

A Resume of the Field Parties Activities was received from the etc.

Tuesday 31st March.

A Seal was sighted by Bowthorpe on the ice just below the Pillow Tanks and was duly shot for Dog Food by Fox. Murphy and Small went to Stephenson's Cove in the afternoon. One Seal was shot and two which had been shot on a previous occasion and then covered with snow during a blow were relocated. Monthly report received from the Traverse Party.

Wednesday 1st April.

A Fire ^{started} today in the Carpenters Shop. The Brawley Heater was lit by Rogers and within minutes the whole heater was ablaze - apparently due to oil overflowing. Rogers sounded fire alarm & then started to extinguish the fire. Hall was first on the scene and the fire was out by the time that most people had reached the vestibule. Very smart action on the part of Rogers and Hall.

The Science building jet Heater gave trouble due to ice in the pipes. The tank will have to be drained to secure a permanent improvement.

The film shown was 'Dull in the Jungle' - a poor film. These usually receive the best reception - offering scope for witticisms etc.

The Bombardier was pushed into the garage by Hall & Murray to throw out. It has

iced up.

The load on the Cat. in the garage is causing Hall some concern. Above a critical load the revs drop and black smoke pours from the cat. The Electrician is of the opinion that the load is not excessive but the condition is caused by the engine not being able to deliver full power.

Thursday 2nd April.

Lowest temperatures since we have been here with the minimum being -30°F . Freeman & Pollard had great difficulty with water runs today mainly because the pipe entering the water pump kept freezing. Vehicles were also very hard to start in these temperatures. The water pump is to be replaced in the Weasel tomorrow morning.

Friday 3rd April.

The end of any month is a busy time for most especially those who have monthly reports to prepare. All reports were handed in in a reasonable time. Successful water runs were made with the water pump installed in the Weasel.

Burphy & Smith took the dogs out to Stephenson's Cove to collect the 3 seals which were still there. Unfortunately the dogs ran over a small ice cliff and a broken sledge runner resulted. I have instructed personnel that in future the dogs will only

be taken out when one of the three experienced handlers (Fox, O Shea, Rogers) also goes.

Saturday 4th April.

Fuel sledge moved by Hall, Small & Murray & the area smoothed over with the Tracavator. A start made in moving screenings into the garage to begin concreting. Fox, Freeman & Smith finally preparing for trip to Haupt Nunatak area.

Sunday 5th April.

A Quiet Day.

Monday 6th April.

Smith, Freeman & Fox departed on schedule and by nightfall were two miles from SIS Turnoff $66^{\circ}19'S$ and $110^{\circ}56'E$ and all well. At base it was a clear day with temperature about $-1^{\circ}F$. The sea ice has frozen formed out as far as Nellie Island. and is firm enough to walk on. Murray, Rogers, Hall, Woods, Williams, Small, Connors and Pollard ventured out this afternoon.

Tuesday 7th April.

Bizzard sprang up during Monday night. Much drift and high winds - up to 90 knots. Drift became a problem in the water jamway & was patched up with paper & cotton wool by O Shea Murray & Pollard. At approximately 9pm

Williams who was night watch reported that the Preway heater in East Block sleeping quarters was blowing back. The smell however was only slight and it was decided that it was safe for sleeping.

Wednesday 8th April.

During Tuesday night the night watch Murphy decided that the heater in East Block was blowing back too much. Pollard was called + O Shea awakened. The Preway was eventually put out by blocking the inlet fuel line with a ball bearing after the off back on the Preway had failed to put it off. The doors at either end of the sleeping block were opened for most of the rest of the evening.

The cause of the trouble was discovered in the morning by O Shea and Murray. The North Tubing had rotted and parted where the North entered the building. This section was replaced using new tubing a cock inserted in the fuel line and the Preway renovated by Murray + O Shea who made an excellent job.

The blizzard died down during the day giving time for doors to be dug out but the wind has strengthened again from the North East tonight.

The 10° F refrigerator is cycling on the pressure control system tonight. The trouble looks like a leak in the suction pressure system.

As Freeman is away on a field trip, the manual was consulted by Ballard & Hall and the above diagnosis made. - will contact Freeman by Radio tomorrow but as temperature is 19° there is still no cause for alarm.

Thursday 9th April.

Three weasels out of action - all with track trouble. Rubbish left after the blizzard was cleared by Hall & Murray. Woods who is responsible for the passageway between the clothing store & the mess spent much time clearing snow off the roof today. The warmth melts the snow which drips onto the floor & then freezes making the passageway treacherous.

Freeman, Fox & Smith returned late this afternoon. after a not very successful trip. - a full report will be compiled for the file.

Friday 10th April.

Refr found by Freeman. Trouble turned out to be a blocked filter - blocked with metal bits which are presumably being eaten away by the Refrigerant which has turned slightly corrosive because of water in the system.

Met section who are on water run who had trouble with freezing hoses due to a cold

wind and subzero temperatures. The water tank is now mostly full of ice and will have to be thawed out by some means.

Saturday 11th April.

Water restrictions imposed pending successful water runs. However the garage is completely full with 2 broken down vessels - tractors need repairing.

Men responsible for clearing door and corridors are doing the jobs effectively and without wringing.

Saturday night is Picture and gag night.

Sunday 12th April.

The water sledge was pushed into the garage by Murray & Pollard & later was covered with a tarpaulin and heated with the Heiman Nelson heater - those involved being Hall, Williams, Small, Pollard, Smith. By 10pm Sunday evening most of the ice had thawed so water runs should start again tomorrow.

Monday 13th April.

The water tanks were completely filled today by Murray & Hall with assistance from the Met Staff - Guffy & Ponnici. The water pump was mounted on the vessel which was restored to service by Hall. A task which will have to be done in the near future is to enclose the water tank again in some sort of insulated box.

Subzero temperatures and any sort of a breeze will partially freeze the tank in the time it takes to haul the sledge from the lake to the base. Tonight was shower night for most!

Tuesday 14th April.

The Red Weasel which had a broken track was repaired by Hall, Gusphy, Gornick & Small. This job had to be done in situ & so proved harder than in the garage.

The Jet Heater in the Head developed an oil leak which was repaired by Freeman. Freeman has constructed several heat exchangers and is going to place them on each Jet Heater to heat the incoming oil and so stop the seeping up of the fuel pump which has been occurring in subzero temperatures.

Wednesday 15th April.

Fine calm day with temperatures about -1 or -2°F . This afternoon the concrete mixer was pushed onto the Leominster Building along with 2 drums of screenings and 1 of sand. These materials had been moved almost to the site by Small & Hall - towing them behind the Bombardier.

A 'road' has been constructed by Hall around the side of the garage & rec. room. As the drift had piled up to such an extent that this became a feasible operation.

Although it is difficult in a station

which has one third of its members away on a traverse, to find enough personnel for difficult jobs, time is freely given by most members.

For, Rogers & Bishop went sealing to Stephenson's Cove and shot 4 seals! None however have been brought back to base as yet.

Thursday 16th April.

Freeman & Small pushing ahead with concreting problem. Water is being melted from snow in the small room next to the cold porch in the Seemri hut and the large room will be used to mix in. Access to the job will be through the floor.

Friday 17th April.

A couple of fittings done by Murray for Bishop & Freeman. Calling Antarctica was recorded as usual. A series on the Mon of AMM: by Tony Mophett started today.

Saturday 18th April.

Three of the Jet heaters now have heat exchangers - each of Freeman's models is slightly more elaborate than the last. None of the heaters on which they have been installed has had any trouble with fuel freezing, and temperatures have been below zero Fahrenheit.

A film was shown this evening

- The High and the mighty.

Sunday 19th April

A day of relaxation for most. A film was shown in the afternoon for those normally on night duty. Sunday activities include washing, reading, spects on the Ham Radio, with outside activities such as walking skiing & sealing if the weather is fine.

Monday 20th April

10°F refrigerator again gave trouble. Freeman traced cause to a gas leak - 8lb lost in 10 days. One of the couplings had developed a hairline crack apparently due to strain at some time. The system will probably give trouble because of ice crystals (until these have been removed completely).

Tuesday 21st April.

The boxing for the first slab of concrete to be poured was completed by Freeman & Small. All is now ready for the first mix which should be tomorrow if the weather holds.

Rogers & Fox went sealing and shot one seal. It was a female and pregnant. The fetus was brought back by Fox for Murray who has preserved the seal pup.

Wednesday 22nd April.

The first slab of concrete for one seismic pier was poured today - Freeman & Small

as main operators & Belland assisting. As in all concreting work, it is the framing & preparation which take most time while the mixing & pouring are accomplished fairly easily. The poured slab was heated by hot air until the heat of the chemical action became sufficient.

The water tanks were filled by the Radio section.

A film was shown in the evening.

Thursday 23rd April

Dr Murray is carrying out Basal Metabolic Rate tests on all members of the party left in camp. Blood samples are to be taken at a later date.

Freeman and Bonnici travelled to the moraine to measure the glaciology ablation stakes. Bonnici suffered a slightly frostbitten nose.

Friday 24th April.

Routine station activities.

Saturday 25th April.

Cross unfortunately became an Anzac Day victim so the food preparation for the ding which was held in the evening was done by volunteers. The birthdays of New Words, Ross Hall & Mike Bonnici were celebrated in a convivial atmosphere.

Sunday 26th April

Cross atoned for yesterday's effort by preparing all meals and cleaning the lounge after the party. Sunday night's dinner was one of the best prepared we have enjoyed. Rogers who was to be duty cook was perhaps needless to say pleased by the change in plans. During Saturday evening jet heaters in the Head & Science block stopped and also the Preway in the Rec room. Temperature in the Science block dropped to 35°F . & the Rec room was not much higher. The Preway in the Rec room was relighted & the Jet Heater in the Head started but the Science block heater ran intermittently due to fuel starvation. The temperature was in the -20°F . region so it was surmised that fuel freezing was the trouble.

Monday April 27th

The fuel pipes from the tank to heater in the Science block were filled with a yellow wax & also there was a fair deposit of wax & ice in the tank. The tank was removed & carried to the garage to thaw. Freeman finished a heat exchanger for the heater & the inlet to the tank was modified to discharge hot oil close to the outlet. In the meantime the Preway in the Science block was started on an kerosene lamp.

a 4 gallon tank stood on the jet heater & run into the filter of the jet heater & thence by gravity to the Preway. This raised the temperature of the Science block into the 60's. Outside air temperature was -20°F today.

Tuesday April 28th

The Science block fuel tank was thawed by late afternoon. A wind had sprung up on Monday night but dropped to zero by morning and the temperature rose to 0°F. It was a really beautiful day - one of the many we have had here. Smith & Bowthorpe are pressing on with theirrometer aerial & have the earth mat almost finished.

Wednesday April 29th

The Hottwell was started and moved to a new position by Hall. The previous area - dug clean. Streams of sand and stone are being moved by Small & Ball to prepare for the next concreting effort while Freeman is preparing the framing etc.

The Science Block jet heater was put back into service and is performing well on clean fuel.

Pictures were shown in the evening 'Vera Cruz' & the Keystone Cops

Thursday April 30th.

Fine calm day. Wood's has cleared the ice away from the passage between the Mess & the Clothing store. It has been a daily job for him for some time but the problem appears to be partly solved with the heater kept going & a fan directing warm air on to the floor.

Friday May 1st

Drums of sand and rock were moved into the Lisome hut by Hall, Ellis, Smith & Willard during the morning. Snowing started in the afternoon and by 4pm the large block was half finished. A creditable effort by Freeman, Ellis, Hall & Small.

Freeman and Williams laid out the sites for the holes for the balloon hut & construction during the morning. A road has been opened up to the new balloon hut around the water jamway & under the Lono aerial. The Mt section is busy in spare time carting stores and fuel drums to the new balloon hut. Williams is working well.

Saturday May 2nd.

Another fine calm day. Crookthorpe and Smith are making the most of it and pressing on with their Kometer Aerial. Hall gave assistance in the morning & again in afternoon.

He is using the oxy torch for soldering the ground plane mesh. Freeman reports that the concrete is leaching normally so this block should be well keyed in to bedrock.

Mrs Melbourne had pups today. Two were born outside & froze to death. The bitch was then brought inside & another pup was born during the day. & is still alive.

Saturday night is picture and grog night. 'Genevieve' was the film.

Sunday May 3rd.

Another good day. Orphey Rogers went sealing on the sea ice in front of the station and shot 3. Numerous seals were sighted & any number could have been taken. The dog team was used to haul the meat back to camp.

Williamis is working hard on the construction of the balloon boat launching ramp. While the rest of the met staff is taking stones to that general area.

Hall & Freeman tested some of the explosive at the Explosives Dump.

Monday 4th May 1964

Traverse party returned to station at 14.30 after successfully bringing all sledges & caravans down moraine in one train - tractor each end to stop sledges sliding sideways. Lack of snow in moraine & station area was very noticeable, especially with movement of vehicles. Welcome home held in evening but most of traverse personnel in bed early. Last pup of litter died during afternoon.

Tuesday 5th May

Normal station routine - Williams & Freeman working on balloon launching ramp to full extent of available daylight. Building programme is still far from completion but in view of the fact that 8 men were away on traverse for 8 weeks & also spent the period from changeover to traverse departure on preparation & settling in it is little wonder that the programme has not progressed very far. Sea ice extends for about 1 mile out to sea at present.

Wednesday 6th May

Great contrast noticed in Carpenter's Shop since returning from traverse. Rogers has done a very good job of tidying up the mess in this building & must be commended. Brophy & Fogarty went to Stephenson's Cove after seals - got 2. Some reserve of seal meat has been built up but there is still not enough for the winter.

Wednesday 6th May (Continued)

Bowthorpe & Smith working long hours still on installation of second all sky camera & completion of riometer. They have probably worked 80-90 per week since January.

Weather still mild with temp averaging +8°F. Traverse party notices difference in temp. after working in average temps. of -30°F.

Freeman commenced laying pyro. to balloon hut, assisted by Williams.

Thursday 7th May

Check of diesel oil remaining in fuel tanks shows that 20000 gallons have been used since changeover. S/D/M and assistants, plus other personnel commenced task of moving 500 drums from dump to garage area & pumping them into fuel tanks.

Several personnel have commenced painting out living quarters. O/I/C's office lined with hardboard & painted.

Ed's nearing completion of new Redifon Transmitter - should be completed by May 31st.

Friday 8th May

New dog sled built by Bishop & Fogarty. Radio comms. to Sydney now very intermittent, especially at night time. Routine day.

Saturday 9th May
 Routine day with films in evening. Balloon
 hot launching ramp progressing well.

Sunday 10th May
 Fine day with temp. around +5°F. Ten
 personnel out on short trips with two dog
 teams & others painting rooms. Freeman's oil
 preheaters on jet heaters seems to be answer
 to ice formation in oil tanks at heaters. He
 intends to modify all heaters as soon as possible.
 Five have been done & have given no trouble
 although temps. have not dropped below freezing
 for some time.

Monday 11th May
 Moving of oil drums to pillow tanks in full swing.
 Appears it will take the rest of week to fill tanks.
 Old distillate drums are proving difficult to dislodge
 from ice making job of loading O-tacos much longer.
 Freeman running 110v mains to Auroral tower
 for all-day camera.
 Ham radio in full swing now that Smith
 has license. Several pers. talk to relatives
 each week via ham radio - AMG phone calls
 dropping rapidly.

Tuesday 12th May

Boat day — station appears to be operating smoothly with most people settled down to a regular routine. Several who gave the impression of being slightly unsettled earlier in the year ~~have~~ now give the impression of being quite happy generally. Ellis is outstanding in this sense of works well without complaint. The accepted curve of morale does not fit to the pattern here this year. Morale seems to be rising at this stage with winter coming on, rather than falling.

Wednesday 13th May

Oil carting still in progress. Everyone taking turn in assisting chisel section to move drums. S/D/H found one pillow tank torn about 12". Repaired with bit supplied.

Thursday 14th May

Morgan & Freeman preparing for trip to Cape Folger to erect marker for long distance study of ice movement in that area. Marker will consist of 9 oil drums tied together in 3 layers & will be photographed from GS (Wilkes) by photo theodolite. Ellis's progress on Redifon held-up by lack of co-axial phys. He is attempting to make one on the station lathe.

Friday 15th May 1964

Routine day with fuel carting to fellow tanks nearly completed.

Saturday 16th May

Fuel carting finished - 21000 gallons moved into tanks. This indicates that we are using 1000 gallons per week if the tanks were filled to capacity at changeover. A consumption check of the various types of heaters & the diesel engines is to be made next week with the view to reducing this abnormally high figure. Movies, beer & small rum issue in the evening. Movies are extremely popular with only 2 out of 24 not attending.

Sunday 17th May

Most slept in until lunch - the rum issue seemed to be a little too strong apparently. No one left station for usual Sunday faint, but rec. room in full swing.

Monday 18th May

Freeman & Morgan finally got away to Cape Folger after losing 2 hours arguing about who was going to drive the Suetral! Problem resolved by O.P.R. finally. Returned at 1700.

Balloon hut platform about 60% completed but Williams having problem sorting out steel mesh to fit. Supplied plan of platforms

Monday 18 May (Cont).

very vague & of very little assistance. Melt water lake where water is obtained is now about 3 feet thick. Issued instructions that explosives were not to be used unless absolutely necessary as last year's party reported stomach complaints attributable to explosive residue in the water. Tested out SIPRE cover using a portable 110v generator & electric drill to turn it. This proved very successful & could be an easy way out at Mawson. Hole was drilled in 5 mins.

Tuesday 19th May

Routine day - very cold & fuel blocked in pipes to several heaters. Cleared by diesel section. Temp -22°F - coldest yet. Worked shed with Macquarie & Davis during day. Several members had a game with their counterparts.

Wednesday 20th May

Weather starting to deteriorate with wind gradually rising. Sea ice extends to the horizon in all directions now & very thick (about 24") up to at least 1 mile from shore.

Pollard nearing completion of reather transmitter, along with Ellis on Redifon installation which is also close to completion. Requested Ellis to consider some type of interlock to prevent CT47 & Redifon being switched on together.

as generator & possibly the power supply would not stand the simultaneous loading.

S/D/M giving one of garage diesel complete over-haul. Badly in need of it as towards end of April this engine would not hold more than 60% load

Thursday 21st May

Routine day with Bowthorpe & Smith still working up to 2300 each day onrometer & alt sky camera installations. Have suggested to Bowthorpe that he have a night off now & then but he is too dedicated to his work to take much notice. Trouble experienced with 500 gallon water tanker freezing between the melt lake & camp. Requires an insulated sheathing over tank so that hot air from Weasel may be circulated around tank to maintain temp.

Friday 22nd May

Heavy blizzard all day with all doorways quickly drifted up. Winds to 60 knots but no damage around station.

Morgan, Budnick & Woods preparing for 7 day trip to Vandenberg Glacier & Haupt Naratak, leaving about Monday or Tuesday.

First Sphero evening contact with Sydney for some time tonight.

Saturday 23rd May

Weather cleared up during early morning.

Dug night in evening to celebrate Gordon Smith's birthday. The usual rowdy, happy show - no casualties.

Sunday 24th May

Treeman & Williams went to Jack's Donga in Weasel to check over the hut there as no one has been near it since January. Found door had been left open & place filled with drift. Partially cleaned out but will return next Sunday to finish off.

Two dog teams of Hulcombe, Rogers, Prophy, Murray, Fogarty, Hall & Pollard went to Mitchell Peninsula for day trip.

Monday 25 May

Routine day - Murray doing BMR tests on selected personnel.

The Vanderford/Haupt trip delayed for some obscure reason raised by Morgan who does not want to leave until Wednesday.

Tuesday 26th May

Fox, Whit & O/I/C went to Bailey Pt. with dogs across sea ice to proposed new station site to select sites for gravity stations to be read next month. Also re-cut alternative tracks from proposed area to plateau.

Good tracks available but station site leaves a lot to be desired. There are no level areas for vehicle & sledge parking - in fact all space within 500 yds is steeply sloping.

Haupt/Vanderford party ready to leave in morning.

S/D/M found lot of Caterpillar spares (USN) mainly for generators but also suitable for D4 tractors, cranks shafts, liners, pistons etc. - all expensive parts & sufficient for the next 25 years; yet cranks shafts, liners etc were ordered last year for the D4 tractors.

Wednesday 27th May

Haupt ^{Party} away at 0800 in fairly clear weather but by 1230 wind had risen to 30 knots at Wilkes. At 1600 shed. with field party heard that they had got to a point 10 miles from Wilkes then turned back due to poor visibility. They were then lost somewhere in the Moraine (at 1600) & could not erect the tent. Had been in Snotrac for 3 hours then. I instructed them to wait until 2000 when moon would be high & also try & locate the Wilkes searchlight & other outside lights which were switched on at 1630. Finally arrived at station at 2215 in brilliant moonlight - the wind had dropped to 10 knots. All OK but very cold but not happy about giving it a go again in the morning.

Thursday 28th May

During recent water runs on days when temp. has been -5°F or below, difficulty has been experienced with water freezing in the tank en route to water storage tanks. Commenced construction of an insulated skuth or box from hardboard, timber & insulwood. Intend to heat box from either Southwind heater in Ueasat or from Ueasat exhaust. Prefer Southwind as CO from exhaust could be valuable in water.

Weather fine but Budnick & co. did not attempt further trip to Haupt Minatah. Budnick has sore foot & dr. thinks he may have fractured a sesamoid bone.

Friday 29th May

Very cold day with winds to 15 knots. Temp -26°F . Oil tanks on heaters in mess, lounge & sciences block froze but not so seriously as on ~~previous~~ occasions prior to Friday Freeman's preheater and when tanks were higher. Tanks covered with snow are much less susceptible to this problem & it could be a consideration in future siting of tanks especially the mess stove.

Budnick not fit enough to undertake any field trips for a while, so Freeman is to take his place. Leaving on Sunday

Saturday 30th May

Routine day - very cold at -20°F but no wind. Ham radio becoming more popular than ever with about 8 of party with regular contacts in Aust. who arrange for their friends and relatives to talk to them.

Ellis has new Redifon ~~transmitter~~ ^{transmitter} & working on most frequencies but has found that many components such as resistors & condensers are burnt out, probably during pre-delivery testing. S/D/M completed overhaul of No. 5 generator today.

Sunday 31st May

Freeman, Woods & Morgan left at 0730 on trip to Haupt Nunatak. Weather cold (-22°F) but fine with good visibility. They arrived at Haupt at 1430 just as it was getting dark. Good radio shed with them at 1600.

No day trips by anyone today as the sea-ice has gone & travel on the land seems to have lost some of its attraction.

Most spent day in recreation room with movies in evening.

Fox building new switch board & drift housing for balloon but in Freeman's absence. Balloon hut has slowed down in completion now that the daylight hours are so short.

Monday 1st June

Routine day - the painting of sleeping quarters has taken hold with Badmick, Fox & O'Shea busily painting their respective rooms. The range of available colours is somewhat restricted & consequently there are some unusual colour schemes.

Tuesday 2nd June

O.I.C. assembling alternator on No 5 set in Freeman's absence.

Field party still not able to do any work. Been kept in caravan by blizzards & poor visibility.

Rogers building portable dark room for processing of all sky camera films. Not much of a carpenter, but he is very enthusiastic & turns out a reasonable job despite his inexperience.

Wednesday 3rd June

No 5 generator run on load for several hours when a fuel stoppage caused the engine to stop suddenly under maximum load. This caused a reversal of polarity in the exciter field & also burnt out a blocking rectifier in the exciter field control. Generator was apparently started again immediately after the fuel stoppage, but due to the lack of voltage control ~~caused~~ caused by similar polarities in the control & exciter fields, the saturable reactor was burnt out. Changed components & raised field - all OK now.

Thursday 4th June

Routine day - Field party worked for 3 hours today on photography of Vanderford Glacier movement.

Friday 5th June

Following publication of last month's newsletter, Dr. Murray has been charged by Williams for libel. The case will be heard on Thursday 11th before Chief Justice, Cross, Fox & Budnick. Counsel still to be selected.

Several dogs loose simultaneously today. No apparent reason, but suspect some soft hearted soul felt they needed some freedom.

Field party had fine day - erected beacon at Haupt Nunatak.

Saturday 6th June

S/D/M overhauling D4(A) in readiness for spring traverse depoting trip. Considerable amount of work required on this vehicle & it indicates that possibly a similar amount is required on the other D4 as they have done the same amount of hours. (approx. 4000)

Movies & prog issue in evening.

Sunday 7th June

Day off - field party ready to return to Ullas but held up by weather.

Monday 5th June

Routine day. Field party still not able to move from Haupt caravan because of heavy drift. Fox puzzled by this no weather pattern along coast for hundreds of miles was same as Wilkes - low temps, no wind and perfect visibility.

50 loaves of bread prepared by Cross & immediately placed on food sledge in readiness for spring traverse.

Tuesday 9th June

Strong blizzard rose at 0800 with wind jumping from 5 knots to 50 in 10 minutes and barometer dropped 4 millibars in 30 minutes. Station external doors drifted up within minutes with the exception of the service block outer door which always remains clear.

By 2300 gusts of up to 98-100 knots had been recorded.

Wednesday 10th June

Blizzard still as strong as yesterday until 2230 when it started to ease down. Most radio circuits not operating due to aeriab being blown down. Food Jamesway ripped & several bows broken - filled with drift in outer end. Probably caused thru' flying timber from adjacent stack on rocks nearby.

Thursday 11th June

Fine day with little wind but heavy snowfall. - about 9" by 1200. Ellis, Simmons, Rogers & OIC worked all day on re-erecting ^{aerials} ~~machs~~ to get contact with Sydney-Mawson again. Bulk of damage appeared to be caused by flying timber & packing cases hitting aerials & feeders. All aerials & feeders except Mr. Murdo's were back by 1700. Only other apparent damage was garage door sprung from track & several heater flues blown off. Considerable amount of timber blown out to sea & dogs sledges were slightly damaged. Field party on 1100 shed - all OK & intend to try & return tomorrow.

Friday 12th June

Beautiful, fine clear day. Field party heard at 0900 & reported to be on way back. Arrived at 1330 & very glad to be back in "civilization" after a rather harrowing 14 days at Haupt Muntach. Apparently achieved primary aim of photographing ice movement at Vanderford Glacier.

Several aerials & feeders still on ground replaced by Radio Tech. & assistant. These were moved earlier. Heater in scene block & bathroom blocked in flues. Cleared by S/D/M.

Saturday 13th June

Routine day with cleaning up inside buildings still in progress. Ice that had formed on

corridor floors removed with a sprinkling of salt. Several had nasty falls due to slippery surface previously.

Watson station storage very low due firstly to the blizzard & also because of the 7' of ice on the lake. Siple drill (corer) still OK on this depth but 110V generator has given trouble last two days. Station now on drastic water rationing.

Dung night for Brophy & Whitworth (birthdays)

Sunday 14th June

Quiet day, with Morse code & typing practice in full swing. Also ham radio operated for about 4 hrs. About 8 persons are learning morse and 3 typing. Several are interested in obtaining ham licenses on their return to Aust. Films in evening.

Monday 15th June

Still no success with water run - this time due to damage to the sledge - only one load, so situation still not relieved. Also as usual time was lost due to inexperience with starting the pump engine & alternator. In future, a diesel mechanic will accompany each party on water runs to speed up delivery.

~~See~~ Evidence today of some people getting tired of being confined to station by short daylight hours & weather.

Tuesday 16th June

Water storage levels back to normal ^{but} after further trouble with 110v alternators. The Supre cover is definitely the answer for gaining access to the water thru' the ice. However a small petrol engine as the direct power source would be preferable to the present electric drill & alternators which can be difficult to start in zero temps.

Fox & Rogers out for seals with dogs. Covered twenty miles of coastline without success.

Wednesday 17th June

Water tankers housing painted by Budnick & Fog. Alarming report that only 12" of water beneath ice at melt lake. Apparently in two previous years lake has frozen solid, necessitating the use of the snow meller. Unfortunately this has now been dismantled so there could be a problem of lake freezing solid. The new tank housing has been designed to take heat from a German Nelson & has 3" of insulation. So it is possible this could be used to obtain a limited amount of water.

Thursday 18th June

Routine day - water problem developed prematurely because of excessive use following shortage earlier in week. Restrictions imposed on number of showers etc.

Friday 19th June

Numerous cables received from other Antarctic Stations & overseas bodies for Midwinter Day. Intend to have our celebration tomorrow with Sunday for recuperation. Murray's effort in producing a menu is really superb - consider he has topped those of previous years.

Water tank housing fitted to sledge & tank.

Heavy snow falls during day causing severe leaking of water thru corridor roofs.

Saturday 20th June

Midwinter's Day celebrations started officially at 1200 with drinks & the actual dinner at 1500. Gross really excelled himself with the spread, his masterpiece being the rum sauce served with the plum pudding. Prior to the desert everyone was comparatively sober, but afterwards 50% were rearing drunk, so much so that by 1800, about 8 had retired to bed. Consequently the post dinner party was poorly attended.

Sunday 21st June

Peaceful day for most, with one or two working on normal duties. Few drinks on again at 1200 but number of participants much lower than yesterday. Movies in evening.

Heavy snowfalls all day

Monday 22nd June

Everything normal on station after a fairly quiet weekend. Porphy & Rogers went seal hunting with dogs - no success.

S/D/M^{has} almost completed major overhaul of 12D4. The degree of ~~overhaul~~ overhaul undertaken by Kulambe on this tractor was comparable with that done to tractor's RTA for overhaul. Suggests that with the suitably experienced S/D/M on the station it is not really necessary to RTA tractors as frequently.

Tuesday 23rd June

Strong winds caused heavy drift of the snow that had fallen in recent days. Visibility down to zero making it impossible to do water runs. Water extremely short again.

S/D/M commenced installation of oil stove in kitchen. Will be some time before the actual change-over will be made from electric cooking as there are foundations of bulk tank installations to be built also.

Some trouble has been experienced recently with garbage & human refuse freezing in the bins on the way to the tip and also actually in the toilets. Rogers constructed liner bags of matted ~~wood~~ fibre and these appear to have partially solved the problem. Previously it was necessary to use about 2 gallons of gas to unfreeze the contents.

Wednesday 24th June

80

Successful water run today using tank housing for preventing water freezing in tanks. Although temp. was -18°F , no wind chill was present so it is not actually known whether ~~or not~~ it was the housing that was responsible for the complete lack of ice in the water. A 200 inch duct (tubular) from the weasel heater is also available for supplying hot air to the tank housing - this was not used today. Melt lake ice depth was about 8'6" with the last 4 ft ice slush.

Weather (balloon hut). Jet heater has been giving trouble recently causing severe discomfort to med. staff. Several faults located by Freeman. Appeared unskilled amateur heater "engineers" had been trying their hand.

Thursday 25th June

New washing machine ~~not~~ installed after a lot of patient repair to get the last ounce out of the old American machine. The new machine is a lightburn and resembles a concrete mixer. Lot of trouble with water running on & of open dry reservoir, due mainly to lack of proper care, but also poor design.

4" snow fell during morning & during afternoon. Considerable leakage occurred in buildings mainly in corridors. Buildings could be easily sealed if we had a plumber competent in sheet metal work.

Friday 26th June

Fogarty & Brophy shot an elephant seal on sea ice a short distance from the station. This will relieve meat shortage for the dogs for a week or so.

Morgan & Freeman spent day working on rec drill tracing fault in control wiring. Finally traced fault to wrongly open limit switch.

Ellis found feeder to Esperance rhombic was touching woodwork of transmitter building and had caused charring. Fortunately this aerial has not been in use this year otherwise there could have been a serious fire.

Saturday 27th June

Started on walk (concrete) on seismograph section of seismic hut. Very difficult to get down to bedrock due to a 12" layer of ice formed when actual foundation was poured. There is a lot of work to be done on this building & it is doubtful if it will be possible to pour concrete in the average temps. of recent weeks.

During past weeks heaters in various buildings have gone out generally on Saturday pm. Discovered that when tanks were filled each Saturday oil was very cold from pillow tanks & when placed in low capacity heater tanks, tended to freeze the small amount of water generally in the bottoms of each tank.

Sunday 28th June

A quiet day with the recreation room in full use & movies in evening.

Monday 29th June

Large oil ranner caravan moved to camp area to be refitted and later taken to Vanderford turn-off of 52 trail (15 miles) as a depot for dog teams & parties on move in that area.

Other D4 in garage for overhaul & painting. First tractor looks & sounds like new after Hulamb's treatment.

Tuesday 30th June

Fire alarm sounded indicating fire in garage - fake alarm caused thru faulty detector. Impressed by rapid turnout of everyone. Twenty one persons on site in 35 seconds, most armed with extinguishers. Freeman checking other detectors as they appear to be susceptible to vibration. The garage wall was bumped slightly by a vehicle at the time of the alarm. Fox, Rogers & Propoy moved dog lines to a new site as original site drifted up quickly & buried main chain.

Wednesday 1st July

Progress on seismic hut foundations slow due mainly to the lack of carpentry knowledge. Half of wall boxing completed.