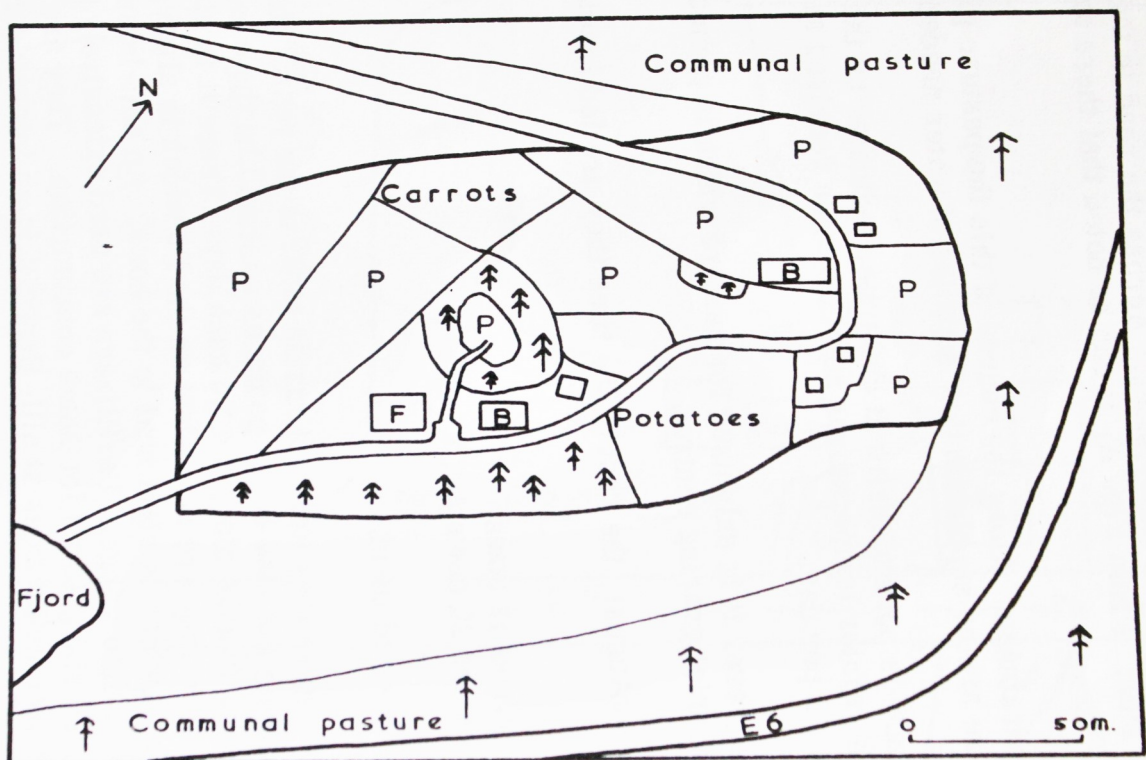
**SCIENCE
GROUP**

**Measuring temperatures
within the glacier**

Meanwhile the Human Geography Group left Base to study Arctic Farming nearer the coast



FIG. 3 A. PLAN OF FARM AT LEITSEV.



P. Pasture. F. Farmhouse. B. Barns. □ Outbuildings.

**The Art Group produced many paintings in a variety of
camps and their work is represented by two by
Mike Booth Art Leader**



And the Botanists undertook a project examining the growth rate of arctic flora suggested by York University



**And plagued by
mosquitos**



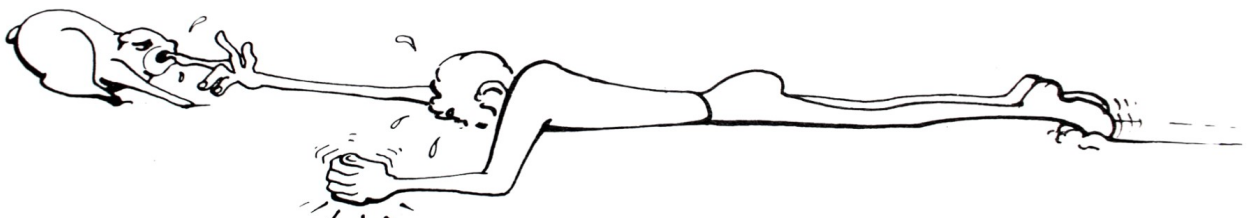
But the cloudberryes were delicious



LEMMINGS



**This was something of a lemming year .
They got everywhere, into rucksacks, over paintings,
On the ice cap, in the rivers
And just around!**



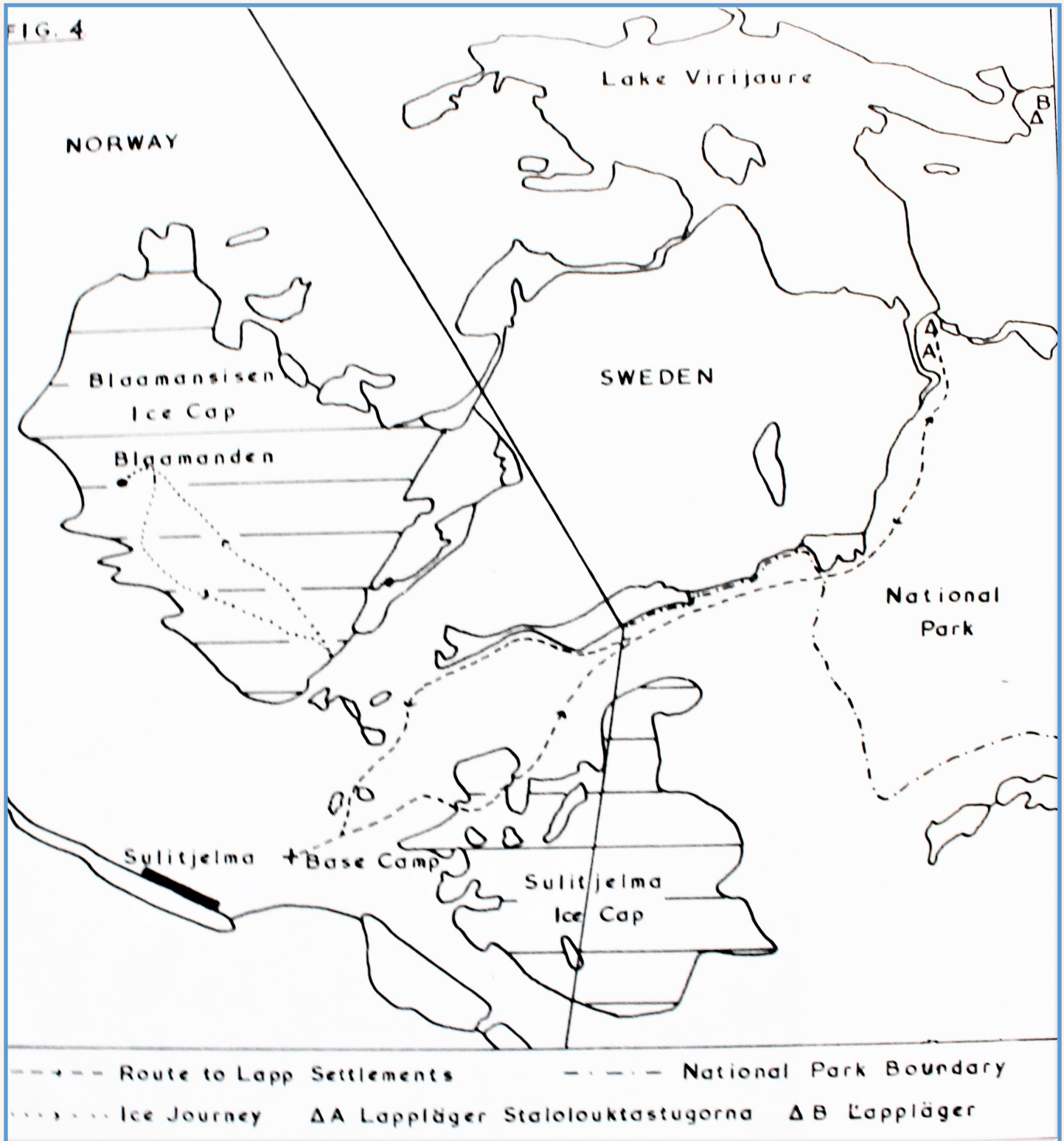
THE TREK ACROSS BLAMANSISEN ICE CAP



Once their Sherpa duties were over the climbing group set off on their trek across the Blamansisen Ice Cap, the 5th largest glacier in Norway.. It is heavily crevassed above and on the outlet glaciers. The group reached their summit goal at a height of 5100 feet with a combination of heavily crevassed areas and smooth ice.



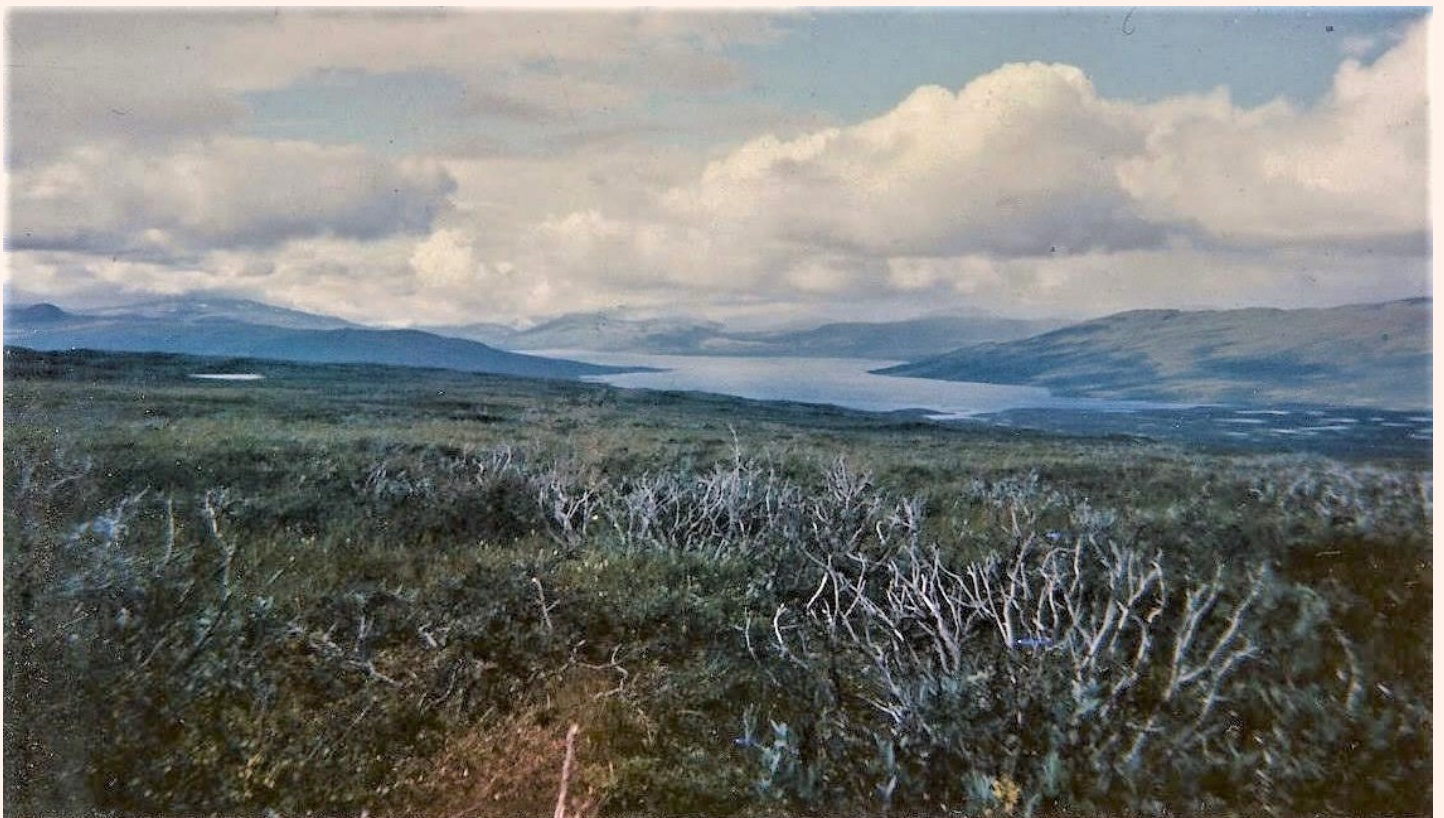
THE TREK INTO SWEDISH LAPLAND



Having completed their climbing ventures and the mapping of the geology, both groups set off separately into Swedish Lapland to visit a Sami settlement and explore the mountain area.



Swedish scenery is softer and greener, quite a contrast with across the border in Norway











The Geography Groups escape to Fort Lemming at the east of Muorkejaure near the Swedish Border

Perhaps the only action shot of Ted, carrying the Scout Tent up to the boat, approximate weight 80 lbs (37kg)







**Where Ted was plied with neat moonshine by visiting Norwegians
and “ his eyes came out on stalks” Exactly what it felt like!**





Stunning scenery from up above the camp.







THE END OF A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE



ROGUES GALLERY









MEMORABLE QUOTATIONS

Rita “ in aircraft 333.00 ft up “ Why have we stopped”

Guy “ The water was taking so long to boil, I
just shoved the tea bags in to save time”

John “We’ve just had a whole billy full of porridge and raisins washed down
with strawberry foam. And we don’t feel so good”

Paul “Finally he decided it was raining and we turned back. He also
thought he had lost his map case, which caused another detour. This made
me very furious. But seeing that I have a degree of respect for Mr Maggs
and he is bigger than me I kept my thoughts to myself”

Stein “There was one thing surprising me very much about the English.
They loved photographing the lemmings. Those little gnawers, which when
it is a year of lemmings, swarm all over our mountains”

David First words in his logbook. “This is the logbook of a true, hardy
mountaineer. Catch the tense atmosphere as he carries out his bold ven-
tures, scours billies, stirs the soup, protects his faded green tent against the
Arctic terror: the lemming; suspense day after day as he runs out of Brillo
pads with the saucepan still half clean. Read how Marples and his intrepid
colleagues Cooksey, Dearnley, and Walters fight their battle with the head-
less cowboy that haunts the camp by night, the white of his coat lit by a bil-
ly lamp. You may wonder how he survived against the dreaded disease of
diarrhoea; here is his story, in words. “

Log book entry, Anon. “Have you seen the sunset John”

“No, but the jelly is having difficulties”

Chris “Every mosquito you eat is one less to mate”

AND TO END

Finance;

Total Expedition Income £3625

Total Expedition Expenditure £3615

Profit £10

Weather

Maximum temperatures

Base Camp 29C Lonely Valley 27C

Minimum Temperatures

Icecap -2C : Base Camp 2C:

Rainfall

Base Camp Total 1.86". Wettest day 0.48"

The Experience retrospectively

Quite glad to be home now I suppose. But what do we remember of this eventful into the Norwegian outback? At the moment nothing except it has been "great ". Tomorrow we will be able to relate to a tumultuous jumble of events and ideas including reindeer, leaky tents, stupid promises, powdered and dried food, icy water, lemmings, Vardetoppen, mountains and ridges, snow patches , icecaps, screes, lakes, fjords, farms, people and personalities. Later the jumble will sort itself out into coherent events and a wealth of experiences but will sadly become a thing of the past , to recollect vividly now and again (JM)

Chorus of camp song

Oh my what a happy life we lead

Underneath the clouds

Oh my, what a happy life we lead

We're just a wholesome happy crowd