

# **HMS *Challenger's* Wintering Party, 1933-34: A Labrador Journal**

**Thomas Hampson**  
edited by William Glover

*HMS Challenger fut engagé pour l'arpentage de la côte du Labrador de 1932 à 1934. Le présent document est tiré du journal de Leading Seaman Hampson, équipier abord de HMS Challenger, qui hiverna sur la côte du Labrador. L'hiver, l'équipage continua son travail à pied et en traîneau à chien afin de pouvoir compléter les cartes hydrographiques. Ce document est important pour deux raisons. D'abord, il offre les observations de l'équipe des hiverneurs. Et, chose plus importante, il fut écrit par un membre d'équipage de rang inférieur. Ce genre de document est rare, un journal ayant plus habituellement été tenu par un officier.*

HMS *Challenger* was employed surveying the Labrador coast over the years 1932-34.<sup>1</sup> This document is from the journal kept by Leading Seaman Thomas Hampson, a crew member of HMS *Challenger*, who wintered over on the Labrador coast, after weather had forced the ship to leave. The wintering party was tasked with continuing the coastlining<sup>2</sup> and mapping

<sup>1</sup> A biography of the ship, *Challenger: The Life of a Survey Ship* was written by G.S. Ritchie, (London, 1957). See also Rear Admiral G.S. Ritchie, "HMS *Challenger's* Surveys in Labrador, 1932-34," in William Glover (ed), *Charting Northern Waters; Essays for the Centenary of the Canadian Hydrographic Service*, (Montreal & Kingston, 2004).

<sup>2</sup> "Coastlining" is the work of determining the actual coastline for its depiction on a chart. The survey work done by *Challenger* and the wintering party was based on triangulation - quite simply, a series of triangles. For the first triangle, the baseline was very carefully measured, and the position was determined by astronomical observation. From that first triangle, the survey was extended by creating more triangles, using as the points either distinctive geographic features or setting up beacons, marks or triangulation stations. Angles between these points were measured by theodolite. By "solving the triangle," so the position of these new points could be determined (or new astronomical observations could be taken). The coast line between these various points was filled in by coastlining. The preferred way to do this was to walk along the coast. If time or conditions, such as steep cliffs, did not permit walking the coast, it could be sketched in from a small boat following the coast. The work of the wintering party was to fill in as much of the coast line as they could, when the winter ice would make walking around the islands much easier. This also included the provision of necessary topographic detail. Coastlining was

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necessary to complete the hydrographie charts. It was under the charge of Lieutenant-Commander "Buck" Baker.<sup>3</sup> Lieutenant Deane was the assistant surveyor,<sup>4</sup> and Surgeon Lieutenant-Commander "Doc" Bingham completed the officer complement. The ratings were Petty Officer "Stevo" Stevenson, Leading Seaman Hampson, author of this account, Able Seamen A. J. "Fred" Marlow and Marshall, and Officers' Steward J. "Joe" Holgate who was the cook.<sup>5</sup>

This document is important for two reasons. First, it offers an observer's account of the wintering party, left by HMS *Challenger*, to complete coast line information for the survey of the Labrador coast. Second, and perhaps more important, it was written by a member of the lower deck. Such accounts are rare, most journals or diaries having been kept by officers. It is obvious that Hampson was a careful and interested observer, as one might expect not only of a member of the Hydrographie service, but of a sailor appointed the captain's coxswain. Hampson's son, Antony Oakes Hampson copied the journal, (written in a difficult hand), in 2004 and made it available to Rear Admiral G.S. "Steve" Ritchie, RN, formerly Hydrographer of the Navy. He in turn passed it to me. I am grateful both to Hampson's family and to Admiral Ritchie for the journal and photographs, and for permission to publish them. The journal remains in private hands.

A word about the geography of the area may be helpful to the reader. Nain is the principal community on the Labrador coast north of Cartwright. It was established by Moravian missionaries in 1771. Later the Hudson's Bay Company also established a post there, making it the major commercial centre as well. The location of Nain on the coast in relation to the other communities mentioned in the journal is shown on Map 1. From sea, Nain must be approached with care. Amongst the numerous islands and shoals, the Hen and Chickens Islands<sup>6</sup> must be positively identified. The a ship can turn towards the coast, and

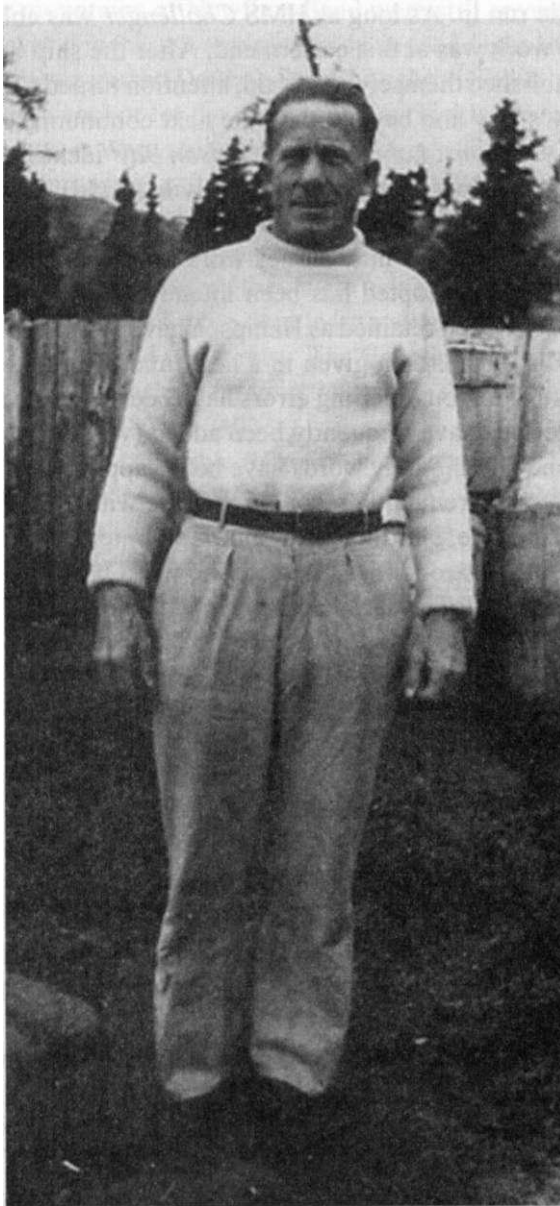
best done before the soundings for water depths were made during the navigation season. See Rear Admiral Sir William J.L. Wharton, *Hydro-graphical Surveying*, fourth edition revised and enlarged by Admiral Sir Mostyn Field, (London, 1920) Chap VII.

<sup>3</sup> Ultimately Captain E.H.B. Baker, RN, DSO. In August 1941, Baker, then a commander, was appointed in command of HMS *Endeavour*, to survey harbours in southern Egypt and the Sudan for use re-supplying British forces fighting Rommel. Six months later the ship was paid off, and Baker was appointed Senior Naval Officer, Aegean, on the British held island of Leros. He was awarded the DSO for harassing German forces in the area. When the island was overrun, Baker became a prisoner of war, and the Senior British Officer in Camp Marlag O, near Bremen. As the war in Europe ended, he was placed in charge of a desperate 150 mile march enforced upon the prisoners towards Lubeck. In 1949, by then a captain, he commanded the survey ship HMS *Dalrymple* for a season's work in the Persian Gulf. His final appointment, 1950-52, was as Assistant Hydrographer of the Navy.

<sup>4</sup> Lieutenant-Commander Dennis Deane was killed in action in August, 1940, when the minesweeper, HMS *Express*, of which he was the navigating officer, was sunk in an enemy minefield off the coast of Holland.

<sup>5</sup> Holgate served with Baker in the 1940 Norway campaign, and elsewhere at sea during the Second World War. After his retirement, he settled on the south coast of England. When Rear Admiral Ritchie visited him there about 1960, he vividly remembered his time on the Labrador coast.

<sup>6</sup> "The Hen and Chickens are a chain of above-water rocks at the SE entrance of the outer approach channel to Nain. They are reported to be clearly recognizable from seaward, standing out darkly against their background." *Sailing Directions: Labrador and Hudson Bay*, (Ottawa, sixth edition, 1988,) 259, (hereafter, *Sailing Directions*).



Leading Seaman Thomas Hampson,  
the author of this journal.

Given the dangerous nature of the passage, it is essential that they be correctly identified before proceeding from sea into Nain. (Map 2)

begin the thirty-odd mile run in. As long as HMS *Challenger* was able to stay in the area, the focus of the survey work was at this eastern end. After the ship headed south, and the wintering party had established themselves at Nain, attention turned to the inshore passages. To the south, is Voisey's Bay and beyond that, the next community is Davis Inlet. North from Nain, the *Sailing Directions: Labrador and Hudson Bay*<sup>7</sup> identify three possible routes to Port Manvers: the inner (west of South Aulatsivik Island), middle (east of South Aulatsivik Island) and outer route (east of the outlying island). These maps are easily seen on Map 2. The area of much of the winter survey work is shown in better detail on Map 3.

The editorial standard adopted has been intended for the reader's convenience. Places names spellings have been retained as Hampson gave them. Wherever possible, they have been located, with their position given in a note, and, where necessary, the current spelling provided. The few obvious spelling errors have been corrected, rather than trouble the reader with "sic." Periods have frequently been added (without indication) where they seemed to be missing, and occasionally words have been supplied [within square brackets] to clarify the sense. Hampson frequently recorded the date with an astronomical symbol of the day of the week, and the date, omitting the month. Computer technology does not permit the easy reproduction of the astronomical sign, so the word has been provided, and [also where he omitted it, the month]. The page heads given in the journal, but of less utility here, have been dropped.

Finally, I am grateful to Dr Oalf Janzen of Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, Memorial University of Newfoundland, at Corner Brook, for his comments and contributions about Labrador history and bibliography.

Halifax to Labrador Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July: We left Halifax N.S. for Nain Labrador to continue our survey of that coast. About five miles out we had to reduce speed owing to low banks of fog. Overhead was quite clear but visibility was only a few yards all round. Two evolutions were carried out in the evening Fire Stations (54 seconds) and Abandon Ship (5'10").

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July Cabot Strait: Still very thick all round but bright overhead. The sea temperature is much lower (58°f). Went into hand steering for our evolution tonight (45"). Fog lifted in the afternoon so we were able to go at half speed. Entered Gulf of St Lawrence at 1830.

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July: Heavy fog again. Sea and air temperature much lower (55° & 56°). Fog lifted at noon. Passed Hawke Bay at 1700. Evolution "Man overboard" boat away 1 min. buoy picked up 2'35" boat hoisted 8 min. Sighted our first ice at 1800 which consisted of

<sup>7</sup> *Sailing Directions*, 261-67.

large growlers.<sup>8</sup> The mountains of Newfoundland were still covered with snow.

Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> July: Several icebergs were passed during the night and the ship had to reduce speed at times. At 1730 we passed Domino Point.<sup>9</sup> As the visibility was becoming very poor the Captain<sup>10</sup> decided to anchor for the night at Indian Tickle. Went to "Collision stations" (time 3'55"). Temperatures were still lower. Sea 44° - air 42°.

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July: Impossible to get under weigh at 0400 as expected owing to fog. Managed to weigh at 1130. Passed several large icebergs and hundreds of growlers. Tried breaking up some of the bergs by blowing the siren. During the afternoon the icebergs had the appearance of floating in air before they were actually seen on the horizon. When they were actually seen, they appeared to be double [drawing in text]. This illusion was caused by mirage. Some of them looked very pretty. The Captain decided to carry on steaming all night and by rigging the 11 " flashing lamp in the crow's nest we were able to keep a better lookout for bergs. Temp sea 43° air - 40°.

Sunday July 23<sup>rd</sup>: We were only able to go at slow speed owing to shallow patches. At three thirty we arrived at Hopedale. Mr Perret of the Moravian mission station came on board and I took him and the captain ashore again after tea. Went ashore again after supper with some fruit for Miss Perret who is ill. " The Captain sent the fruit. Our old friends the mosquitos were pretty thick. Their bites are not dangerous but they are very irritating and leave a small lump. Temp A 42° S 44°.

Monday July 24<sup>th</sup>: Left Hopedale after sending the mail ashore and arrived at Davis Inlet where I landed ashore with the Captain to visit the Hudson Bay Co's agent, Mr Peters. I also met Mr Freeman Saunders a trapper who has lived here all his life. He runs the mails from Makkovic<sup>12</sup> to Nain during the winter by dog team, a distance of 100 miles, doing the trip in about six days. There were about ninety Indians at Davis Inlet who had come down for their annual visit to the priest who arrives sometime this week. No one seems to know why they travel hundreds of miles to see him because he cannot speak their language and they cannot understand English but to use Mr Saunders own words "they just come" and have a big feast on the day he arrives. They travel about in canoes made of spruce and covered with canvas painted over. The canoes are very light and can be easily carried by one man. Mr Deane bought one for \$dollars 10 and tried paddling about in it but I am afraid he wants a lot of practice yet. Temperatures were A47° and S43°.

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July: Left Davis Inlet at 0700 and arrived Ford Harbour at 1630. Lowered a

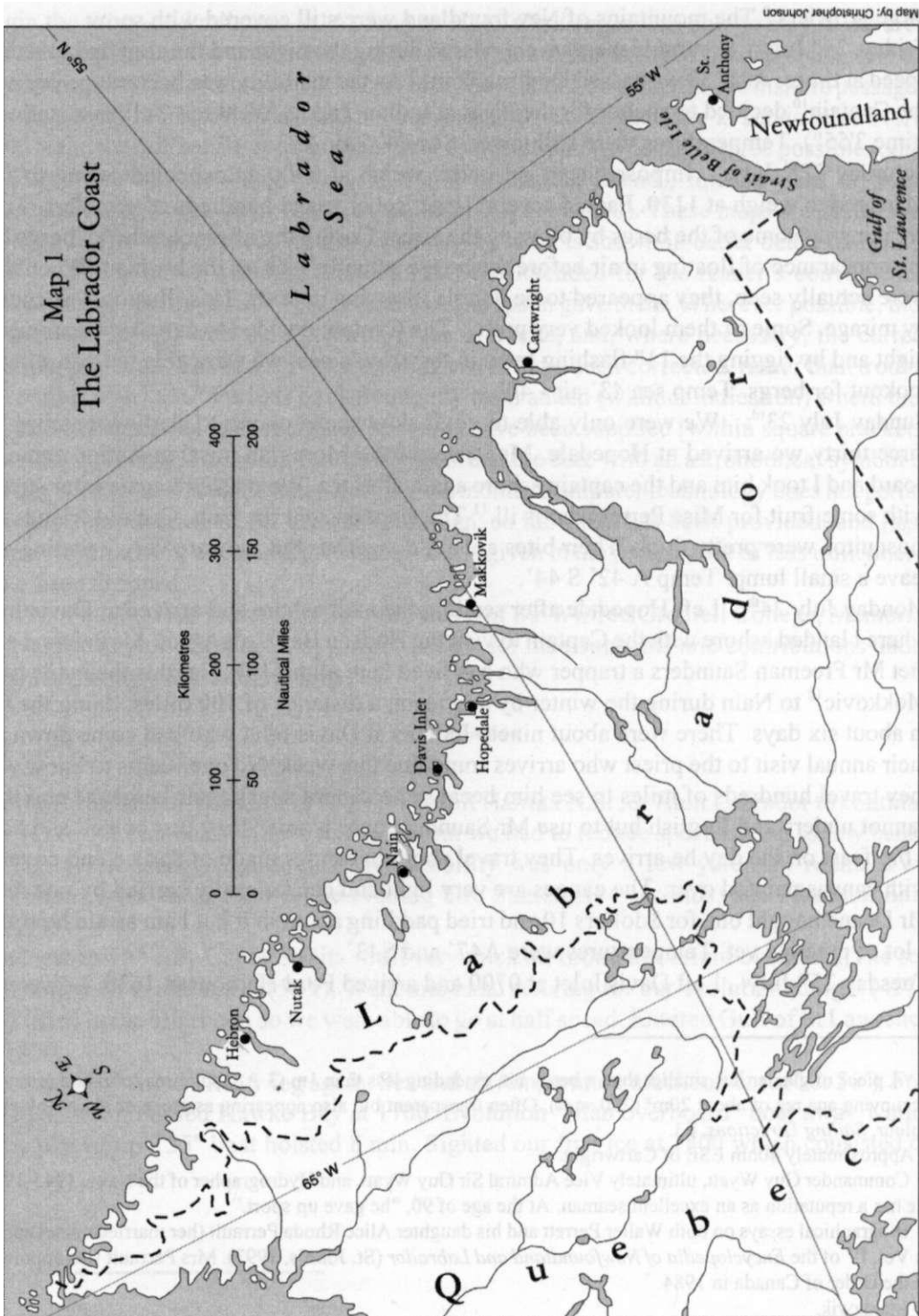
<sup>8</sup> "A piece of glacier ice, smaller than a bergy bit, extending less than 1m (3 ft) above sea level and normally occupying an area of about 20m<sup>2</sup> (200 sq ft). Often transparent but also appearing as green or almost black in colour. *Sailing Directions*, 63.

<sup>9</sup> Approximately 40nm ESE of Cartwright.

Commander Guy Wyatt, ultimately Vice Admiral Sir Guy Wyatt, and Hydrographer of the Navy, 1945-1950. He has a reputation as an excellent seaman. At the age of 90, "he gave up sport."

<sup>11</sup> Biographical essays on both Walter Perrett and his daughter Alice Rhoda Perrault (her married name) appear in Vol. IV of the *Encyclopedia of Newfoundland and Labrador* (St. John's, 1993). Mrs Perrault was appointed to the Order of Canada in 1984.

<sup>12</sup> Makkovik.



boat to re-flag one of our marks which was still up. Mr Deane had some more practice with his canoe and finished up by having a ducking. The Captain seems to be able to manage it. Temperatures A 55° S 44°.

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July: Landed with Captain and Lt Monk to erect four secondary stations. Some of our old marks are still up and only want re-flagging. Temperatures - A 49° S - 43°. Mosquitos were very bad ashore. We found a human skull on one island bleached white by the sun, but we could not find any more bones.

Thursday July 27<sup>th</sup>: Landed at Tessijalialuk Island<sup>13</sup> to re-erect a mark. Before we had finished the fog came down and as the mark was 1,100 feet high we had difficulty in finding our way down until we came to the river which made things easier for us. Luckily the fog was thinner down below and didn't delay us much on our return trip of 26 miles to the ship. Temp A 41° - S 37°.

Friday July 28<sup>th</sup>: Left Ford Harbour for Nain and arrived there at 1200. Mr Clark of the Hudson's Bay Co. [HBC] came on board.<sup>14</sup> In the afternoon I landed the Captain ashore to visit the missionary Mr Grubb. Mr Wheeler a surveyor employed by the Newfoundland Government came on board to dinner this evening. He looks a typical wild man. He never shaves or has a haircut and lives "on the land."

Saturday July 29<sup>th</sup>: Nain all day. Mr and Mrs Grubb came on board to dinner. Temp A 42° S 37°.

Sunday July 30<sup>th</sup>: Landed the Captain ashore after tea. Hoisted boats. Mr Clark came on board to dinner.

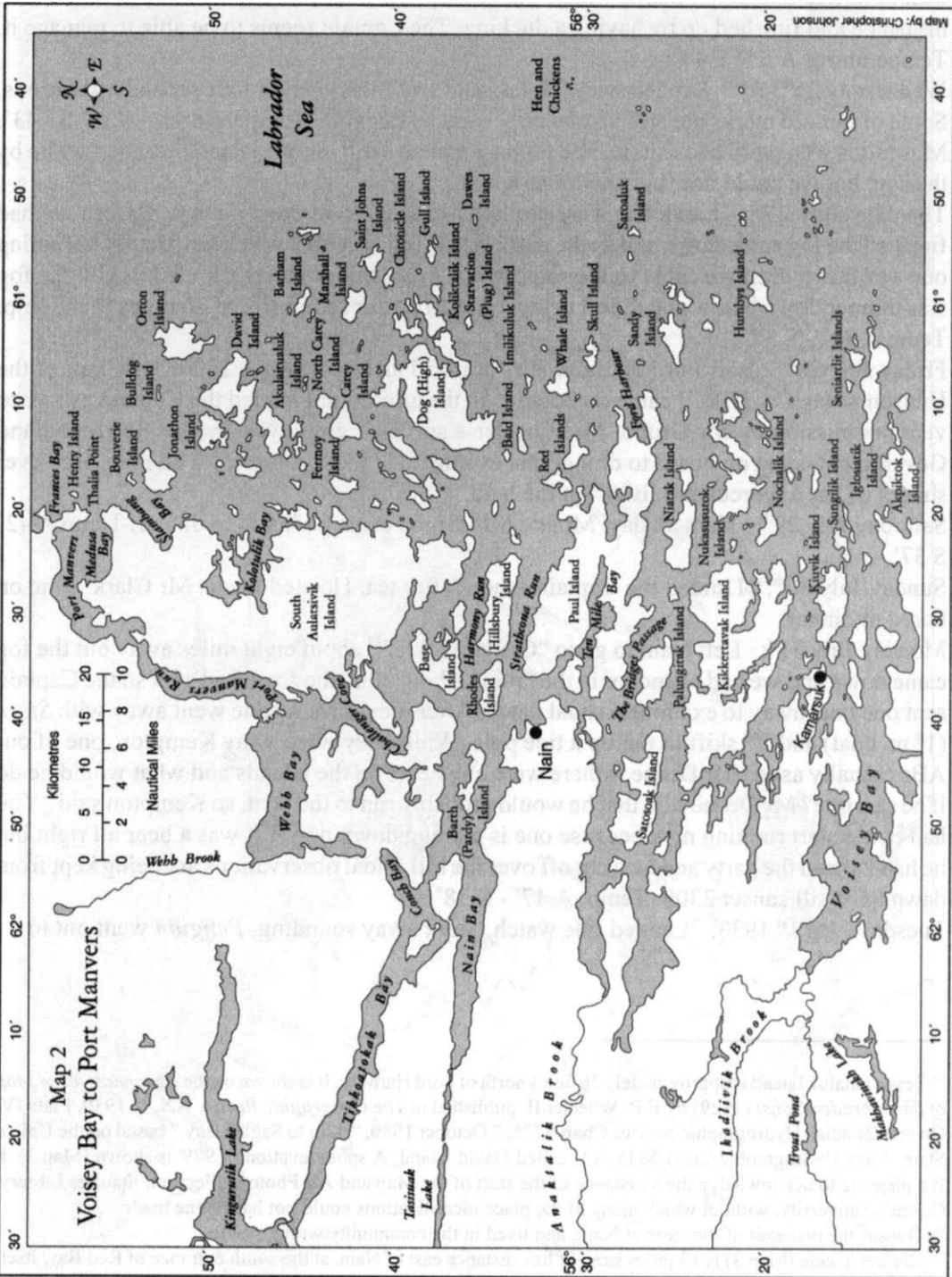
Monday July 31<sup>st</sup>: Left Nain to go to "Clarks Tickle"<sup>15</sup> about eight miles away but the fog came down and we had to anchor in the "run." About 1000 the fog lifted a bit so the Captain sent one boat away to examine a shoal patch. After dinner Mr Deane went away with *Stork* (1<sup>st</sup> m. boat) and 2<sup>nd</sup> skiff to put up a tide pole. While they were away Kempton, one of our ABs casually asked Mr Deane if there were any bears on the islands and what would he do if he saw one? Mr Deane said that he would probably run to the boat, so Kempton said "You had better start running now because one is coming down now." It was a bear all right but he hadn't seen the party and he went off over the hill. Tidal observations are being kept from dawn 0500 till sunset 2300. Temp. A 47° - S 38°.

Tuesday Aug 1<sup>st</sup> 1933: Landed tide watch. *Stork* away sounding, *Penguin* went out to

<sup>13</sup> Tessijalialuk Island is approximately 26 miles north of Ford Harbour. It is shown on the *Reconnaissance Map of the Labrador Coast* (1929) by E.P. Wheeler II, published in *The Geographic Review* XX, 3, 1930, Plate IV. On the Canadian Hydrographic Service Chart 4775, 7 October 1960, "Nain to Saglek Bay," based on the United States Navy Hydrographic Chart 5845, it is called David Island. A spot elevation of 979' is shown (Map 2). It is a pleasure to acknowledge the assistance of the staff of the Map and Air Photo Collection, Stauffer Library, Queen's University, without which many of the place identifications could not have been made.

<sup>14</sup> He was the manager of the store at Nain, and lived in the community with his wife.

<sup>15</sup> Clarks Tickle (Map 3) is 13 miles straight line distance east of Nain, at the south entrance of Red Bay, itself about 7 miles NW of Ford Harbour. A "tickle" is a short coastal channel or passage.





Clusters Islands<sup>16</sup> and Semi-Kutak Island<sup>17</sup>. Ship under weigh at 0730 to run lines of soundings between Ford Harbour It<sup>18</sup> house and the "run."<sup>19</sup> Temp A 52° S 39°.

Wednesday Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>: Away sounding all day with Lt Monk. Started to rain at 1200 so we picked up Lt Dom who was coastlining Fishes Island. Temp A 48° S 39°.

Thursday Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>: Ship sounding between Ford lt. and Mig Island.<sup>20</sup> At three o'clock the Captain of the American cruiser *Minnie B.* anchored at Nain came on board by motor boat to report that his crew of two Newfoundlanders had deserted in the ship's dory taking with them six bottles of whisky, tea, sugar, bread and several articles of clothing belonging to the Captain. They also fired at him with a rifle stolen from the ship. Our Captain took down a statement and proceeded to Nain when I had to land the Captain of the *Minnie B.* on board his ship and bring off Mr Grubb the missionary. He told me that the men were up in the woods behind Nain. The weather is very cold and if the men get drunk enough to stay out all night without shelter they will suffer from exposure. The temperature is 42° Sea 37°.

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> Aug: Boat sounding off Siorak Island<sup>21</sup> with Mr Dom. Ship carried out current observations at eastern end of Strathcona Run. Temp A 49° S 39°.

Saturday Aug 5<sup>th</sup> 1933: SS *Kyle*<sup>22</sup> came up to Nain at 0800. She had mail for us. There were several tourists on board her and some missionaris [sic] who were going north. The two deserters from the schooner *Minnie* were taken on board for passage to St John's. The Captain has orders to place the schooner under arrest so a motor boat was lowered in readiness to place an armed guard on board her should she attempt to leave. The Captain sailed ashore in his skiff to look at some kayaks but didn't buy one.

Sunday Aug 6<sup>th</sup> 1933: Orders came this morning to prevent the schooner *Minnie* from sailing by taking out all her sails except the jib and by taking parts of her engine out. The owner appeared to expect something of the kind to happen. In the evening I took a few of the officers in the skiff to attend church service ashore. I stayed with our two tide watchers who are billeted in the HBC's base. Temp A 76°(?) - S 40°.

Monday Aug 7<sup>th</sup> 1933: Ship left Nain for Clarks Tickle where we picked up our two tide

<sup>16</sup> The Clusters are west of Ford Harbour (Map 3).

<sup>17</sup> Semikutak Island is shown by Wheeler with a dotted line east of Dog Island (also known as High Island) which is important for Alagaiai Hill, 805', and visible by a ship at sea looking for the entrance to Strathcona Run. The name "Semikutak" is used neither on Chart 4775 nor in the *Sailing Directions*.

" Light.

<sup>19</sup> A "run" is a coastal passage or channel. This may be referring to Strathcona Run.

<sup>20</sup> Mig Island has not been identified.

<sup>21</sup> Probably Siorakuluk Island which is between Red Islands and Dog Island (Map 3). It is shown on Wheeler's 1929 map with the dotted line of a "coast imperfectly known." Wheeler also shows Sioralik Island, again "coast imperfectly known," southeast of Ford Harbour.

<sup>22</sup> During the navigation season coastal steamers provided the only form of transportation and communication most communities had with the "outside" world, as was also the case on the British Columbia coast. The *Kyle* was one of these, and became "legendary" on the Labrador coast, where she served from 1913 until 1959, when she was replaced by a more modern ship. When I was the navigator of HMCS *Porte St Louis* visiting Nain in 1973 the current sailing directions said Nain had regular communications by steamer during the navigation season, and in the winter, twice by dog sled with Cartwright.

watchers who had been left for the weekends. The boats could not go away sounding owing to heavy rain and fog which lasted all day. The skiff and dory went away with Lt Dom to correct marks round the shore. Temp A 58° S 39°.

Tuesday Aug 8<sup>th</sup> 1933: More rain and fog all day, It cleared up a bit in the evening so I took the Captain and 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut<sup>23</sup> away in the skiff. They landed to find a suitable place to leave a camp party behind when the ship goes south.

Wednesday Aug 9<sup>th</sup>: Left with Mr Dom for boat sounding. We were recalled to the ship at noon. Two boats crews were landed and the ship got under weigh to go to Newfoundland to take Ldg Seaman Shaw who has contracted blood poisoning caused by a mosquito bite on his arm. Two cuts have been made in his arm today but the poison is still spreading so we are getting him to a hospital with all possible speed.

Thursday Aug 10<sup>th</sup>: Very quiet day. There is no change in Shaw's condition. The surgeon opened his arm again tonight. Passed Indian Tickle and Spotted Island at 1900.<sup>24</sup>

Friday Aug 11<sup>th</sup> 1933: Arrived at St Anthony N.F.<sup>25</sup> at 1030 where we went alongside the jetty to land Ldg Sea. Shaw. The hospital is run by the International Grenfell Association. St Anthony is a small village and its main industry is cod fishing in summer and sealing in the winter. Leave was given until 2200 but very few went ashore. Temp A 72° S 54°.

Saturday Aug 12<sup>th</sup> 1933: Left St Anthony at 0700 for Nain.

Sunday Aug 13<sup>th</sup> 1933: Searched for a shoal patch off Cape Harrigan but couldn't find it. Heavy fog banks made us go at slow speed from four o'clock pm. Almost bumped one or two large bergs.

Monday Aug 14<sup>th</sup> 1933: Thick fog all day again. The Captain was on the bridge all night. Double lookouts were placed owing to the number of icebergs about. Our speed during the night was only four knots. At 2200 we anchored in 36 fms but anchor watches and lookouts were kept in case icebergs drifted down our way.

Tuesday Aug 15<sup>th</sup> 1933: Still foggy but not quite so thick. Got under weigh at 0700. Fog came over thick again at 0900. Captain thinks we are near "Hen and Chickens" Islands. Anchored again until fog lifted, but we had to anchor again about half an hour afterwards.

Wednesday Aug 16<sup>th</sup>: Got under weigh 0730 and proceeded to "Clarks Tickle." Arrived there at 1830. Had a signal to say that AB Burrows died in hospital at Halifax N.S. Surgeon's arm is getting worse and it may mean another trip south to hospital.<sup>26</sup> Temp S 41° A 45°.

Thursday Aug 17<sup>th</sup>: Surgeon took a turn for the worse during the night. Re provisioned camp party and relieved Lt Deane and Monk. Left "Clarks Tickle" at 0445 for Cartwright where we hope to meet SS *Kyle* which is carrying the mission surgeon who is paying his yearly visit to the mission stations along the coast. Temp A 50° S 47°.

Friday Aug 18<sup>th</sup>: Arrived at Cartwright 1230. Landed surgeon ashore in the motor boat

<sup>23</sup> LtCdr Baker, who would later have charge of the wintering party.

<sup>24</sup> Both south of Cartwright, approximately 53 34'N, 55 58'W and 53 29'N, 55 46'W respectively.

<sup>25</sup> St Anthony is on the west coast at the tip of the northern peninsula of Newfoundland (Map 1).

<sup>26</sup> Hampson's diary gives no other information about either Shaw or the Surgeon.

which came alongside from the Grenfell mission stn. Landed the Captain and a few officers ashore and had a chat with three prospectors who are working up in the hills. They are staying here for the weekend to collect mails from the *Kyle* when she comes in. It is much warmer here. Temp A 79° S 50°.

Saturday Aug 19<sup>th</sup>: Surgeon was operated on by the mission surgeon as the *Kyle* didn't arrive until 1500. She had a mail and a few fresh provisions on board. Took Captain away sailing. Temp. A 76° S 49°.

Sunday Aug 20<sup>th</sup>: Had a very quiet day of it. Captain and wardroom officers left the ship at the unearthly hour of 4am in the mission motor boat for a days fishing. They arrived back at midnight with two small salmon. Aurora Borealis was showing tonight and looked very pretty. Temp A 72° S 48°.

Monday Aug 21<sup>st</sup>: 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut was sent ashore in skiff to see if Surgeon could be sent on board. It appears he is to have another operation so we sailed at 1400 for Nain.

Tuesday Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>: Arrived off Hen and Chickens Islands ran half a line of soundings to Wood Island<sup>27</sup> anchored [symbol] at 2100.

Wednesday Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>: Carried on sounding until 1600 then proceeded to "Clarks Tickle." All camp party appeared in good spirits and were glad to get their mail which we brought up for them. They missed the *Kyle* on her homeward trip so won't be able to send a mail until the next trip down.

Thursday Aug 24<sup>th</sup>: Ship's sounding all day. Landed two tidewatchers<sup>28</sup> on Skull Island.<sup>29</sup> Temp. A 65° S 40°.

Friday Aug 25<sup>th</sup>: Away boat sounding with Lt Deane. Sounded out eastern end of Ford Harbour, and examined shoal patch inside harbour. Temp. A 70° S 41°.

Saturday Aug 26<sup>th</sup>: Anchored in Ford Harbour. The new engineer of the schooner *Minnie B.* came on board to report that the batteries were defective. The Captain told him to ask the customs officer in charge of her to sail her from Nain to Ford Harbour so we could repair them. Went away sailing in the afternoon.

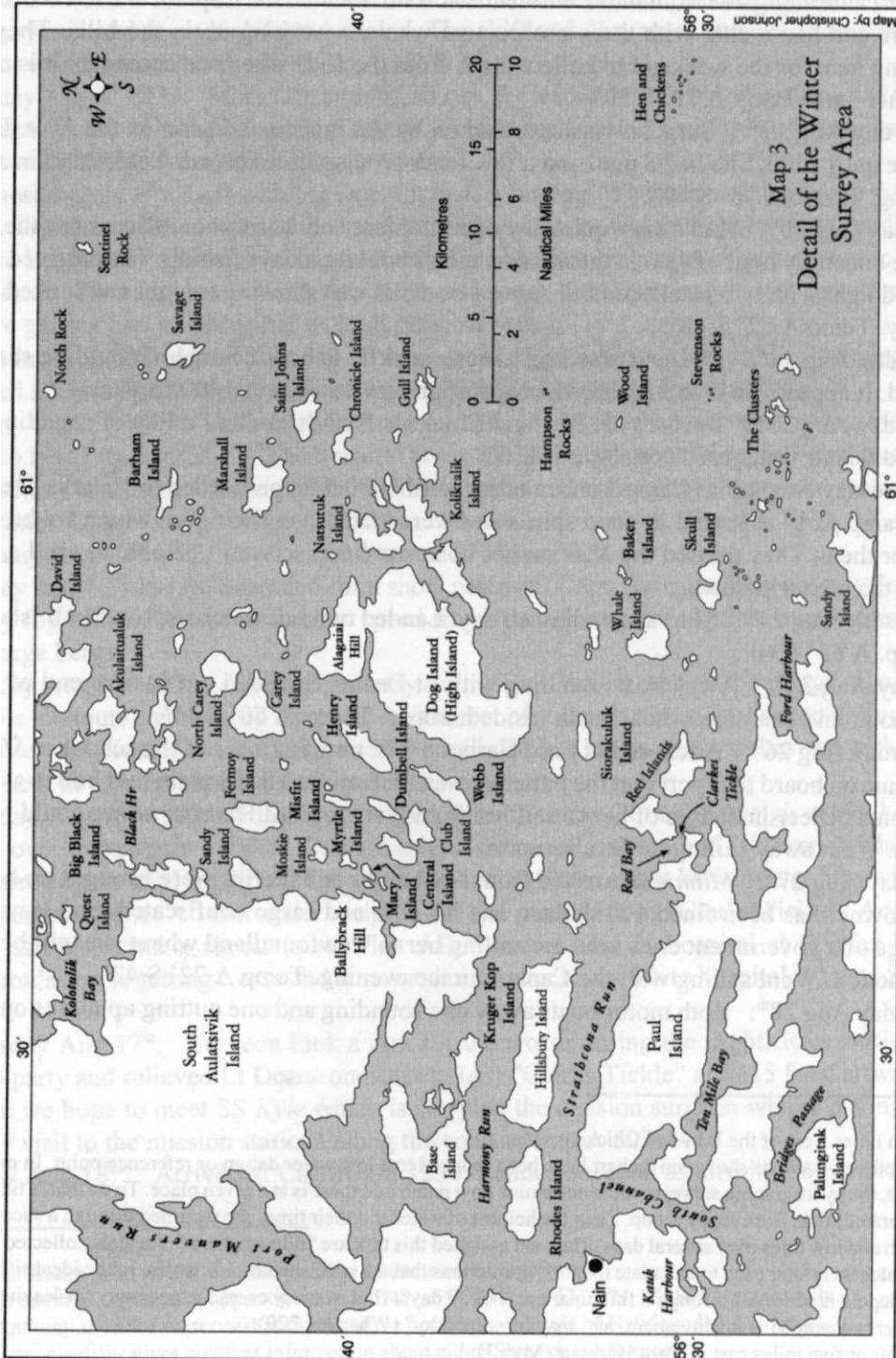
Sunday Aug 27<sup>th</sup>: *Minnie B.* arrived from Nain and her batteries were brought on board. The owner has been fined 600 dollars, and his ship and cargo confiscated. She is now in charge of a government crew who are sailing her to Newfoundland where she will be sold by auction. Went sailing with the Captain in the evening. Temp A 72° S 42°.

Monday Aug 28<sup>th</sup>: Both motor boats away one sounding and one putting up marks on Hen

<sup>27</sup> Ten miles west of the Hen and Chickens (Map 3).

<sup>28</sup> Depths of water as shown on a chart have been reduced to a low water datum or reference point. In order to do that, the hydrographic surveyor must determine how much tide there is at a given place. To do that, a tidepole, a calibrated stick, is carefully set up. Then the heights of water and their times are recorded through a succession of high and low tides over several days. The men assigned this task are "tidewatchers." The data collected by the tidewatchers is later used to calculate the tidal predictions that are published in tide tables. In the ideal situation, the tidepole is observed through a full lunar cycle of 29 days, "but in many cases the necessity for leaving tide-watchers encamped is inconvenient, and may be unhealthy" (Wharton, 220).

<sup>29</sup> Four or five miles east of Ford Harbour (Map 3).



and Chickens and Pyramid Islands.<sup>30</sup> Ship carried on sounding. In the afternoon we observed a mirrage which made all the islands appear reflected in the sky.

Tuesday Aug 29<sup>th</sup>: Away sounding in *Penguin* with Lt Monk. Carried out examinations near Siorakuluk. Temp A 69° S 43°.

Wednesday Aug 30<sup>th</sup>: Ship sounding all day. Anchored off Tortoise Island.<sup>31</sup> Motor boats went over to "Baker"<sup>32</sup> and Semikutak Island to mark and make a triangulation station [Hampson used the chart symbol]. Temp A 47° S 41°.

Thursday Aug 31<sup>st</sup>: Went away in *Stork* with Mr Monk to carry out examinations of Ford harbour and "Five Mile Bay."<sup>33</sup> Temp A 49° S 41°.

Friday Sept 1<sup>st</sup> 1933: Landed on Clusters Island with Mr Dom to reflag the mark and make the triangulation station [and] also to make a sketch of the outer islands. Returned to the ship at 1700. Ship proceeded to "Five Mile Bay" to anchor for the week-end. During the night the air temperature dropped to 39° but the sea remained at 40°.

Saturday Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>: Away with the Captain all afternoon and evening. Temp 52° S.42°.

Sunday Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>: Landed Captain ashore and returned to ship to pick up Wade, sailed round until 1900 then picked up Captain.

Monday Sept 4<sup>\*:</sup> Away with Mr Monk in *Penguin*. Carried out examination soundings round Fishes Island. We had 14 miles to steam to return to the ship which was anchored eastward of Wood Island in readiness to start current observations.

Tuesday Sept 5<sup>th</sup>: Too rough for the boats to go away. Ship had to get under weigh to avoid collision with an iceberg which was slowly drifting down on us.

Wednesday Sept 6<sup>\*:</sup> Went away with Mr Dom to examine two shoals and found only 10 ft of water on one of them. The ship must have missed it by a few yards when running her lines. Found a new rock awash just off "Stevenson Breakers."

Thursday Sept 7<sup>th</sup>: Away sounding with Mr Dom again starring round "Stevenson Breakers."<sup>34</sup>

Friday Sept 8<sup>th</sup>: Both boats away coastlining round Wood, Baker & Skull Island ship proceeded to Nain in the evening for the week-end.

Saturday Sept 9<sup>th</sup>: Captain went up country for the week-end with Mr Grubb and Mr Wheeler.<sup>35</sup> I landed ashore with the 1 st Lieut, to arrange with Mr White about the dog teams for the winter, also two "flats" (small boats). Temp A.43° S 41°.

Sunday Sept 10<sup>th</sup>: Rained hard all day, no routine on board.

Monday Sept 11<sup>th</sup>: Weather was very rough, wind gale force, raining hard. Captain arrived back at 2100 with both skiffs in tow awash and several spare parts missing. Secured *Suko*

<sup>30</sup> The Pyramid Islands are 4 miles southeast of the Hen and Chickens.

<sup>31</sup> Tortoise Island is north of the entrance to Ford Harbour.

<sup>32</sup> Two miles north of Skull Island and midway between Wood and Siorakuluk Islands (Map 3).

<sup>33</sup> Possibly northwest of Ford harbour, also formed by Paul Island.

<sup>34</sup> Stevenson Rocks are north of The Clusters, between Hen and Chickens and Skull Island, (Map 3). "Starring" suggests running lines of sounding out from the rocks, like points on a star, looking for other new rocks.

<sup>35</sup> Whether this Mr Wheeler is the same as, or related to the map maker, E.P. Wheeler, II, is not known.



The Reverend Mr Grubb

astern. Mr Wheeler and Mr Grubb stayed on board for the night. Temp A 49° S 41°.

Tuesday Sept 12<sup>th</sup>: Quite calm again. We had a signal saying that the motor boat which was to come yesterday with our mail from Hopedale couldn't leave yet. It was very foggy all round. Temp. A. 42° - S 41°

Wednesday Sept 13<sup>th</sup>: Weather still very bad no hope of mail arriving yet. Temp A 44° S. 41° Northern Lights were very brilliant tonight.

Thursday Sept 14<sup>th</sup>: Went away with Lt Deane to put up marks in South Channel. Still rather rough and we got a good soaking each time we landed ashore in the dory. Mr Deane tried a new way of whitewashing rocks quickly by throwing the bucket of whitewash at the rock but he forgot there was a half a gale of wind blowing and we returned to the ship whiter than we left it.

Friday Sept 15<sup>th</sup>: Landed ashore with the Captain to go up South Channel Cairn (800 ft).<sup>36</sup> As the weather was too rough to land under the hill we went to Nain and tramped round from there. I think we were both quite stiff by the time we got to the top. Returned at 1730. Still no signs of our mail.

Saturday Sept 16<sup>th</sup>: Landed the Captain ashore. It was blowing so hard that I had to have two reefs in the mainsail and one in the jib. Our mail and a few fresh provisions arrived from Hopedale while I was ashore. Mrs Clark was showing signs of the rotten trip she had on the way up and could hardly stand, it is a long trip for a woman in an open boat. The surgeon arrived on board also, with a guest from Cartwright. He has brought a dog team for his own use.

Sunday Sept 17<sup>th</sup>: Late last night a boat came alongside with half the crew of a schooner which had run on the rocks at Black Harbour, near September Island.<sup>37</sup> Her rudder is badly broken and the Captain asked for the assistance of a diver. Landed Captain ashore and then landed Mr Wood and Mr Monk. The weather turned out lovely and the temperature rose to 67° S 43°.

Monday Sept 18<sup>th</sup>: 1st Lieut, landed on Skull Is. to finish off coastlining. We sent our divers in charge of Lt Dom to see if they could do anything for the Captain of the schooner and the ship got under weigh to carry out examination soundings of Hen and Chickens Is., returning to Ford Harbour in the evening. Temp down A 44° S 41°.

Tuesday Sept 19<sup>th</sup>: Barometer dropped during the night and it started to blow a northerly gale. We had to veer more cable out. The divers returned from Black Harbour late last night and were able to fix up the rudder of the schooner enough to enable them get back to St. Anthony.

Wednesday Sept 20<sup>th</sup>: Rain and snow all day. Temp A 34° S 35°.

Thursday Sept 21<sup>st</sup>: Gale still blowing. Ship went out as far as Hen and Chickens but it was too dangerous as the Four Fathoms Shoal was breaking, so we returned to Ford Hbr. Temp.

<sup>36</sup> Chart 4775 shows the elevation as 874'. South Channel, running north/south, is formed on the west by the mainland and on the east, by the western tip of Paul Island. The *Sailing Directions* describe it as "a conspicuous hill" (256).

<sup>37</sup> September Island has not been identified. Black Harbour is shown on Map 3.

A 36° S 36°.

Friday Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>: Went away with Lt Dom in *Penguin* to sound round Five Mile Run. Rain started at noon so we returned to the ship. Ship proceeded to Kuakuluk Harbour<sup>38</sup> for the weekend. Temp. A 37° S 36°.

Saturday Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>: Landed a party ashore to rig up tents and prepare the camp which [is] being left behind when the ship goes to Halifax. Landed Captain ashore to bring back the dog team which we left at Nain last weekend.

Sunday Sept 24<sup>\*</sup>: Out of routine all day. Carried on making camp. Landed Captain ashore at 2.30. Temp. A. 39° S 38°.

Monday Sept 25<sup>\*</sup>: Landed camp party and left for Nain at 0730 where we picked up Mr Wheeler who is taking passage to Halifax with us. Went out to Hen and Chickens Is. where we carried on sounding until the rain started at 1630, so we proceeded to Halifax. Speed was reduced during the night as there are still a few icebergs about and all these northern waters are uncharted yet.

Tuesday Sept 26<sup>\*</sup>: Very quiet day went to Collision Stations in the evening. Thick fog at night but we didn't reduce speed. Temp A. 47° S 37°.

Wednesday Sept 27<sup>th</sup>: Went to Fire Stations at 1700. The sea temp rose to 52.5° due to passing out of the Labrador Current into Belle Isle straits. Temp A 56° S 54° at 1900.

Thursday Sept 28<sup>\*</sup>: Thick fog all day but we did not reduce speed. Exercised sea boats crew at 1700. Temp A 61° S 60°.

Friday Sept 29<sup>\*</sup>: Saturday routine on mess deck. Still foggy. Heavy thunderstorm in the evening which cleared the fog a bit.

Saturday Sept 30<sup>\*</sup>: Arrived at Halifax N.S. at 11.00. Went alongside No. 4 Jetty. Temp 59, 67. Went ashore in the evening.

Sunday Oct 1<sup>st</sup>: Very quiet day went ashore to see Mr Mrs Wright. Temp 59-56.

Monday Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>: Nothing to do all day. Went ashore at 1800 so see Mr & Mrs Wright.

Tuesday Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>: Half day off. Went to the pictures in the evening.

Wednesday Oct 4<sup>\*</sup>: Another half day we are very lucky this time. Went to see *Cavalcade*. Very disappointed.<sup>39</sup>

Thursday Oct 5<sup>\*</sup>: Went ashore at 1330 to see *Masquerade*.<sup>\*</sup> Had tea at the "Sea-Grill." Went down to Mr & Mrs Wright and Mr & Mrs Jennings of 42 Kay St. Returned on board

<sup>38</sup> The spelling of this place in subsequent entries becomes Kuak Harbour. The spelling of the day was (and remains) Kauk. Nain is on the west shore of a small bay called Unity Bay which is formed by north shore the "South Channel Cairn" peninsula. At its narrowest, it is about 2A miles wide. Kauk Harbour is on the south side of this peninsula. It was used as the base of operations for, amongst other local surveys, that of Bridges Passage in October. "Kauk Harbour is a safe, landlocked harbour considered to afford the best anchorage in the vicinity of Nain ... The shores are well wooded, several stream run into the harbour, and a trail leads over the hills to Nain." (*Sailing Directions*, 256).

<sup>39</sup> *Cavalcade* (1933) was based on the play of that name by Noel Coward. It won three Oscars: Best Picture, Best Director (Frank Lloyd), and Best Art Director (William S. Darling). Diana Wynyard was nominated for Best Leading Actress.

<sup>40</sup> This may have been the 1929 movie of that name. It was directed by Russell Birdwell.



at 0200 Friday.

Friday Oct 6<sup>th</sup>: Had our old friend the fog but it didn't stop us from going over to the Oiling Jetty to fill up. Left the jetty at 1700. Still very foggy and we had to go slowly.

Saturday Oct 7<sup>th</sup>: Still foggy until dinner time. Started to blow hard during the night. All hands had to turn out to secure the two skiffs which had worked loose.

Sunday Oct 8<sup>th</sup>: Wind blowing at 85 mph. Had to reduce speed. We are now in the Cabot Strait and just holding our own against it. Weather got worse in the evening so we put into Isthmus Bay for the night.

Monday Oct 9<sup>th</sup>: Weather moderated. Weighed at noon. Still a heavy swell on.

Tuesday Oct 10<sup>th</sup>: Plenty of fog about and heavy sea running.

Wednesday Oct 11<sup>th</sup>: Weather fine and sea moderated.

Thursday Oct 12<sup>th</sup>: Passed Hen and Chickens Island at 1530. Snowing and very cold. Arrived at Nain 2100. *Fort Garry* in taking on board fish and skins.

Friday Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>: Landed most of our survey stores and provisions for the winter. At 1700 ship weighed and proceeded to Kuat [Kauk] Hbr where the camp party is situated.

Saturday Oct 14<sup>th</sup>: Ordinary routine. Camp party returned on board. Officers landed to go shooting and skiing. Plenty of game and hares about now.

Sunday Oct 15<sup>th</sup>: Ordinary routine. Plenty of shooting parties away Temp A 36° S 34°.

Monday Oct 16<sup>th</sup>: Went away with Lt Wood. Blowing hard finished at 1600 and proceeded to Nain to assist in landing flour and remainder of provisions ashore. Towed whaler back to ship.

Tuesday Oct 17<sup>th</sup>: Away sounding with Lt Deane but returned at 1130 owing to fog and rain. Temp A 38° S 33°.

Wednesday Oct 18<sup>th</sup>: Still plenty of fog and rain. Went away at 1300 with Lt Deane managed to put in an afternoon's work.

Thursday Oct 19<sup>th</sup>: Fog cleared away but blowing very hard. Away with Mr Deane but the weather got so bad that we went over to Mr Wood's boat and after a silent conference with hands etc. decided to return to the ship. Arrived back at 1000 all wet through. No more surveying.

Friday Oct 20<sup>th</sup>: Put in a full day's sounding. The weather changed completely and was much warmer.

Saturday Oct 21<sup>st</sup>: Usual Saturday routine, much colder. Sailed Captain and Mr Wood ashore in skiff for an afternoon shoot.

Sunday Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>: Normal routine. Landed Captain ashore. Started a regular blizzard when I went in for him. Took in a reef in the mainsail. Got worse on the way back to the ship. Carried away jib-boom and rudder but managed to steer the boat back by her mainsail. Afterwards two of us had to go ashore to pick up Mr Deane who had landed in his canoe earlier on in the day. It was too rough for him to risk the return trip in the canoe.

Monday Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>: Ship left Kuak Harbour for "Bridges Run"<sup>41</sup> where the motor boats were lowered to carry on sounding.

Tuesday Oct 24<sup>th</sup>: Barometer dropped very rapidly during the night and by 1100 it was blowing a gale. No boats were lowered.

Wednesday Oct 25<sup>th</sup>: Landed with Captain and Mr Monk in *Stork* to extend triangulation and put up some more marks. It started snowing before we got our first mark up so we returned to the ship and hoisted all boats. We were only just in time as a blizzard started with the wind Force 7-8, visibility being only a few yards. Our two tide watchers reported at 1800 that they were all right but their tent was in about 8 ft of drift snow. All the ship is covered in snow.

Thursday Oct 26<sup>th</sup>: Stopped snowing but still very rough. No boats were able to go away.

Friday Oct 27<sup>th</sup>: Still too rough to do any surveying. Ship returned to Kuak Harbour in the evening to pick up the tide watchers.

Saturday Oct 28<sup>th</sup>: Usual Sat. routine. Captain landed ashore in 1st Lieut's canoe.

Sunday Oct 29<sup>th</sup>: Usual routine in forenoon. Landed ashore with John Marlow in the afternoon to go skating. Met a few more of the boys and had a bit of fun in the snow.

Monday Oct 30<sup>th</sup>: Snowing in the forenoon. Went round to finish off a bit of sounding in the afternoon.

Tuesday Oct 31<sup>st</sup>: Landed with Lt Wood to put up some marks and remark our old marks with red calico which can be seen much easier against the snow. Temp. A 22 S 31.

Wednesday Nov 1<sup>st</sup>: Landed with Capt. and Lt Monk to put a mark on Palungitak. Temp A. 21 S. 31.

Thursday Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>: Landed Capt. and four officers on Bridges Flats, and was unfortunate enough to fall in the "Ditch" but luckily I had all ready lit a fire so I dried myself as well as I could until they returned. As the spray came over us on the way back so it froze on our clothes. The sails were like sheets of wood.

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov: Snowing hard nearly all day. Ship returned to Kuak Harbour and picked up the tidewatchers and also the tidepole. We heard today that the schooner *Lavina* has gone down with all hands. That is the boat the divers repaired at Black Harbour. When we hoisted the motor boat the after fall (which is a new one) parted but fortunately no damage was done. It appears that we were very fortunate with the other boat as the fall was split. The cause of them parting was due to the snow getting in the falls and freezing rapidly. Both falls are unrove now until required for use. The brash ice<sup>42</sup> has started to come down the creeks now. Several seals were about the ship but they did not come close enough to get a shot at them.

Saturday Nov 4<sup>th</sup> 1933: Snowing all day. Only a few liberty men landed ashore but they soon returned.

<sup>41</sup> The Bridges Passage leads to Nain from the south. Running approximately WNW/ESE, it is formed on the south by Palungitak Island and on the north by Stony Point and peninsula of Paul Island (Maps 2 and 3).

<sup>42</sup> "Accumulations of floating ice made up of fragments not more than 2m (7 ft) across, formed by the wreckage of other forms of ice." (*Sailing Directions*, 61).

Sunday [Nov] 5<sup>th</sup>: Still snowing. It must be very deep in some places ashore.

Monday [Nov] 6\*: No surveying done. Still snowing.

Tuesday [Nov] 7<sup>th</sup>: Landed with 1st Lieut to re-erect a mark on Dick Hill (500 ft). It took us nearly 3 hours to climb up owing to the deep snow and we had no snowshoes. At times we sank in up to our waists.

Wednesday [Nov] 8<sup>th</sup>: Land with Mr Wood to climb Palunyatak (1050 ft).<sup>43</sup> Started at 0830 and at the top at 1145. It started to snow at noon and we had to return to the boat and pick up another party who were landed on another island. Temp Sea 32° Air 22°.

Thursday [Nov] 9\*: More snow. A regular blizzard this time which reached Force 7 by noon.

Friday [Nov] 10\*: Still blowing hard. Too rough to land. Ship sailed for Nain. Arrived at 1300.

Saturday [Nov] 11\*: Commenced landing our remaining provisions and stores for the winter. We borrowed a 16 ft komatik<sup>44</sup> from HBC and got them up to the hospital in half ton loads. Temp S. 30. A. 20.

Sunday [Nov] 12\*: Usual routine. My relief took over Capt's Coxswain duties. Snowed nearly all day.

Monday [Nov] 13\*: Still transporting stores. T.I. [sic] rigged up our wireless.

Tuesday [Nov] 14\*: Finally established in camp. We have very comfortable quarters in the hospital. For the present we are getting our water by melting snow.

Wednesday [Nov] 15\*: Plenty of work arranging everything in its proper place.

Thursday [Nov] 16<sup>th</sup>: Temperature dropped to 14° and the Captain decided to leave as he considered it was too dangerous to remain any longer. Three of our dogs attacked and badly mauled Mr White's little daughter last night and he was requested that the *Kyle* comes up to Nain to take her to hospital at St. Anthony. At present our surgeon is attending to her. There is danger of the sight one of her eyes going. Temp 8° S: 29°.

Friday [Nov] 17\*: Rather an easy day. Drew our snowshoes and sealskin boots etc. It is much easier than I expected it to be to walk in snowshoes.

Saturday [Nov] 18<sup>th</sup>: Cleaned up our quarters in the forenoon. Went shooting with LtCdr Baker & Steve. We bagged ten partridges. Mr Baker 2- Steve 7- self 1. Temp dropped to -2° below zero.

Sunday [Nov] 19\*: Spent a very quiet day reading. The bay was frozen over from the river out as far as the jetty one of the H. B. boats went out to break it up in the evening so that it would not hinder the boat expected in from Hopedale. Temp -3°.

Monday [Nov] 20\*: Still no sign of Mr Mercer in the H. B. boat from Hopedale and no news of the *Kyle*. Mr Clark is getting worried. Went over to H. B. House with Holgate to have a chat with Mr & Mrs Clark in the evening. Had supper and returned at 0100. Temp at Mid: -5.

Palungitak Island, spot elevation 1046'.

A komatik was a sled normally pulled by seven dogs arranged on alternate sides of a single bridle.

Tuesday [Nov] 21<sup>st</sup>: No boats have arrived yet. Mr Clark seems to think that either the engine has broken down or Mr Mercer is ill. But in any case the Esquimo should be here either in the H. B. boat belonging to Hopedale or in some other boat. Mr Clark came over for a game of cards in the evening. Snowed heavily all day. The boys went after partridge but they had all gone up in the hills.

Wednesday [Nov] 22<sup>nd</sup>: The bay was all frozen over with slob ice<sup>45</sup> this morning and as there is very little wind it is likely to remain frozen.

Thursday [Nov] 23<sup>rd</sup>: We all helped Mr Clark to take down the outer end of the pier which must be taken down every winter before the ice sets in and re-erected every spring. Otherwise when the ice moves out it will take part of the pier with it.

Friday [Nov] 24<sup>th</sup>: Got in a supply of wood and water for the weekend. In the afternoon we tried making an artificial lake to skate on with very little success because the water froze too quickly and made the lake bumpy.

Saturday [Nov] 25<sup>th</sup>: Helped with the pier again the ice is now extended all over the bay. Some of the Esquimaux came round from Kuak over the ice.

Sunday [Nov] 26<sup>th</sup>: Lovely sport on the ice we spent the whole day skating and practicing ice hockey. Mrs Clark brought her baby out in her pram which runs on a sledge.

Monday [Nov] 27<sup>th</sup>: Got in a supply of wood and water. The river at the top of the village is frozen right through now and we have to go down to the water hole. Marshall went with the seal hunters out to North Bay. He left at six a.m. He forgot to take his sealskin gloves with the result that his hands were almost frozen. The method of killing the seals is to wait outside the waterholes until the seals come up for air. After he has shot one, the hunter harpoons the seal with a long line on the end of a pole. The dead seals are usually left on the ice and picked up later by dog teams and komatiks. In the afternoon we played hockey on the ice. Mr & Mrs White came over in the evening.

Tuesday [Nov] 28<sup>th</sup>: Got in our supply of water and wood. The water at the water hole is getting rather dirty so we went down to the Big River. Owing to the ice blocking the river it is forcing its way through the snow on the banks and forming a big lake. Our method of drawing the water now is to dig a hole in the snow and just bail the water out which is much easier and we get cleaner water. No skating in the afternoon as the wind was blowing too strong. Temp at 1600 -7.5°.

Wednesday [Nov] 29<sup>th</sup>: Very quiet day. Went skating in the afternoon. Temp -9°.

Thursday [Nov] 30<sup>th</sup>: Celebrated my birthday. The first one spent ashore since 1922.<sup>46</sup> Mr Baker & Surgeon went off in the komatik on a two days trip to try out the dog teams, tents etc. The former gave orders for us to "splice the main brace." All hands wished me good luck and many more birthdays. In the afternoon I went out to get some partridges but didn't see one. Returned to join the boys skating. Mr Clark came over in the evening. At 2300 we

<sup>45</sup> "Heavy, slushy, densely packed mass of ice fragments, snow and freezing water, especially on the surface of the sea." *Dictionary of Newfoundland English*.

<sup>46</sup> And since 1922 he could not have had a birthday with his family. "Splice the main brace" is the traditional order for an extra celebratory issue of rum,



Hauling a measure of wood.  
Left to right: Hampson, Deane, Bingham, Marshall

all went over to have a "mug up" at the Company house. Mr Clark gave me a nice little birthday present. Mrs Clark gave me a walrus tusk. We had a few dances and one or two drinks. Returned to the hospital at 0100. Temp  $-12.5^{\circ}$ .

Friday [Dec] 1<sup>st</sup>: Went on my first seal hunt with Mr Deane. We started off at 0600 taking with us the small komatik to carry our deerskins etc. We came to the first waterhole near S. Channel Rock about six miles away, but found it occupied by one of the settlers from Kuak Harbour, Jim Heyes. There were several seals bobbed up but he didn't appear to be able to hit them. It is an unwritten law that the one who gets to a waterhole first can keep it to himself all day. No one else can use it. We tramped on until we passed Turn Island.<sup>47</sup> Jim Lucas from Ford Harbour overtook us with his dog team so we had a tow down the run until we came to some more waterholes. We all took up our stations for seal shooting. I got a thrill after waiting over an hour by seeing a seal bob up but as I was doing a "chip jump" to get the use of my cramped limbs back. He must have seen me so I didn't get a shot at him. After another wait of over two hours Lucas came over and said there wouldn't be any seals

<sup>47</sup> Off the SSW entrance to Bridges Passage.

in that district yet. We decided to return. The dogs towed us back until we got back to Jim Heyes hole so Mr Deane decided to ask him if we could have a shot at the next seal that bobbed up. After waiting about half an hour Mr Deane got his chance with a good shot right through the head of a large seal. Heyes tried to harpoon it but the barb slipped off as he struck with the result that the seal was pushed under the surface and before it could rise the tide carried it under the ice. We waited for another half hour but as no seals came up we returned home. Waldon another settler from Hopedale came over later in the evening to tell us that Heyes got the seal Mr Deane shot by digging a hole in the ice where it went under. It is very tiring walking on ice and we were quite stiff and sore by the time we got back. Mr Deane said that we covered twelve miles not including the distance we were towed by Lucas so we didn't do so bad for our first trip as seal hunters Temp -9°.

Saturday [Dec] 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr Deane and "Steve" had arranged to go seal hunting but the wind was blowing force 7 and the temperature had dropped to -15° so they abandoned the idea. We spent a very quiet day reading and writing. Holgate has been interesting himself in a wireless set that experts at different times said was hopeless and tonight he succeeded in getting some music out of it. We were very pleased to hear a band being played in London.

Sunday [Dec] 3<sup>rd</sup>: Mr Deane, Mr Clark, and "Steve" went seal hunting on one of the komatiks. They left at 0600 and returned at 1700. Mr Clark shot one seal but he lost it before he could get his harpoon in it. Holgate and I went over to visit Mr & Mrs Grubb and Miss Mathews, the school mistress. We stayed with them until 2300 Temp -14°.

Monday [Dec] 4<sup>th</sup>: Got in our supply of wood and water. Went skating in the afternoon with Marlow and Holgate. "Dolly" one of our dogs was crying and howling all night and at noon today she left the cosy home we had made for her to give birth to her pups under the foundations of Mrs Dickens house. Dolly, her daughter crawled under the house and brought the pups out so we lured Dolly back to her home where she is busy nursing her six pups.

Tuesday [Dec] 5<sup>th</sup>: We made an awful mistake yesterday! When Holgate went to feed "Dolly" he discovered that she had nine pups. She must have had three more. No wonder she kept us all awake on Sunday night. Now I know where all the dogs in Labrador come from. The 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut and Mr Bingham return from their little camping trip. Three of the dogs, Jill, Jigger, and Krenjer are missing but Mr Bingham says they will turn up when they get hungry. It started snowing at 1030, but didn't last long. Temp rose to +5. Mr Mercer's men returned from Hopedale at four o'clock. They had been six days on the journey up having to travel overland as the ice hadn't formed below Davis Inlet. They travelled on foot with a land komatik for over fifty miles and finished the journey with a dog team borrowed from Voisey's Bay. Tomorrow they are off up to Black Harbour 25 miles away to start hunting and trapping as though they had only been out for the day. Mr Mercer expects to start today.

Wednesday [Dec] 6<sup>th</sup>: Wood and water again today. Assisted Mr Bingham to feed the dogs. "Nuiluk" one of Mr Baker's team is still very shy and won't come near us unless we have something for her to eat. It is fine sport keeping all the other dogs away with whips 20 ft long. I usually finish up with the whip round my waist when I try to use it. I suppose I shall learn in time. "Nuiluk" was so named because she was intended to be killed to supply the

fur (or Nuiluk) that goes round a "Siloupak" or cap<sup>48</sup> but she proved such a good dog in harness that she became a leader of the team. Temp -5°.

Thursday [Dec] 7\*: Busy rigging up drying lines in the tents during the forenoon. Mr Baker's new dogs arrived today and made themselves comfortable by having a good fight with Mr Bingham's dogs. The boys went out on the ice to kick the football about in the afternoon. Dolly has forfeited all privileges now by stealing a partridge shot by Mr Bingham" She has been allowed indoors a lot since having her pups but now she has to stay in her box. Temp -7°.

Friday [Dec] 8\*: Started snowing at 0700 no wind but at noon it cleared up and turned out a lovely day. The three officers went out skiing. Fred and John went out partridge shooting. Steve and myself[sic] stayed in doing odd jobs. In the evening Fred and I went over to John Doiney's for an hour. Temp -7°.

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> Dec: Started off at 0900 with Waldo and his dog team to pick up the seals he shot nearly a fortnight ago. He put two young dogs in traces for the first time. We had some trouble getting them over the tide gap which is all slippery ice owing to the rise and fall of the tide. Anyhow, they soon settled down to a steady run which got us out to our destination in under two hours against a strong NW wind. We laïshed the seals on to the komatik and started our return journey at a very slow speed owing to the recent fall of snow making the sea ice soft and making it hard to pull against it with a heavy load which we found out to be over half a ton. Also we were half way back we heard some animal howling in pain over in the woods so Waldo asked me to go on with the team while he went over to find out what was wrong. He overtook me just off Hill Point and told me that a dog was caught in one of the many traps lying about at this time of the year. The dog had evidently been left behind in the village and hobbled while its owner went hunting and had followed the team overland. Waldo said that it wouldn't be any use with a komatik even if its foot did get better as it was almost in half and would have shot it if he hadn't left his rifle with me. These dogs are very careful and will stop at a very narrow crack in the ice until the driver urges them on by getting in front of them. The leader is also very jealous and will not allow another dog to take the lead even if he should stop. The two young dogs were often put in their places through getting too near the older dogs. The team were pretty tired by the time we got back having covered a distance of twenty two miles. We were only able to ride out as the load was too much for them to pull through the bad ice. Mr Deane visited his traps today but didn't get anything. After sunset the temperature dropped to 16 below zero.

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Dec: Had a very lazy day amused myself making a canvas cover for my sleeping bag to prevent the frost from getting ground the outside. Temp rose to +11°.

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> Dec: Busy getting our gear ready for going over to Rhode Is. camp.<sup>49</sup> There was a decent snowstorm on all morning but it eased down a bit in the afternoon. The temp

<sup>48</sup> A "siloupak" is a native jacket with a hood. Hampson must be referring to fur trim on the hood.

<sup>49</sup> Rhodes Island is about ¼ miles from Nain. Approximately 3 miles long, lying on an east/west axis, it divides Strathcona Run to the south from Harmony Run to the north. The survey focus for this camp would be the inside passage between Nain and Port Manvers, (Map 2).

rose to 28.5. Started snowing again in the evening. Busy making another canvas bag for Mr Bingham.

Tuesday [Dec] 12<sup>th</sup>: Mr Baker, Deane, "Steve" and Marlow went over to Sataluakuluk<sup>50</sup> with a load of provisions. Tents and instruments on two komatiks. They returned at 1600. I mounted the two plane tables and got the remainder of the gear ready for our camp tomorrow. Doctor went off with his team into the country to try his hand at shooting some deer. Waldon went with him. Temp 3.

Wednesday [Dec] 13<sup>th</sup>: We couldn't start for Sataluakuluk today as it was blowing Force Seven and snowing so we got in some wood and water during the forenoon. The mail arrived last night so I went over with Fred to see Bob Mercer. They left Tuesday and had rather a bad trip up owing to the ice being so treacherous. This afternoon I went out after partridge but owing to the snow blowing about like dust it was very difficult to see them. I managed to get one which makes my score two. I shall have to do a lot more shooting because Mr Deane is keeping a record of our "kills" and I certainly mustn't be on the bottom of the list. Mr Clark and Mercer came over after tea for an hour and brought us some traps to take with us tomorrow. Temp -7.

Thursday [Dec] 14<sup>th</sup>: At Rhode Island. We left at 1030 for our camp at the foot of Satarokulat. There was rather a strong wind and the snow was drifting across the ice and covered the komatiks. We arrived at 1300 and pitched our tents in a sheltered spot. Mr Deane and Mr Baker shared one tent, Steve and I the other, while Marshall and Marlow shared a third. There is not much room to move about by the time the deer skins and sleeping bags are put down. Our supper consisted of pemmican thickened with a bit of pea flour and dried onions, and tea. There is very little to do after supper except read and sleep. I went up in the woods for half an hour to see if I could get some partridge but although I saw several they were too wild to get close enough to get a shot at them, my rifle being a .22.

Friday [Dec] 15<sup>th</sup>: Spent rather a comfortable night considering the temp was 15 below zero. Turned out at seven thirty. Our breakfast consisted of Plasmon oats, tea and biscuits. As the others were not quite ready I went up the valley with my rifle but there wasn't a sign of any partridge. After breakfast Mr Baker and Mr Deane went scouting for some likely places to put up marks for our triangulation. Fred and I went to E Base to put a new flag on the pole all ready there. It was a good tramp the distance being just over six miles. Steve and Marlow went over to re-mark Satusoakuluk triangulation station. We all returned between 1300 and 1400 and after a cup of tea and a few biscuits we all went up "Camp Hill" to put up a mark. Steve, Mr Baker and myself went after partridge for an hour but they are so wild that we can not get close enough to them. Steve managed to get two.

Saturday [Dec] 16<sup>th</sup>: Fred and I went off on our own to put up marks in "Camp Bay" and

<sup>50</sup> Satusoakuluk Island is the spelling used both by Wheeler on his 1929 map, and the draft chart prepared by the *Challenger* survey team, illustrated in Ritchie, "HMS *Challenger's* Surveys in Labrador, 1932 - 1934," in Glover, 122. It is now called Base Island. It is on the north side of Harmony Run from Rhodes Island, and its west coast forms part of the east shore of the north-running inside passage to Port Manvers (Map 2).



on Gill Island.<sup>51</sup> We put up five and returned at 1600. Mr Baker and Mr Deane, "Steve" and Marlowe set off on the komatik to mark to the southward. They returned at 1700.

Sunday [Dec] 17\*: Steve and I set off at 0900 to erect a mark on the end of Eve Bluff.<sup>52</sup> Halfway across the ice we separated. Steve went to erect an ice station. On approaching Eve Bluff I saw a "rambler" seal which had strayed away from some seal home in the ice. The only weapon I had was a hop [sic] pole which I was taking over to erect our mark and after a bit of dodging about I got in a good blow on the nose of the seal which stunned it and incidentally broke the pole in two places. I waited for "Steve" to join me and together we dragged the seal away from the tide gap. After effecting our mark we put up four more marks on the western side of Satusoakuluk Island and returned to camp at 1600. As we had seen some partridges we decided to take our guns out. "Steve" went one way and I went the other. I think it must have been my lucky day because I got ten in less than half an hour. "Steve" didn't see one at all. Four of our dogs went back to Nain during the night and "Otto" Mr White's boy brought them back and he has promised to take my seal back to Nain and skin it for me. Mr Baker, Mr Deane, Marlowe and Marshall set off with theodolites to carry on the triangulation and returned at 1700.

Monday [Dec] 18<sup>th</sup>: Went away with "Steve" to make another ice triangulation station and to put up a mark on Eve Knoll. We started off at 0900 and didn't get to the top of [the] knoll until noon. Although the knoll is only five hundred feet high it took us over half an hour to climb it. There were some rather dangerous spots to get over. On the return journey we saw three partridges. Steve managed to get one. It was 1530 when we got back to camp so while "Steve" made a cup of coffee I had a scout round for partridges but couldn't see a sign of any. There was a lovely double solar halo showing all the afternoon, the outer one being coloured like a rainbow and to the NE there appeared to be a pillar of light which lasted all the time the halo was visible. It was very strong at the base and faded away like the ray of a searchlight at its zenith. The others put in a good days work on the triangulation. The water between Noag Island and Eve Knoll is still free of ice due to the strong tides which run between the two islands. But it is only a matter of days now before the ice covers everywhere.

Tuesday [Dec] 19<sup>th</sup>: Went off on my own to put up a mast on Turnpike Is.<sup>53</sup> On arrival there I couldn't see E Base as I expected to so I put my mast on the ice near to the Is. as possible. About 1100 Mr Baker and Marshall came over and we shifted the flag to the summit of the island so we could see "Jigger" and "Nob" marks. Mr Baker is very pleased with our week's work. I hope the triangulation works out all right. One of our dogs is on the sick list and if he is no better by tomorrow we are going to shoot him.

Wednesday [Dec] 20<sup>th</sup>: Broke camp at 0900. Mr Baker carried on with his theodolite as he

<sup>51</sup> Not identified.

<sup>52</sup> The *Challenger* chart shows a triangulation station on Hillsbury Island, immediately east of Rhodes Island. The Wheeler map gives a name there of Evejangujuk. The *Sailing Directions* (252) now place Eve Knoll at the east end of Hillsbury Island (Map 3).

<sup>53</sup> The Turnpikes are two rocky islets that lie in the western entrance of Harmony Run. (*Sailing Directions*, 252.)

wanted to shoot up a few marks. After we had loaded up the komatik. "Steve" and I set off on our own to set some traps on Rhode Island. We set up nine in all, and I hope we can find them all again. We arrived back to the base at Nain at 1530 and had a much needed bath and a jolly good supper of partridge, French beans, potatoes, a[nd] pears to follow.

Thursday [Dec] 21<sup>st</sup>: Got in a weeks supply of water during the forenoon. Went over to see Harbian Green the old blind Esquimo who is going to try to get me a fox skin. He had three but as he was in debt to the HBCo they had first claim on the skins as payment for the debt. I afterwards took my sealskin over to be cleaned and dressed by his daughter who is considered an expert at that kind of work. Went over to Clarks in the evening. Had a game of table tennis. We finished up a very nice evening with a dance until 0130 the next morning. Temp -18° at 0600.

Friday [Dec] 22<sup>nd</sup>: Got in four loads of wood in the forenoon. It was snowing hard so I stayed in the remainder of the day.

Saturday [Dec] 23<sup>rd</sup>: Wood and water to last us over Christmas. Snowing again all day went over to Clarks in the evening.

Sunday [Dec] 24<sup>th</sup>: Much more snow. We all went over to Clarks in the evening and also went to church the service was conducted in Esquimo language by Mr Grubb. The Esquimos are very fond of singing. After supper we had a dance and a good sing song. We arrived home at 0300 Christmas morning, (hiccup! Dec 24<sup>th</sup> underlined in red)

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas day: Snowing. Steve and I made a early start for Rhode Island to visit our traps. At 0700 we had the surprise of our lives. The local band came round playing carols. We had heard about the band but thought it was all a joke but it sounded very nice to hear carols played in a place where there are only about two hundred inhabitants. What was more surprising was that the temperature was ten below zero. They have a hood over the mouthpiece of the instrument it freezing to their mouths. The hood almost covers their faces. We had no luck with our traps and arrived back at 1300. Officers and men had lunch together. A real old fashioned Christmas dinner turkey, roast potatoes, peas and a big Christmas pudding made by Mrs Baker. After dinner we had a few drinks and a good yarn along with two or three of the settlers who came over to visit us. We all went to the five o'clock service at church and afterwards entertained the children. It was good sport to see them eat cakes and jam tarts till they could hardly move. At seven thirty the band came round again and played some more carols and ended by playing "Abide with Me." We all went out on the verandah and sang the latter with them. Afterwards they came indoors and we gave them cocoa, biscuits and cigarettes. It was a wonderful day.

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> Boxing Day: We got in a load of wood in the forenoon. The weather was fine all day. Mr & Mrs Clark, Mr & Mrs Grubb, Mr Mercer and Miss Mathews came over to dine with the officers.

Wednesday [Dec] 27<sup>th</sup>: Wood and water during the forenoon. I went over to visit Harbian Green in the afternoon. He got his daughter to light up the Christmas tree for me and she [gave] me a little present of some tiny dried flatfish. They are a real curio. Went over to see Mr Clark in the evening.

Thursday [Dec] 28<sup>th</sup>: Couldn't do much work outdoors. There was a regular blizzard on all



The Dickens family in front of their house, a typical home of the area.

Thursday [Dec] 28<sup>th</sup>: Couldn't do much work outdoors. There was a regular blizzard on all day. Went over to see Mrs Clark. Mr Clark, and Mr Baker have gone down to Voisey Bay and were expected back today but I don't suppose they will start yet while the weather is so bad. The temperature reached a lower point during the night it being 22° below zero. I went over to see Mrs Clark in the evening. She is a good sport and always makes us all welcome.

Friday [Dec] 29<sup>th</sup>: Still snowing and the wind Force 8. Got in wood & water during the forenoon. Went over to see Harbien Green and his son Adam who lives next door to his father. Went over to see Mrs Clark in the evening.

Saturday [Dec] 30<sup>th</sup>: Blizzard still on. Went over to see Greens in the afternoon. We got some private messages from England broadcast from a station at Winnipeg. It is very good of them to send messages like that. I had one from Gwen.

Sunday [Dec] 31<sup>st</sup>: Amused myself clearing away all the snow which had blocked up our verandah during the recent blizzard. After dinner I visited Adam Green and his father. In the evening Mr Clark and Mr Baker arrived back from Voisey's Bay where they had been arranging about some more komatiks.

Monday Jan 1<sup>st</sup>: We didn't do much work all day. In the evening we all went over to Mr & Mrs Clark. At midnight we all sung "Auld Lang Syne" and then raided Mr & Mrs Grubb to wish them a Happy New Year. It was five thirty when we arrived back at the base.

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan: Got in wood and water during the forenoon and wrote some letters in the

afternoon as the mail may go down to Hopedale while we are in camp this time.

Wednesday [Jan] 3<sup>rd</sup>: Busy preparing for camp all day. Went over to see Harbian Green in the evening.

Thursday [Jan] 4<sup>th</sup>: Left the base at 1000 for Satsosakuluk. There were three komatiks and 17 dogs; Mr Baker's team of six dogs, Mr Deane's team of four, and Henry Voisey's team of seven. We arrived in camp at 1230. Instead of going round Rhode Island I took a short cut over it to have a look at our traps but there was nothing in them. I helped Henry to build an igloo (snow house) but we had it on a slope and we couldn't seem to bring the roof over so we had to leave it incomplete. I am going to try my hand at it alone next time.

Friday [Jan] 5<sup>th</sup>: Went away with Steve on a small komatik to coastline eastward side of Rhode Island. We completed it in about a quarter of the time it takes to do it in the summer because all we have to do is ride along the shore on the komatik just fixing our way along.

Saturday [Jan] 6<sup>th</sup>: It was snowing first thing so we decided to finish off our igloo. We did that by laying a few branches across the top and putting on some more blocks of snow. We made a plotting table by digging a mound of snow and putting a block of snow on top. At 1000 it cleared up so we all went out coastlining again. "Steve" and I went to Gill Island, Mr Baker and Marlowe to Kreugar Island,<sup>54</sup> while Mr Deane and Marshall went to Eve Island. At 1200 it started to snow heavily again so we returned to camp. I went up to the woods for partridges but couldn't see a sign of any. When I returned the others were busy putting a blockade of snow all around the tents as the river which runs underneath us was forcing its way through the snow and forming "cove ice". At two thirty it cleared up again and we all carried on with our work. "Steve" and I finished Gill Island and carried on with two smaller islands to the north eastward and returned to camp just before dark. Temp -9. Sunday [Jan] 7<sup>th</sup>: We had to do a torchlight removal during the night. At 2300 the cove ice burst just behind our tents and as we were in danger of being flooded out, we moved our tents to higher ground. It was blowing too hard to do any work in the morning but at 1100 "Steve" and I decided to go and finish off our bit of coastlining round the small islands. We finished our work but we were very glad to get back to camp. Mr Baker and Mr Deane had also started out in the komatiks but they soon returned as it was blowing a regular blizzard.<sup>55</sup> We could only see a few feet before us owing to the drifting snow which all most blinded us. The temp dropped to -19 again.

Monday [Jan] 8<sup>th</sup>: Very dull and overcast during the forenoon and a strong wind blowing. We found that our igloo was completely flooded out so we decided to build another one and

<sup>54</sup> Now called Kruger Kop Island. It is immediately east of Satsosakuluk (Base) Island, and forms part of the north shore of Harmony Run (Map 3).

<sup>55</sup> Baker wrote in his journal, "It was blowing hard and continued to do so until about 1130 when the wind appeared to ease somewhat. We all had a quick "mug up" and got away by 1230. It was soon apparent, however, that it was only a temporary ease up, as by the time I had cleared the land it was blowing hard again. Standing up in the komatik with the wind behind me it was strong enough to blow the komatik along and keep the bridle and traces slack over the hard windblown patches of ice. By the time we had got east of Kruger Island, I could see that we were in for a buster as the snow was being blown off the tops of the hills in Nain Bay... We got back to camp by 1530..." (Ritchie in Glover, 136.)

with the assistance of tons of advice from everyone else and a few blocks of snow, Mr Deane built a very good one. After dinner we decided to make a start on our coastlining again. Steve and I went with Mr Baker and Marlow on one komatik as far as Krueger Island where they left us to go on to Noag Island. Mr Deane and Marshall went on to "Eve" Island with the other komatik. We put in a good afternoon's work and arrived back just before it got too dark to find our way about.

Tuesday [Jan] 9<sup>th</sup>: Snowing first thing and as the barometer was still dropping Mr Baker decided to break camp. Steve and I returned via Rhode Island. When we [were] half way over it started blowing harder and it was very difficult to face the driving snow. We picked up our traps and managed to shoot three partridges - self 2, Steve 1. There were plenty about but they were very wild. We arrived back at 1430 and started to dry all our gear. We were both badly frost bitten in the face.

Wednesday [Jan] 10<sup>th</sup>: Got in two or three loads of wood and water in the forenoon. Visited Mr & Mrs Clark in the evening.

Thursday [Jan] 11<sup>th</sup>: Doctor asked me to go with him for a partridge shoot for a day or two so we harnessed the dogs up and set off for Kuak Brook at 1000. We arrived there at 1100 and pitched our tent in a wood on the left bank of the river.

Friday [Jan] 12<sup>th</sup>: Set off for the marshes at 0900. Doctor taking the left bank and I the right. We didn't get one partridge during the forenoon but in the afternoon we hunted the left bank together and got seventeen. We arrived back to camp at 1700.

Saturday [Jan] 13<sup>th</sup>: Started hunting again at 0930 and came across about thirty feeding so we got busy. They were rather restless but we managed to get fifteen before dinner so we decided to strike camp and return to base. I had to go ahead of the dogs to encourage them over the cove ice which had burst through and had covered the river with slob. We arrived back at 1630.

Sunday [Jan] 14<sup>th</sup>: Usual Sunday routine. Fred and I cleaned all the primus stoves during the forenoon. Mr And Mrs Clark came over for a chat in the afternoon. All the boys went skating. Mr Baker went to one of the outer islands for the day which was mostly wasted by chasing a red fox which had its tail caught in a trap and was trailing it along. It was a bit too quick for him so he gave up the chase after about six miles on snowshoes. Mr Deane and the doctor went off to Kuak Brook again to set a trap over an otter hole we discovered yesterday. They shot twenty two partridges.

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> Jan: Left for northern side of Rhode Island with Steve to finish off a bit of coastlining. We walked across and cut over the lower saddle of the island choosing two separate valleys so we could do some shooting. I didn't have any luck at all but Steve got seven. After we had finished our work we cut over the upper saddle which runs between the two peaks but we didn't shoot any partridges. It was 1600 when we got back to the base having covered about ten miles. Waldo went out after the fox that Mr Baker chased yesterday and after a long chase managed to shoot it.

Tuesday [Jan] 16<sup>th</sup>: Spent a very quiet day. Went over to see Adam Green in the morning. His wife made me a nice camera case.

Wednesday [Jan] 17<sup>th</sup>: Took over cook's duty for the day. Holgate went out with Marshall

and Marlow to collect a few of our old marks. They arrived back at 1600.

Thursday [Jan] 18<sup>th</sup>: Went out after partridges in the afternoon but didn't see any at all. Visited Clarks in the evening.

Friday [Jan] 19<sup>th</sup>: Got in wood and water during the forenoon. Mr and Mrs Clark came over in the evening.

Saturday [Jan] 20<sup>th</sup>: Snowing during the forenoon but cleared up in the evening. Mr Deane went over to Kuak on his komatik in the afternoon to lay some traps. The surgeon returned at 1600 but hadn't had any luck in the deer country.

Sunday [Jan] 21<sup>st</sup>: Spent a very quiet day indoors. Steve and Marlow took one of our teams away over to Ten Mile Bay. They only got eight partridges,

Monday [Jan] 22<sup>nd</sup>: Very busy getting ready for our next camp. Mr Baker took over the dog food and some heavy gear.

Tuesday [Jan] 23<sup>rd</sup>: Slight snow falling first thing and as the barometer was falling Mr Baker decided not to go into camp until the weather settled. I went round the back of Kuak in the afternoon but there were no signs of any partridges.

Wednesday [Jan] 24<sup>th</sup>: Temp rose to +24. Impossible to make a start for camp. It was calm weather and snowing very heavily during the forenoon. In the afternoon it cleared up and started to blow a bit. I went up the lower Kuak Brook as far as Trousers Lake, so called because of the shape of it, but I didn't see any partridges tracks at all. Mr & Mrs Smith and Mr Gillingham arrived here from Nutak this evening on a visit to Mr & Mrs Clark.

Thursday [Jan] 25<sup>th</sup>: It was snowing and blowing hard so it was decided not to go to camp at all. We had news from Hebron that there was trouble with the natives up there. They had attacked the HBCo. manager and broken into and robbed the store. There has been trouble up there for some time but now it has become so serious that Mr Grubb has appealed to Mr Baker to do something, so as soon as the weather has settled a bit Mr Baker, Mr Deane, Mr Bingham & Steve are going up to see if they can do anything and if necessary arrest the ring leader. There is a missionary up there. The last one had to give up his post owing to the natives misbehaving themselves.

[Entires for 26 and 27 January are missing.]

Sunday [Jan] 28<sup>th</sup>: Snow all day which again prevented our party from starting for Hebron. Mr & Mrs Clark and Mr & Mrs Smith of Nutak came over to see us in the afternoon. We all went over to Clarks in the evening.

Monday [Jan] 29<sup>th</sup>: Snowing all day. The temp rose to +30 at tea time, and at 1700 the wind started blowing from the S W. By eight o'clock there was a gale blowing. Marlow, Marshall and I went over to Grubbs for supper. At seven thirty one of the Esquimos came in to ask permission to ring the church bell to guide two men in who had been out for wood and who were known to be near the village somewhere. They heard the bell but couldn't get their komatik in owing to the heavy soft snow drifts. During the night the wind veered to the NE and the temperature dropped again to -5.

Tuesday [Jan] 30<sup>th</sup>: A strong N E gale was still blowing and we managed to get up one load of wood with the help of eight dogs harnessed up to the komatik. It was impossible to get water at our usual place so we filled up the tank with snow. The weather improved during

the afternoon.

Wednesday [Jan] 31<sup>st</sup>: There was no wind so Mr Baker decided to start on the trip to Hebron. They took three komatiks and all the dogs except Diver and Spot who are both on the sick list. Dolly of course remained behind to look after her pups. I am left in charge of the base now. We got up a good supply of water.

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb: Heard Mr Baker arrived P. Main.<sup>56</sup> The barometer dropped again during the night and it was snowing slightly during the forenoon. We got up a few loads of wood on the small komatik. In the afternoon I went up the Lower River after partridges but didn't even see a track of one.

Friday [Feb] 2<sup>nd</sup>: A lovely morning. We got in one load of wood and spent the rest of the forenoon cleaning up the hospital. Holgate went off with Waldo to Webbs Neck, a narrow strip of land making a short cut for komatiks to Webbs Bay.<sup>57</sup> After tea the temperature rose and the sky became very dull and overcast and by five o'clock it was snowing hard with a strong west wind. Jim Webb came in from the country today. He sent Henry over with a few partridges.

Saturday [Feb] 3<sup>rd</sup>: Another nice day. Temperature dropped to 22° below zero we got up wood and water in the forenoon. In the evening Mr Clark came over and we all sat up to listen for the wireless messages for people cut off from the regular mail services in the north. There were two for our party, one for Mr Deane and one for Steve.

Sunday [Feb] 4<sup>th</sup>: Very quiet day. Mr & Mrs Clark came over for a cup of tea and a gossip in the afternoon, and in the evening we all went over to church and from there to Clarks for supper.

Monday [Feb] 5<sup>th</sup>: Snow all day got up three loads of wood during the forenoon. In the afternoon Lucas Tuglavine returned from Nutak. He brought news that "Steve" had been left behind at Nutak owing to illness.

Tuesday [Feb] 6<sup>th</sup>: Wood and water during the forenoon. The temperature dropped to 23° below zero. After tea and we also had what the natives call "sun frost." Although the sky was bright and apparently cloudless there was snow falling during the whole forenoon. Mr & Mrs Clark and Bob Mercer came over in the evening.

Wednesday [Feb] 7<sup>th</sup>: Temp reached 29° below zero. Amused ourselves cleaning out the stove pipes during the forenoon. Very quiet day.

Thursday [Feb] 8<sup>th</sup>: Temperature jumped to +5. Snowing and blowing a gale all day. It cleared up a bit in the evening. I went over to Clarks after supper for an hour. While I was over there the courier suddenly arrived with the mail there was great excitement for a few minutes. I took ours over to the hospital.

Friday [Feb] 9<sup>th</sup>: Filled up all round with wood and water. Mr Clark left for Davis Inlet early in the morning. It has been a lovely day, Mrs Clark came over with baby and Liza, her maid. They stayed for tea. I towed baby's "komatik" pram back and stayed gossiping for an

<sup>56</sup> Port Manvers?

<sup>57</sup> Webbs Neck may be the land, less than a mile wide, between Conch Bay and Ugjutoarsuk Bay, about 11 miles west of Nain. Webb Bay opens to the west from the inside passage to Port Manvers (Map 2).

hour with Mrs Clark and Mercer who showed me a mink skin.

Saturday [Feb] 10<sup>th</sup>: Very quiet day. Filled up with wood and water. Went over to Mrs Clarks in the evening. I heard the sad story concerning the village of Hebron while I was waiting for the wireless messages to come through. In Nov 1921 the Hudson's Bay steamer made her last voyage of the season before going south for the winter. Some of the crew went ashore for a dance with the natives and one, or more of them must have had the "flu" which some of the natives caught. The village was then out of touch with the outside world. In Jan 1922 some little girls were wandering near the village from a trappers hut and they heard a strange noise from one of the huts of an apparently deserted village and they ran home to tell their parents. Upon investigation it was discovered that a little girl was the sole survivor of a population of over a hundred. They had all fallen sick with the "flu" and had gradually become too weak to get wood and they had burned part of the houses down and slowly starved to death.<sup>88</sup> The dogs, becoming hungry had got into the half burned houses and eaten parts of the bodies. The little girl, whose father and mother died a few days before her discovery by the trapper had lived on biscuits and molasses and she was almost mad when they found her. Her hair was sticking out like long sticks. Some of the bodies were wedged so tightly under the stoves where they had crawled for the last bit of warmth that the stoves had to be lifted to get them out. One or two of the houses were just set alight with the bodies inside. The little girl is now a married woman in Nain and she still limps through the dogs attacking her and biting her foot badly.

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Feb: Usual routine. Went over to Clarks in the evening.

Monday [Feb] 12<sup>th</sup>: Got in three loads of wood and filled up with water. The Hebron party came back in the evening. They brought back the ringleader of the trouble and his family. One of their dogs had pulled so hard that he dropped dead in his harness when they arrived. Some of the Labrador sledge dogs are like that. They just pull till they drop while others are just the opposite - they need the whip all the time.

Tuesday [Feb] 13<sup>th</sup>: Ordinary routine, Got up wood and water during the forenoon.

Wednesday [Feb] 14<sup>th</sup>: Wood and water during the forenoon went over to Clarks in the evening.

Thursday [Feb] 15<sup>th</sup>: Very quiet day. Cleaned up the ward. Went over to Clarks in the evening.

Friday [Feb] 16<sup>th</sup>: Marlow went off with Renatus Tuglavine with a load of gear for the camp. Renatus doesn't use the ordinary steel runners but sticks to the mud runners of the northern Esquimos. They are beautiful and smooth running. Mr Deane went up to visit his traps in the afternoon while I amused myself repairing a broken komatik. Doctor went up country.

<sup>88</sup> Hampson has the details correct except for the year - 1918 was the year of the "Spanish Flu" pandemic. Lynne Fitzhugh includes a great deal of material on the devastating and horrific effect of the flu on Okak, Hebron, and other settlements, provided as memoirs in her source material, the magazine *Them Days*. Fitzhugh's book is mentioned at the end of the manuscript with other suggestions for further Labrador sources. See especially pp. 223-244 for accounts of the flu in Hebron and Okak.





Willie Tuglavine and family.

Saturday [Feb] 17<sup>th</sup>: Cleaned up the base during the forenoon. Some of the Indians came in from the country in the evening. They are a dirty crowd.

Sunday [Feb] 18<sup>th</sup>: Very quiet day we had beautiful weather. I went over to Clarks in the evening.

Monday [Feb] 19<sup>th</sup>: Left for camp at Aulatsevic Island at 1030.<sup>59</sup> It was very rough going. We arrived at 1400. The officers decided to live in one of the igloos and Henry Voisey lived in the other. I went out to look for partridges after tea but didn't see any.

Tuesday [Feb] 20<sup>th</sup>: Marlow and I went with Mr Baker to mark the island in readiness for coastlining. We put up the marks all together. Henry Voisey went down to Black Island<sup>60</sup>

<sup>59</sup> South Aulatsivik Island is easily the largest island in the area. It is approximately 22 miles long on a north/south axis, and at its widest, over ten miles. Its west coast forms the east shore of the inside passage to Port Manvers and Port Manvers Run. Port Manvers itself is at the top of the island. Off the east shore of the island is the archipelago through which runs the middle passage to Port Manvers. This camp marked the shift of focus to the survey of the middle passage (Map 2).

<sup>60</sup> Black Island and Black Harbour, (indicated on Chart 4775 as a good anchorage), are off the east coast of South Aulatsivik at about the midpoint of the north/south axis (Map 3).

for seals. He arrived back at 1700.

Wednesday [Feb] 21<sup>st</sup>: It was snowing when we turned out this morning. I went down the valley for partridge and returned through the woods but it was snowing and blowing so hard that I only stayed away for an hour. There were no signs of any birds. At noon we had a visitor to the camp. George Ford, who was on his way to Nain from Black Island for provisions, called on us. We spent the day reading and sleeping.

Thursday [Feb] 22<sup>nd</sup>: It was still snowing and blowing but it cleared up a bit by 1000 and became quite calm. Mr Baker decided not to make a start as the barometer was still falling. Mr Deane went off hunting and to lay his traps and Marshall went off after partridges. I went off to some of the outside islands to set a few traps and when I returned I discovered everyone had gone off surveying, so I went looking for partridges but didn't see any.

Friday [Feb] 23<sup>rd</sup>: We all started off for High Island<sup>61</sup> at 0900. Mr Baker, Marshall and Henry, our camp, servant started from the north. Mr Deane and Stevo went for the outside islands and Marlow and I went to the south. It was a beautiful day and warm enough to have the hoods of our siloupaks down and our gloves off while traveling. At 1800 the weather suddenly changed and it started to snow very heavily. We could only (1500?) see a few hundred yards ahead of us. Our lead dog appeared to be lost all together so I had to go ahead of her all the way back. She was all right by the time we got in sight of the two big rocks near our camp and we had all our work cut out to keep the komatik from overturning because the dogs wanted to take too many short cuts over rocks, etc. and all the orders in the world wouldn't make them keep to the trail. Mr Baker was getting a bit worried about us and was quite relieved when we arrived in.

Saturday [Feb] 24<sup>th</sup>: The temperature rose to +30° during the night and we had quite a lot of hailstones early this morning. It was also blowing a blizzard. I went down as far as the Black Hills as we have named them but I soon returned as the snow was too deep to travel in places and visibility was reduced to about twenty yards owing to the heavy drifting snow. Mr Baker sent Henry back to the base with orders to return on Monday with more provisions for the party. The snow stopped about 1500 so Mr Baker & Marlow went over to one of our marks to take a round of angles to some of the other marks. Steve went partridge hunting. Mr Deane & Marshall climbed one of the hills to get up a mark so I amused myself digging out some of the camp gear that was buried in the snow. When they returned we fed the dogs. The temperature had dropped to +25° at 1800 but the snow started again. Our tents are well down in the snow now and it is possible to look over them quite easily. The inner tents are all coated with ice on the inside to a height of 2 ft.

Sunday [Feb] 25<sup>th</sup>: We had a bit of excitement about midnight last night. All the dogs, except Kiverlik who was tied to a tree, broke into one of the igloos where we kept three seals for dog food and were having a good feast. It was the barking and whining of Kiverlik that gave them away. We transferred what was left of the seals to the spare tent. It was still

<sup>61</sup> Now more commonly known as Dog Island. This good sized island, about 8 miles on a north/south axis, and 7 miles at its greatest breadth, forms the boundary between the middle passage and the outside passage of the open sea. Alagaiai Hill, 805', is at the northern end of the island (Map 3).

blowing and snowing so it was impossible to do any surveying. We hoisted the seals up a tree in the afternoon out of reach of the dogs.

Monday [Feb] 26<sup>th</sup>: Still blowing so hard that we couldn't go out. Stevo and I dug some of the snow away from round our tent. I afterwards assisted Mr Baker and Mr Deane to repair the igloo damaged by the dogs and to straighten everything off. We had to dig two of our komatiks (sledges) out. The wind eased down a bit in the afternoon so Marlow and I went off to visit my traps. We left the valley via the Black Hills and returned by the southern entrance. It started to blow hard again and the only living thing we saw was a hawk on one of the Black Hills. It was quite a change to stretch our legs after being penned up for two days in tents 6'8" square. Henry didn't return but I hope he comes tomorrow or we shall be out of provisions.

Tuesday [Feb] 27<sup>th</sup>: The wind had eased right down and we all started off early. Stevo and I went off to Eve Knoll where we shot up a few marks. It was pretty rough going over the last two miles as all the ice was broken up between Needles Point and Eve<sup>62</sup>. There were still two open patches of water. Half way up Eve Knoll Stevo must have disturbed two foxes, a cross, and a red, I didn't get a chance to get a decent shot at them. On the way back we called at all the marks we had put up and fixed them. Mr Deane and Marshall went up S. Hill while Mr Baker and Marlow went up Noaz. Henry Voisey arrived with fresh provisions from the base.

Wednesday [Feb] 28<sup>th</sup>: It was blowing hard but we all made a start. Stevo and I went to the south but by the time we had fixed two marks it was blowing so hard that there was a very high drift which made it impossible to see very far so we returned to camp. The others returned about noon. At tea time the wind eased down and I went off on my own to fix some marks and re-erect one that had blown down two days ago. Henry Voisey returned from Black Island where he had been to get dog food. Some of the dogs broke in Mr Baker's igloo and eat all the smoked trout that Mr Grubb sent out to us. I saw a partial and lunar halo at sunset today.

Thursday [Mar] 1<sup>st</sup>: It was a beautiful day but blowing very hard and making a heavy drift so we wouldn't go away. Mr Deane and I went over to look at his traps and on the way back we found a covey of partridges. I got six and Mr Deane four. In the afternoon Mr Baker and Mr Deane decided to go away to try and start a bit of coastlining. Steve and myself [sic] plucked all the partridges and cut up the dog food. Stevo then went off for more partridges. He got eight more. I saw two down the valley and after chasing them fore over an hour I managed to get one. That made my total seven for the day.

Friday [Mar] 2<sup>nd</sup>: It was a nice fine day so Steve and I started off with Henry and his dog team to re-erect a mark that had blown down three days ago and to put up four more marks. I left Stevo and Henry to put up three while I carried on to put up two other marks and I came across a covey of seven partridges and managed to bag the lot. On our return to camp

<sup>62</sup> Needles Knoll is the southern tip of South Aulatsivik Island, and marks both the NE entrance to Harmony Run (opening to the west) and the SW entrance to the middle passage (opening to the north). The eastern tip of Hillsbury Island, and Eve Knoll, lie 1/4 to the SW across Harmony Run.

I went out again to lay two more traps and on my return I got four more partridges making a total of eleven for the day.

Saturday [Mar] 3<sup>rd</sup>: The weather was ideal for surveying today. Stevo and I coastlined Central and Mary Islands and some shoals in between the two. Just before we started off I saw two partridges near the camp Stevo shot one and I shot the other. We finished our work rather early so I went off to look at my traps and on the way back I shot two more partridges making three for the day. Henry returned to Nain for the week-end.

Sunday [Mar] 4<sup>th</sup>: Left with Stevo to coastline Myrtle Island and two chains of small islands.<sup>63</sup> It started to snow on the way back. I went over to look at my traps and when I got near the camp I saw eight partridges so Stevo went after them but they were too wild. I went off down to the other woods but didn't see any partridge at all. The other parties returned early owing to the snow. Mr Deane reported that he saw two seals over near the open water by Eve Island so Mr Baker suggested that we all go hunting tomorrow instead of surveying for a change.

Monday [Mar] 5<sup>th</sup>: It was snowing heavily all day and the temperature rose to +39° at 1100. Mr Baker and Mr. Deane went off to the open water to see if they could get any seals. Marlow and I went round to my traps while Stevo and Marshall went partridge hunting. Only Stevo and Mr Deane were lucky. The former shot three partridges while Mr Deane shot two ducks. Mr Baker shot a seal but only wounded it and it escaped under the ice. Henry Voisey returned from Nain with some more dog food.

Tuesday [Mar] 6<sup>th</sup>: Another mild day. Marlow and I took one of the dog teams to transport some gear over to Everlik<sup>64</sup> where our next camp is to be. We got over there at 1130. On the return trip I saw a cross fox which I chased but I lost him on one of the islands. Mr Deane went to Black Island to find a site for his next camp and brought back two seals for dog feed.

Wednesday [Mar] 7<sup>th</sup>: It was snowing very heavily when we turned out and Mr Baker decided to break camp and return to Nain. We left at 0930 and arrived at 1330. On the way back the weather cleared beautifully and it turned out a nice warm day. Early this morning our dogs chewed through the lines which were holding our seals up the tree. We had a fine game with the whips beating them off.

Thursday [Mar] 8<sup>th</sup>: Spent a very quiet day drying our tents, deer skins etc. Went over to Clarks in the evening.

Friday [Mar] 9<sup>th</sup>: Filled up with wood and water. Freeman Saunders arrived from Mokkovik to take down the mail. He says he is due back in Nain about the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Saturday [Mar] 10<sup>th</sup>: Usual routine during the forenoon. The doctor returned from a two days' fishing trip to the Salt Water Lakes. His catch was two codfish.

Sunday [Mar] 11<sup>th</sup>: Very quiet day. Went over to Clarks in the evening.

<sup>63</sup> All these islands, and those identified in the 3 March entry, are all part of the archipelago between South Aulatsivik and High Islands, in the southern half of the middle passage (Map 3).

<sup>64</sup> Wheeler shows Evilik at the north end of an unnamed island (High Island) that is sketched with the dotted line of "coast line not known." It is shown at the foot of Alagaiai Hill. The *Sailing Directions* say "Evilik Bay is an indentation on the east side of Dog Island at the north end of the [Queens Lakes] tickle" (268).

Monday [Mar] 12<sup>th</sup>: Filled up with wood and water. Made guys for the marks we are to put over at Everlik.

Tuesday [Mar] 13<sup>th</sup>: Making guys and repairing tents all day. Went over to Clarks in the evening.

Wednesday [Mar] 14<sup>th</sup>: Got everything ready for camp.

Thursday [Mar] 15<sup>th</sup>: Left Nain for camp at Everlik. Mr Baker and Holgate went on one komatik, Mr Deane on another, while I went with Archie Dickers who was going to Black Island. I dropped off at Saltwater Camp<sup>65</sup> and waited there for Mr Baker. We then loaded up the small komatik and towed it over to Everlik about 8 miles further on. The dogs were just about tired out because they had an exceptionally heavy load. We all had to walk the last stretch.

Friday [Mar] 16<sup>th</sup>: Holgate and I took the small komatik over to Saltwater camp to get some more gear. Mr Baker followed later on Henry's komatik to collect the remainder of the gear. We had to bury the two seals in the snow and lash the komatiks on top to prevent the dogs getting at them as there are no trees we can hang the dog food to. I saw a couple solar halo today but as the lower limb of the outer one did not rise above the horizon only seven "sun dogs" or "sun spots" could be seen [diagram in original]. It lasted about an hour. The inner halo was very brilliant and about 24' diameter while the outer one was coloured like a rainbow. The inner colour being a very bright orange about 30' diameter. The single inner halo was visible all day. We also had "sun frost" early this morning, while this evening we had light snow for over an hour.

Saturday [Mar] 17<sup>th</sup>: It was blowing and snowing so hard all day that we were unable to see more than fifty yards from the tents everything is almost buried in snow. We spent the day reading and sleeping.

Sunday [Mar] 18<sup>th</sup>: The weather didn't improve much. It was still blowing hard and snowing but as we were so fed up laying in our tents we decided to put up a few marks along the coast. We return[ed] at noon and as the weather appeared to be clearing a bit Mr Baker and I went over to Henry Is and shot up the marks. At five pm it became very overcast and started to snow again so we returned to camp.

Monday [Mar] 19<sup>th</sup>: It was still snowing heavily but Mr Baker decided to put up O [beacon] marks on Bingham and Vernon Islands<sup>66</sup> about seven miles further north. We set [off] at nine o'clock but traveling was very slow owing to the soft snow. While we were putting up our first mark the weather became worse so we decided to return to camp. On the way back we put up two cairns on two of the smaller islands. The wind backed to SW and the snow stopped at 1500 but it started drifting which made things worse. My face got badly frost bitten too.

Tuesday [Mar] 20<sup>th</sup>: It was a nice day so we all set off to do some coastlining and to put up

<sup>65</sup> Given the various distances that Hampson suggests this camp was from places of known position, as the name would suggest, it must have been a camp made on the frozen sea.

<sup>66</sup> Both these small islands are near the halfway point of the middle passage, amongst the heavy concentration of islands. *Sailing Directions*, 264.

some more marks. Mr Baker carried on down High Island while Holgate and I went over to Webb Is. to put up two marks on the northern and eastern sides of it. After completing what coastlining we had to do, we put up two more marks on High Island and returned to camp. It started to blow very hard in the evening.

Wednesday [Mar] 21<sup>st</sup>: We couldn't do any surveying at all today. It was blowing so hard that visibility was reduced to a few yds. All we could do was just lay in our tents reading and talking.

Thursday [Mar] 22<sup>nd</sup>: The weather was beautiful this morning and we made an early start for Webb Island, about four miles away. Mr Baker coastlined one side of it while I did the other side. We afterwards coastlined Henry Island and a large shoal between Webb Island and Dumbell Island. We put in a jolly good day's work.<sup>67</sup>

Friday [Mar] 23<sup>rd</sup>: Another good day. I coastlined Dumbell, and Romer Islands, also the shore to the north of our camp. Mr Baker and Holgate went over to Myrtle Island to do some topography and coastline.

Saturday [Mar] 24<sup>th</sup>: We put in a splendid day's work. Mr Baker and I coastlined Misfit and Half Moon Islands. We all three returned to camp about noon for a mug up. After that we climbed Alagaia, large pyramid shaped hill<sup>68</sup> about eight hundred feet high to take theodolite angles to the various other stations. From the top we could see the open water or shuna as it is called. It is too far out for us to go seal hunting. On our return we had the misfortune to lose all the dogs. It is the regular practice when coming down a steep hill to hitch the dogs behind the komatik but instead of holding them till we were all ready for coming down, Holgate let them go. Needless to say that was the last we saw of them until we got back to camp about two miles away where they were enjoying the contents of a box of dog food which was securely tied and buried in snow. I honestly believe that they would open a steel safe if they knew it had dog food in it. We gave them a jolly good thrashing with big sticks and tied them up for the night without feeding them. We shall have to go over for the komatik tomorrow.

Sunday [Mar] 25<sup>th</sup>: We all had a day off today. I took the dogs over to bring back the komatik while Holgate went round Alagaia hunting. On my return I dug the snow away from round the bottom of the tents. In the evening I went out hunting for an hour but without any luck.

Monday [Mar] 26<sup>th</sup>: Very calm early in the forenoon so we set off for Barham Island<sup>69</sup> about two miles away. As we had a good load we had to walk all the way. We intended going on to the open water to hunt seals and walrus but it was too far out so we decided to return to camp and it is a good thing that we did because the wind sprang up and in less than an hour we could only see a few yards ahead of us owing to drifting snow. We got back at 1700 having walked over eighteen miles. We put up four new marks.

Tuesday [Mar] 27<sup>th</sup>: The weather was very clear so Mr Baker and Holgate set out for Henry

Web, Dumbell, Henry, Myrtle and Misfit Islands are all between South Aulatsivik and High Islands (Map 3). Alagaiai Hill, at the north end of Dog (High) Island.

Five miles NE of Alagaiai Hill on Dog Island, Barham Island is a barrier to the open sea (Maps 2 and 3).

Island to do some topography from the summit while I set off to put up some small marks along a narrow channel which almost divides High Island into two parts. We all returned about noon and I found my eyes were very sore and watering due to forgetting my tinted glasses. It is a lesson I shall remember for a long time. After a mug up Mr Baker and I coastlined the channel I had marked while Holgate chopped up a seal we had buried for dogs' food. It was rather early when we returned so I assisted Mr Baker in plotting out our work on the field board which is a very uncomfortable job in a tent.

Wednesday [Mar] 28<sup>th</sup>: It was snowing hard when we turned out this morning. I was not surprised because there was a solar halo all day yesterday and a lunar halo last night both of which are sure signs of bad weather out here. About 1000 it cleared up a bit so we all started off, Mr Baker and Holgate to take some theodolite angles from Carvy Islands,<sup>70</sup> myself to coastline Homer, San, Drift and Blossom Islands. I met Henry on the way to Drift Island. He had come from Black Island with a letter for Mr Baker so he waited until I had finished and brought me back to camp. Mr Baker and Holgate arrived in soon after. Stevo had been badly bitten on both hands by Kiveruk the dog we got from Hebron and has had to return to the base at Nain. Mr Baker has decided to break camp tomorrow so we are starting back at 4am as it is the best time for traveling.

Thursday [Mar] 29<sup>th</sup>: We started off at 4.15am but it was blowing and snowing very hard and the going was so heavy owing to the new snow that we couldn't ride on the komatiks so we had to walk the whole of the 23 miles to Nain. The mail had arrived so I spent the evening reading letters and papers.

[Mar] 30<sup>th</sup> Good Friday: We spent a very quiet day drying the tents and skin etc. I went over to Clarks in the evening.

Saturday [Mar] 31<sup>st</sup>: Another quiet day. I am still rather stiff from my long walk. "Stevo's" hand is much better and he started off this morning on a sixty mile trip to Nutak to visit Mr & Mrs Smith at the HBC post.

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April: We had quite a lot of visitors here today. The Eskimos make Easter their best holiday of the year. I got a lovely red fox skin this morning for some old clothes and three dollars.

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April: The weather is very [warm] now. The temperature rose to 37° above zero. The snow is all melting off the roofs and most of the hills are uncovered. We got up three measures of wood this morning and started to make some lead lines in readiness for the ship coming up here.

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April: Weather still warm, plenty of sleet.

Wednesday [April] 4<sup>th</sup>: Snow and rain all day. Went over to Clarks in the evening.

Thursday [April] 5<sup>th</sup>: Fine weather all day but the temperature is still high during the day. Went over to Purvy's in the evening and got a nice red fox skin. Its value was fixed at \$12 but I got it for six, and a few old clothes.

<sup>70</sup> Probably the Carey and North Carey Islands (Map 3). The other islands Hampson names are not described in the *Sailing Directions*.



The band on the church roof on Easter Sunday

Friday [April] 6<sup>th</sup>: Filled up with wood and water for the weekend. The water is very easy to get now as the river is bursting through the snow on the banks owing to the thaw.

Saturday [April] 7<sup>th</sup>: Very quiet day. Got everything ready for our next camp which starts on Monday. Myself and Holgate are going with Mr Baker again to Evalik<sup>71</sup> while Marlow and Stevenson - who came back from Nutak this evening - are going to Black Island for a time and are moving over to camp at Tessiajelialuk Island.<sup>72</sup> I went off after partridges with Mercer of the HBC but it started to snow hard so we returned. After tea I went over to Clarks and Mr Clark made me a present of two lovely red fox skins the pick of the store. He also gave me a pair of mocassins.

Sunday [April] 8<sup>th</sup>: Very quiet day. Snowing very heavily.

Monday [April] 9<sup>th</sup>: Snow all day. We could not start for camp which was rather fortunate for me as I was confined to bed with a cold which I had for the past fortnight. I couldn't stand up when I tried to turn out this morning so the Doctor advised me to stay in bed.

Tuesday [April] 10<sup>th</sup>: Still snowing. Very quiet day.

Evilik, on the north coast of Dog or High Island (Maps 2 and 3).  
Now David Island, (Map 2).



[The next date in T. Hampson's diary is 23/4. No explanation for gap. (A.O.H. 22.3.04)]

Monday [April] 23<sup>rd</sup>: Left Nain at 0800 for our new camp on Lang Island. The trip only took 4/2 hours which was good. Mr Baker and Holgate were away when I got there so I stowed all the dog food away which I brought with me. Mr Baker and Holgate returned about 1700.

Tuesday [April] 24<sup>th</sup>: We all went off to put up marks along the coast. The ice is getting very bad in places.

Wednesday [April] 25<sup>th</sup>: Took the team away to coastline two small islands while Mr Baker and Holgate coastlined Lang Island. We intended going over to Bingham Island in the afternoon but it started to blow hard so we fed the dogs and called it a day.

Thursday [April] 26<sup>th</sup>: Went over to coastline Bingham Is. and two small islands nearby. We then started off for Belle Vue Island about six miles away but before we got halfway there it commenced raining and blowing hard from the north which quickly lowered the temps and turned the rain to snow so we made tracks for camp. We got back none too soon because it started to blow a regular gale later.

Friday [April] 27<sup>th</sup>: I was very ill again this morning and could hardly stand up so Mr Baker who had intended going to Nain for the weekend took me over to Black Island and as soon as I [am] well enough to travel I am returning to the base at Nain. Stevo and Marshall went out with Willie Ford to go seal hunting but returned in the evening as the ice was all breaking up and it was too dangerous to stay out.

Saturday [April] 28<sup>th</sup>: I felt a bit better today. Willie Ford came in during the forenoon to tell us that all the ice is broken up as far down as Tessuigelialuk Island and Tent Island.<sup>73</sup> It looks as though we shall have to pack up surveying up here soon. Felt well enough to go to the top of a nearby hill during the afternoon with Marshall to see how far the ice has broken up. I am afraid Mr Baker will have to alter his plans about staying out here until the end of May.

Sunday [April] 29<sup>th</sup>: I couldn't go back to Nain today as it was blowing too hard. I spent the day in my sleeping bag.

Monday [April] 30<sup>th</sup>: The wind eased down quite a lot so I set off to Nain with Willie Ford. The journey took just over four hours. The Doctor said I needn't turn in again as I would probably be better if I was up providing I didn't get dizzy again.

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May: Very quiet day. Mr Baker couldn't start for Black Island as it was snowing hard.

Wednesday [May] 2<sup>nd</sup>: Still blowing and snowing. Very quiet day. Went over to see Mrs Clark. Mr Clark has gone to Hopedale.

Thursday [May] 3<sup>rd</sup>: Mr Baker started out for B. Island with Mr Deane and Henry.

Friday [May] 4<sup>th</sup>: Snow all day. Got up wood and water. Several komatiks came in from the north and Mr Clark returned from Hopedale.

Saturday [May] 5<sup>th</sup>: Snow all day. All our camp parties returned today. It was snowing hard

Approximately 1 1/2 miles NE of Black Island.

as usual. Mr Grubb also returned from Hebron.

Sunday [May] 6<sup>th</sup>: Very quiet day. The snow cleared off at 1000 and it turned into a lovely day.

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May: Filled up with wood and water. Mr Baker arranged with Mr Grubb to take our photographs dressed up in Arctic kit. Went over to the Clarks in the evening.

Tuesday [May] 8<sup>th</sup>: Quiet day. Marshall went off with Henry to Black Island. They are going seal hunting.

Wednesday [May] 9<sup>th</sup>: Mr Clark went off to Nutak this morning to visit Mr and Mrs Smith of the HBC post. Mr C is having his meals with us now as Mercer his assistant is visiting all the sealing stations.

Thursday [May] 10<sup>th</sup> Went for a walk in the forenoon with Mr Baker. We put up two flags on the old leading marks up on the hill. In the afternoon we took the dogs for a run as far as Rhode Island to put up an ice station. The Doctor and Marlow went off deer hunting with Atter one of the Esquimos. I helped Mr Clark to do some prints off his collection of negatives.

Friday [May] 11<sup>th</sup>: Filled up with wood and water. The snow is thawing very quickly now.

Saturday [May] 12<sup>th</sup>: Mr Baker and Mr Deane went off to Queen's Lake to look up a new camp site for us, also to do a bit of seal hunting. Went over to Clarks in the evening.

Sunday [May] 13<sup>th</sup>: Very quiet day. Went [for] a walk in the evening to look at the river which has burst through the ice further up and has formed a new river on the ice covering the old one.

Monday [May] 14<sup>th</sup>: Very dirty day rain and snow all day.

Tuesday [May] 15<sup>th</sup>: The weather improved a little but it is still snowing a bit so we filled up with wood and water.

Wednesday [May] 16<sup>th</sup>: Mr Baker and Mr Deane returned in a downpour of rain. It has been raining all day.

Thursday [May] 17<sup>th</sup>: Filled up with wood and water.

Friday [May] 18<sup>th</sup>: More disappointment about our future camp. A komatik came in from open water with the information that the ice is all broken up close in as far as Red Island so we cannot get out to Queen's lake. Mr Clark returned from Nutak this evening.

Saturday [May] 19<sup>th</sup>: Mr Deane went south to look up a new campsite near the Bridges and returned in the evening.

Sunday [May] 20<sup>\*</sup>: Very quiet day. Went over to Clarks in the evening.

Monday [May] 21<sup>st</sup>: The Doctor went off to Voisey's Bay with Waldo. The ice is covered in about a foot of water now and all komatiks carry small boats or flats in case any deep [water] is encountered.

Tuesday [May] 22<sup>nd</sup>: The camp party left for "Bridges Run" leaving Holgate and I [sic] behind. The Doctor won't let me go to camp. Holgate left with Mr Clark to go to Voisey's Bay for a trip.

Wednesday [May] 23<sup>rd</sup>: Cleaned out the officers' quarters all ready for painting out.

Thursday [May] 24<sup>\*</sup>: Carried on painting.

Friday [May] 25<sup>\*</sup>: Painting all day. Mr Clark and Holgate while I was over at the post

house. [Sic]

Saturday [May] 26<sup>th</sup>: Still painting. We sat up to listen for messages but there were none for us. The Doctor returned at midnight.

Sunday [May] 27<sup>th</sup>: Went [for] a walk with Mr and Mrs Clark. The latter [sic] came over in the evening and I assisted him to print some photos.

Monday [May] 28<sup>th</sup>: Finished painting out the officers' quarters. Got in wood and water. Went over to the Clarks in the evening.

Tuesday [May] 29<sup>th</sup>: Cleaned up the attic and filled up with water. The tide rose very high this evening owing to the recent NE winds. Henry and Stevo came in today for more provisions and new boots. They say that the ice is going rapidly now and Mr Baker is only staying out for a few more days. I got two nice caskets from Abian Green's daughter this afternoon. Printed some snaps in the evening.

Wednesday [May] 30<sup>th</sup>: Lovely day. Finished off in the officers' quarters. Went over to Clarks in the evening. It started to blow hard during the night and by midnight it was snowing hard.

Thursday [May] 31<sup>st</sup>: Snowing and blowing hard all day. We filled up the water tank with water thawing off the roof. Stevo could not return to camp.

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June: The weather had improved a bit and Stevo decided to return to camp. He couldn't get away until 1400 owing to the big tide gap during the forenoon. Sledges are unable to come ashore at high water and even at low tide the gap is about six feet across. Went across to the Clarks in the evening.

Saturday [June] 2<sup>nd</sup>: Henry returned to Nain this morning with a message from Mr Baker telling me to go up to 5<sup>th</sup> cairn and put some white calico round the station pole. The Doctor and Joe decided to come with me so we set off after dinner and after five minutes' smoke near the cairn (700 feet up) we got back to the base at 1530. I carried on with some painting I had started in the ward during the forenoon. I went over to Clarks in the evening. Joe went to Piercey's for a dance and a game of cards.

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June: Carried on painting in the ward. Went [for] a walk with Mr and Mrs Clark in the evening.

Monday [June] 4<sup>th</sup>: Joe and I had started some more painting when the camp party returned to the base unexpectedly. They couldn't carry on with the work as the ice is getting too bad. Went [for] a walk again in the evening with the Clarks.

Tuesday [June] 5<sup>th</sup>: We all got on with the painting and finished off the ward. Went a walk with the Clarks in the evening and saw some partridges but we didn't shoot them as they are mating. The geese and ducks are plentiful now.

Wednesday [June] 6<sup>th</sup>: We laid our water pipes down from the brook this morning. It saves a lot of trouble. In the afternoon I went over to the Grubbs and went to Clarks as usual in the afternoon. Mr Deane has got up a sweepstake for the time the ice breaks up.

Thursday [June] 7<sup>th</sup>: Raining hard all day. Went over to the Clarks.

Friday [June] 8<sup>th</sup>: Quiet day. Went to Clarks and we all went for a walk in the evening.



Nascopi Indians at Voisey's Bay.

Saturday [June] 9<sup>th</sup>: At 1000 I started off for Voisey's Bay with Mr Baker. We arrived at Komasuk<sup>74</sup> at 1330 and after half an hour's spell at David Winters house we started for Amos Voisey's arriving there at 1700. Went to look at the Indian camp in the evening. They are a dirty, lazy lot numbering about 85.

Sunday [June] 10<sup>th</sup>: Went for a day's hunting and fishing to Koonrad's Brook<sup>75</sup> which I would certainly call a big river. We saw lots of duck but we couldn't get close enough to them to get a shot so we went up the river bank for about four miles until we came to the waterfall which we heard roaring from Voisey's the night before, a distance of six miles. Mr Baker tried to do some fishing but the water is too muddy yet. We got back at 1800 very tired but amply rewarded by the sight of the waterfall. It was a waterfall.[!]

Monday [June] 11<sup>th</sup>: Went off with Henry Voisey to the head of the bay for some hunting and trout netting. The mountaineers (Indians) had disturbed all the ducks and geese but we

<sup>74</sup> Kamarsuk, about 16 miles south of Nain, is near the NE entrance to Voisey's Bay, which is on the mainland of Labrador.

<sup>75</sup> Konrad's Brook, perhaps 35 miles long, empties into Voisey's Bay.

managed to get one. We caught 21 fine trout ranging from 2lbs 9ozs to 6lbs 15ozs. We also saw a seal but the dogs frightened him away.

Tuesday [June] 12<sup>th</sup>: Mr Baker decided to return to our base today as Frank's Brook is open and in a day or two it will have forced its way across the bay and prevent us from returning later. The ice is very bad now and we had great difficulty in getting them [the dogs] to cross in many places. We had two rattles or narrow channels to go through which were open all the way across so we had to drag the sledge over the rocky shore and near Latosoat Point we had to go across floating pans of ice. I led the dogs across while Mr Baker steered the sledge. On one occasion the sledge got caught between a stranded pan of ice and a floating one so I had to rush back to help Mr Baker to drag it back. We had another narrow escape from a ducking once when our dogs fell through some bad ice. We both jumped in the boat we were carrying on the sledge in time. Needless to say, we thought the dogs would turn round and climb on the sledge as they usually do, but our leader managed to climb on a good pan of ice ahead and we managed to get ashore all right without any further trouble. On our arrival at Nain we found that there was a stretch of about yds of open water [no figure provided] to cross so we unharnessed the dogs and launched the sledge into the water. Holgate who came over to the jetty to help us, stood on the same pan of ice that I was on but it proved too much for the ice so it tipped us over. I managed to fall into the boat but Holgate got a cold ducking. Stevo and the Doctor are away trout fishing. I hope they don't have the same kind of journey we had. It took us twelve and a half hours. The dogs' feet were a mass of red pulp and we left a trail of blood from Komarsuk.

Wednesday [June] 13<sup>th</sup>: Very quiet day. All our dogs are just about done in. It is as much as they can do to stagger up to get a bit of food.

Thursday [June] 14<sup>th</sup>: Helped Mr Baker to line up the two leading beacons on Nain hill during the forenoon. Mrs Clark had to sack Liza her maid this morning. She has been expecting to do so for a long time now. In the afternoon we cleared up outside the hospital. Steve returned from Anatulik this evening. He and Archie got twelve trout between them.

Friday [June] 15<sup>th</sup>: Polished up all the runners of the sledges and greased them over. Went over to Clarks in the evening.

Saturday [June] 16<sup>th</sup>: Cleaned up inside the base.

Sunday [June] 17<sup>th</sup>: Quiet day. Went for a walk with Mr Clark in the evening. From the tops of the hills we could see the holes in the ice.

Monday [June] 18<sup>th</sup>: Quiet day. Carried on painting the hospital.

Tuesday [June] 19<sup>th</sup>: Mr Deane and Mr Baker got their canoes out and paddled all round in the tide gap.

Wednesday [June] 20<sup>th</sup>: Painting all day. Visited Clarks in the evening.

Thursday [June] 21<sup>st</sup>: Painting all day. Went to the top of Nain hill with Mr Clark. The ice appears to be gone outside.

Friday [June] 22<sup>nd</sup>: Raining all day. Went to Clarks in the evening.

Saturday [June] 23<sup>rd</sup>: Cleaned up the hospital. Went for a walk with Holgate in the evening.

Sunday [June] 24<sup>h</sup>: The ice seems to go further out every day. Went over to Clarks in the evening.

Monday [June] 25<sup>th</sup>: The wind changed today to NW and drove all the ice out of the bay. John Voisey has arranged to take Mr Baker and the Doctor to Hopedale as soon as the runs are clear of ice.

Tuesday [June] 26<sup>th</sup>: Painting all day. Went over to the Clarks in the evening.

Wednesday 27\*: Marlow and I got up a new beacon on Ship hill in the forenoon. Went over to the Clarks in the evening.

Thursday [June] 28<sup>th</sup>: Mr Baker and the Doctor started for Hopedale at 1400 today. Mrs Clark came over in the afternoon.

Friday [June] 29\*: Quiet day. Finished painting out the hospital.

Saturday 30\* June: Cleaned up everywhere in the forenoon. Helped Mr Grubb to launch the mission boat *Seeko* in the afternoon. Visited Clarks in the evening.

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July: Very quiet day. Went for a walk in the afternoon with Mr and Mrs Clark.

Mornay [July] 2<sup>nd</sup>: Searched for an anchor which we were using to hold the tidepole in position but we couldn't find it.

Tuesday [July] 3<sup>rd</sup>: There is still no signs [sic] of our schooner *Mary Nolander* which was supposed to arrive yesterday from Voisey's Bay. Visited Clarks in the evening.

Wednesday [July] 4\*: The schooner came in late last night. Amos Voisey told us that the *Kyle* had not been to Hopedale yet owing to the pack ice outside. Busy making lead lines all day.

Thursday [July] 5\*: Busy provisioning the schooner during the forenoon. Set sails in the afternoon and after beating about in an easterly wind we arrived at Bridges Run where we anchored for the night.

Friday [July] 6\*: Sailed at 0300 but with very light winds. We made slow progress. On two occasions we were towed by Amos Voisey in his motor boat. Amos left us at Dog Island and we carried on alone arriving at Chesley Ford's house at 2000. Chesley came on board with a lot of trout.

Saturday [July] 7\*: Very busy trying to get the engine going but without success. It started to blow hard so we moved into the inner harbour. I went over to one of the small islands for duck eggs. I only got three eggs and dozens of mosquito bites.

Sunday [July] 8\*: We moved outside again during the forenoon so that we could see Mr Baker if he passed down during the day on his way from Hopedale.

Monday [July] 9\*: No signs of Mr Baker so we sailed for Nain. At 1600 the wind died down so we anchored off Dog Island.

Tuesday [July] 10\*: There was a strong westerly wind blowing and it took us 17 hours to travel 9 miles. We anchored at Bridges Run at 1800.

Wednesday [July] 11\*: Left Bridges Run in a very light head wind at 0300 and arrived at Nain at 1000 to find that Mr Baker had arrived with the mail. He also had four Americans with him who have come to get a few tons of Labradorite from Tabor Island. I was introduced to Mr Strong, a scientist who is on research work up here.

Thursday [July] 12<sup>th</sup>: Went with Mr Strong to the top of S. Channick [Channel] Cairn. We were bothered quite a lot by mosquitos.

Friday [July] 13\*: Went over to Satosoakuluk to lay base plate. Visited Clarks in the

evening.

Saturday [July] 14<sup>th</sup>: We beached the schooner late last night to patch a small leak in her stern. Mr Baker and Stevo put in another engine lent to us by Mr Grubb. Mr Grubb invited us all over in the evening. We enjoyed a nice sing song.

Sunday [July] 16<sup>th</sup>: Very quiet day. Went with Mr & Mrs Clark in the motor boat as far as 10 Mile Run and Knak harbour.<sup>76</sup>

Monday [July] 16<sup>th</sup>: Left Nain in the schooner *Mary Norlander* for Black Island. Willie Ford and Amos our pilot towed us out there with two motor boats. We arrived at B.I. at 2200 and billeted in Joe Ford's house.

Tuesday [July] 17<sup>th</sup>: Went with Mr Baker and Holgate to Apelituks Islands. We left in a small skiff fitted with an outboard motor. We christened it *Yellow Peril* because the engine would do anything but go and we had the job of pulling back to B.I. a distance of four miles.

Wednesday [July] 18<sup>th</sup>: We were to have gone to Central Island in the *Yellow Peril* but she refused as usual so we manned the schooner to sail down. After an hour's slow sailing we were becalmed off Mustic Island<sup>77</sup> so we anchored and waited for Mr Deane & his party to come from Bally Brack.<sup>78</sup> They landed us at Central and then picked us up in the afternoon. We eventually towed the schooner back to B.I.

[July] 19<sup>th</sup> Thursday: Raining hard all day. Stayed indoors reading.

Friday [July] 20<sup>th</sup>: Thick fog early in the forenoon which lifted slightly later so we all left for High Island to remark all our old winter marks. Called at Apelituks on the way back to pick up the theodolite which we left there on Tuesday [astronomical symbol].

Saturday [July] 21<sup>st</sup>: Left B. Island for Nain. We had a splendid wind until we got to Harmony Run when it dropped to dead calm so Mr Deane and Marshall managed to get the *Yellow Peril* going and proceeded to Nain to send out a boat to tow us in. We arrived at 1530. I visited the Clarks in the evening.

Sunday [July] 22<sup>nd</sup>: It rained very hard all day so I helped Mr Baker to muster our library books. Went over to the Clarks in the evening.

Monday [July] 23<sup>rd</sup>: More rain. Got up some wood and painted the tide pole during the forenoon.

Tuesday [July] 24<sup>th</sup>: Ship arrived at 1700. Went on board after tea.

Should readers wish to read more about life in Labrador during this period, a good place to start would be *The Labradorians: Voices from the Land of Cain* (St. John's:

<sup>76</sup> 10 Mile Bay is formed by the main part of Paul Island to the north and its peninsula with Stony Point to the south. (This finger of land is also the north shore of Bridges Passage.) Kauk Harbour is 1 mile west across the South Channel.

<sup>77</sup> Moskie Island, 5 mile south of Black Harbour and 2 miles north of Central Island.

<sup>78</sup> Ballybrack Hill is on the east shore of South Aulatsivik Island, between Moskie and Central Island, directly west of the Mary Islands.

Breakwater Press, 1999) by Lynne D. Fitzhugh. The book relies heavily on material gleaned from the magazine *Them Days*. Anyone who has read the book will find Hampson's Labrador journal quite familiar. The excerpts concerning the devastating impact of the Spanish Flu pandemic on the Labrador coast are quite powerful, and will reinforce what Hampson has to say (though he puts the pandemic in the wrong year).

A superb visual record of life on the Labrador coast during this period is also available, thanks to the rich legacy of photographs taken over many decades by the Moravian missionaries who served on that coast. Much of what Hampson comments upon in his journal - hunting seals, the Inuit, traders, missionaries, and other people on the coast, the musical heritage imparted by the missionaries to the Inuit (the choirs, the brass bands), the kayaks, the komatiks - are reproduced photographically in the pages of *Labrador Through Moravian Eyes: 250 Years of Arts, Photographs & Records* (St. John's: Department of Tourism, Culture & Recreation, 2002) by Hans Rollmann.