

Wednesday 30th Sept

Triangle traverse party still delayed by weather. Sweep on first penguin arrival arranged by Doc. Murray. Some rather unusual estimates of ETA.

Bowthorpe & Smith released another balloon — again successful.

Thursday 1st October

S/D/M inspected Rodwell engine bearings suspecting they were worn because of oil dilution with ATIC last year. ATIC had been leaking from oil cooler since repaired. Bearings proved OK so at least there is one major job on this vehicle which can be struck off.

Traverse party still delayed at a point 2 miles SE of SZ.

Last of jet heater heat exchanger spares used. Apparently these heat exchangers RTA this year are not repairable so it appears that the jet heaters will have to be replaced with something of Aust. manufacture.

Friday 2nd October

Insulation around engine & in floor of Rodwell caught fire during oxy cutting beneath vehicle. S/D/M Whitworth & OIC in vehicle at time. Blaze quickly quelled. Lesson learnt when CTC extinguisher was used. ~~Vehicle~~ Garage had to be evacuated because of fumes generated. Very rapid turn-out by 80% personnel when alarm was sounded.

Saturday 3rd October

Modwell track modifications tested without success. Problem does not appear to be in tracks now; could be differential or planetary hubs. It is now essential that this vehicle be used on spring geophysical traverse as triangle traverse party reported today that 165 Sno trac main steering variator support casting had broken. Sno trac has been loaded on Otari for eventual return to Wilkes & it is possible that the casting is not repairable & a new one will be required from Aust.

Sunday 4th Oct

Quiet day on station with several out on walking trips.

Monday 5th Oct

Insulated housing of water tanker built several months ago has been very successful in preventing water freezing whilst en route from the melt lake to the station. However it has suffered somewhat with continued flexing etc of sledge. Ellis & Freeman "rehabilitated" housing & mended split in tank. Fox, Freeman & OIC went on dog trip to Mitchell Peninsula via sea ice. Also inspected Russian cairn built in 1956 on small island in bay south of Bailey Pen. Cairn contains maps & letters left by Russians, Americans & others. returned to Wilkes for dogout & replacement of tin.

Tuesday 6th Oct.

Large caravan formerly at aerodrome as a refuge point & brought back to Wilkes in February fitted out by Freeman & O.I.C. with gas heater & sundries. Intend to take caravan to new camp site for use by Budnick when he re-commences survey. Caravan will also be useful for construction party at changeover.

Several loaded sledges which have been parked in parking area since last year are now completely covered by snow & probably ablated into ice. Several men working to move sledges but so far no success.

Wednesday 7 Oct

Brophy, Bonnici, Small & Smith took dogs for Ardery Island via the sea ice. Covered about 18 miles in a tot run for their trip to Haupt Nunatak (less Bonnici) later in the month.

Daily lookout for penguins arrival in force now.

Freeman having trouble with refrigerator temps. Some possibility that meat could be affected if reefer temps. do not reduced below the present 26°F. Appears to be no definite reason for the sudden upsurge in temp.

Thursday 8th Oct

Cleaning & fitting out of caravan completed. Whitworth Woods & O.I.C. towed caravan to new camp site using Rodwell as prime mover. Some difficulty in finding a location where caravan would be

sitting on rock. All level areas covered with snow, making location of rock bed impossible. Finally sited caravan in a position ^{on} eastern side of station site. Only three runners are on rock so others will have to be underpinned when thaw commences.

Notwell handled the caravan easily on some fairly steep climbs, although steering is still defective.

Friday 9th Oct.

Normal, routine day on station. Travore party reported to be 5 miles from dome on Poinsett by. No 6 Sustrac broke track, but was soon repaired. Budnick reports that progress is very slow now that D4 is being used as a barometric walking station - about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mph.

Saturday 10th Oct.

Seal population in vicinity of station has increased considerably in past fortnight.

Water consumption has dropped over last 3 months, although most of the reduction can be attributed to some people being absent on field work. However the frequency of clothes washing has been extended by several, so this would be the main factor.

Dry night in evening for Geoff Hulcomb's birthday. Very quiet night when compared with some earlier days.

Sunday 11th Oct

Quiet day & with fine weather several on walking trips. Freeman returned papers & maps to Russian cairn on islet near Beall Is. Placed in new tin as original was badly corroded. Williams & Simmons rode motor cycles & Jack's Douga then to new station site.

Monday 12th Oct.

Further work on investigation of Rodwell problem done, but with-out success.

Prophy, Small & Smith preparing equipment for dog trip to Haupt Nunatak. Intend to leave next Sunday or Monday.

Whitworth has completed testing of seismic equipment at present installed in a weasel. It is intended to re-install the gear in the Rodwell if this vehicle proves O.K.

Tuesday 13th October.

Traverse party arrived at point approx. 25 miles from dome on Pensett leg. Progress is very slow due to poor visibility.

Temp. rose to $+30^{\circ}\text{F}$ during the day, causing some melting of snow on rocks & runways.

First penguin of year reported to be sitting outside rookery on sea ice. Investigation proved it to be a dummy placed by penguins unknown. Apparently this dummy is used each year for this deception. Freeman & Murray walked to Chappel Is. on bird investigation trip.

Wednesday 14th Oct

Extremely high temps. (+33°F) continued causing a lot of inconvenience with continual leaking of roofs. Some geophysics records damaged by water, plus a lot of damp bedding in the sleeping quarters.

Ellis reported that there were signs of a recent fire in the roof of the transmitter building possibly caused by R.F. leakage. Full investigation being carried out as to cause. Plans being made to install a fire detector system in transmitter building with circuit connected to station alarm circuit. A pair from transmitter control cable will be used between station & transmitter building.

Thursday 15th Oct

Melt water causing trouble inside buildings & corridors still. Temp. again above +30°F. Strong wind (30-40 K) with some drift temporarily building up snow on roofs ~~from~~ which then melted. Patch on roofs so badly cracked. Traverse party still held up by blizzards & poor visibility.

Heater at new balloon hut not functioning. Found heat exchanger completely blocked with carbon. ATK will be tried as an alternative fuel to see if heater can be kept cleaner.

Friday 16th Oct

First penguin (genuine) arrived at rookery at 1100. Woods won the guessing competition on the time of arrival.

Traverse party made nearly 20 miles day's travel and are over 2 way along the Pensett leg. Some problems with D4 generator circuit as petrol-electric portable charger being used to maintain charge in D4 batteries as well as caravan batteries.

Installation of fire detector system at transmitter building nearly completed by Freeman & Ellis.

Saturday 17th Oct

Melt water inside buildings again creating havoc. Roofs are continually being swept clear of newly fallen snow & melt water, but water seems to run under bitumen layer.

Bowthorpe flew another successful coxsway balloon.

Traverse party held up by bad visibility.

QTH about 40 miles from dome.

Movies and beer issue in evening.

Sunday 18th Oct

Quiet day with poor weather which restricted the usual Sunday walking trips, although Simmons & William went to new station site via the sea ice.

Spoke to traverse party leader Budnick on radio, he reported that at that time they were on top of a steep slope & could not see the bottom of any valley. Visibility not the best, although there were possibly icebergs on horizon. I instructed him not to move D4 & caravan, but to proceed cautiously with Snotrac with Morgan leading on a rope tied to Snotrac. Appears that either there has been an error in the measurement of distance from the dome or else the coastline shown on maps is inaccurate, as by Budnick's calculation they are still twenty miles from coast.

Monday 19th Oct

Again in contact with Budnick. Appears they are within a few miles of coast. An error of one mile in 12 miles found in cyclometer so this accounts for a part of the difference.

Brophy, Small & Smith departed with dog team for Haupt Nunatak. Intend to stay overnight at S15 caravan.

Penguin rookery population has increased to about 150 since arrival of first bird. Also the other local birds have made an appearance in the last few days - shuas, petrels etc.

With a slight drop in temp. the problem of water dripping into buildings has been temporarily relieved.

Tuesday 20th Oct

Dog party to Haupt not heard on yesterday's or today's radio shed. Assume that radio is on the blink.

Budnick has now definitely established reasons for difference in mileages travelled in relation to position on map. After taking an astro fix at Cape Poinsett it appears coast line is 8 miles further south than shown on map. Added to the cyclometer error this would ^{have} placed them 13 miles nearer the coast on Sunday than expected.

Azimuth laid for Poinsett-Folger leg & party will leave for Folger tomorrow.

Wednesday 21st Oct

Still nothing heard of dog party, but assume they are OK as weather has been reasonably fine.

Traverse party moved about 15 miles today. At this rate of progress they should be back at Wilkes within 7 days.

Following extensive investigations into the problems of the Rodwell steering it has been decided not to use this vehicle on the geophysical traverse. The vessel used on the autumn traverse has ~~for~~ been re-fitted with the seismic equipment together with the replacement of the tracks. This vehicle should prove suitable for the job, although fuel depots were laid with ATK for the Rodwell instead of petrol for Ussal.

Thursday 22nd Oct

955 Traxcavator brought into garage with some difficulty. Apparently large sliding door has been modified in recent years, reducing the opening. Traxcavator tracks were 1" too wide to go thru' opening. Eventually "squeezed" it in. Vehicle requires lack of lubrication system (engine) as no oil pressure is evident.

Still nothing heard from dog party on radio. They are due back tomorrow.

Traverse party now half way between Cape Pointsett & Cape Folger. (45 miles from Wilkes)

Friday 23rd Oct

60 mph blizzard with heavy drifting snow all day. Melt of last week had opened up many cracks in corridor walls & consequently the drift filled many parts of corridors & then immediately melted making walking in corridors rather awkward.

Adjacent penguin rookeries are falling rapidly now.

Traverse party held up by weather at yesterday's

QTH.

Nothing heard of dog team. Tentative search plan made, to be operable on Sunday next.

Saturday 24th Oct

Dog party arrived back at 1730 after spending Friday & this morning on an island south of Ardery Is. Had been unable to erect tent so spent many hours in an excavated hole. Apper none the worse for their experience.

Traverse party moved 5 miles but stopped by poor visibility.

Sunday 25 Oct

Fox & Bowthorpe in Wascel, with Jk & 5 others in Rodwell went to aerodrome for day trip. Hot water heater in heads burst during afternoon, flooding heads. Heat exchanger has several holes in it, so decided to instal new Potterton unit which has been here 7 years. Diesel mech. & Freeman commenced installation tonight.

Traverse party held up by weather.

"Mubba" has developed an abscess on her nose, along with rheumatis in the hind quarters.

Monday 26 Oct

Drift around station is the lightest it has been this year & the garage is actually below the snow level.

Unfortunately no proper dozers are available for clearing. The blade of one D4 is at 52, the other D4 is on Traverse & the 955 is in the garage.

This leaves the Pyster with its very small blade & a 25' fib. hanging out to one side.

25
Tuesday 27 Oct

S/D M & Jones commenced gargantuan task of clearing snow from garage.

Traverse party almost to Cape Folger at 1600. Freeman completed installation of Patterson HWS much to the relief of all on station. Some teething troubles caused mainly by the necessary modifications required for operation on a 50 cycle motor running on 60 cycles.

For moving nat. cylinders (gas) to RTA stockpile.

Wednesday 28 Oct

Traverse party amongst crevasses in Cape Folger area. Last report (1615) they were endeavouring to find a clear passage on foot. Dr had been stopped before entering danger area. Then RTETA Wilkes is 1100 tomorrow. Garage door area finally cleared of drift.

Thursday 29 Oct

Traverse party arrived at moraine gap at 1000, off/k not there in Nordwell and hooked onto loose-towed sledges at moraine so they would not run sideways for on top of each other on steep incline. Same technique used at rubbish tip ice cliff.

All well after 5 weeks trip, although quite sunburnt after!

Friday 30th Oct

Rec. room set up as operating theatre for doctor to perform operation on "Mubliki". Abens on nose, also teeth require some extractions. Some difficulty in anaesthetizing "Mubliki" & she finally succumbed.

Ellis, Whitworth & Morgan left for 2 day trip to SIS to do final tests on seismic equipment. Bob Rodwell & seismic wearers so radios in each vehicle could be used for testing time trials.

Potterton H.W. service working extremely well after a few minor talking problems.

Saturday 31st Oct

Travine (geophysical) preparation in progress although more work than was originally planned is required. Vehicles require a lot of minor repair & adjustments. The food boxes have been damaged & will require rebuilding & the large caravan requires a lot of small jobs. Together with the uncertainty of the time required for Whitworth to finish his preparations, it is doubtful that Travine will get away before mid-November.

Sunday 1st Oct

S.D.M. has got 955 out of garage after two days of digging & clearing doors. Bucket filled & area around garage cleared quickly of snow. Unfortunately a blizzard blew up at 1200. Whitworth & co. reported that they were 1 mile from rubbish tip held up by

Blizzard. Should be OK in Rodwell if they have their sleeping bags & food.

Monday 2nd Nov

Blizzard still blowing as strong as ever although A.H.T. & co were able to get back to station when drift temporarily lifted without any trouble.

All drains from leads & gully blocked, causing flooding back into leads. Cleared by Freeman, Pollard & Murray.

Murray & Budnick removed all machines from laundry & cleaned beneath platforms. Very dirty & smelly as a hidden unknown drain on platform was blocked.

Tuesday 3rd Nov

Whitworth, Morgan & Ellis returned late last unpairing Rodwell & Wessel. Rodwell almost full of snow indicating need for a check of door seals etc.

S/D/M & staff back on digging out garage after again after their great effort last week. However Blizzard renewed its efforts again, so digging abandoned.

Balloon put platforms 2' under snow along centre line for 6' width.

Wednesday 4th Nov

Beautiful fine day with 70% of station outside digging out doorways or on traverse preparations & sweeping snow from roofs which started to leak by 0800.

Proply & Budnick went to Stephenson's Cove with dogs to shoot seals for summer stock. Sea ice has blown out now after last blizzard, so sealing is restricted more or less to the shore line.

Seals are to be bled in casks near dog lines, covered with large sheet of plywood.

Thursday 5th Nov

Traverse preparation well under way although last blizzard has slowed progress due to most of sledges being buried. Also tractors were partly buried.

Station roofs giving less trouble now with continuation of sweeping, although some water still remains trapped beneath bitumen layer.

Friday 6th Nov

Another day of considerable outside activity with Murray & Pollard travelling to Mitchell Peninsula & Robert Polard to study bird life. Used both toboggans which performed perfectly. Rogers is bed ill - no definite diagnosis at this stage.

Saturday 7th Nov

Traverse preparation progressing slowly but surely. Weather has been perfect for outside work, making many jobs immeasurably easier & faster.

S/D/M moved all sledges & equipment which had ablated last summer onto rocks near transmitter building. Also many 100^s yds of snow moved from around station to give level standing for vehicles.

Sunday 8th Nov

Another perfect day with traverse party, plus several others working.

Rogers up for few hours & appears to be recovering from a bout of tonsillitis.

The appearance of a leopard seal on the sea ice caused considerable interest on the station. Profky & several others tried to lure it onto the ice to shoot it as it appears that the seal is devouring penguins from the rookery.

Monday 9th Nov

Traverse appears ~~that~~ to have reached the final stages although as usual there will be the usual few minor items to be loaded.

Weather still fine giving definite indication of the commencement of the thaw. Hops of corridors & buildings swept clean.

Tuesday 10th Nov

Weather deteriorated to blizzard proportions during afternoon, causing cessation of final traverse work.

Sea ice has completely disappeared now, even in small bays adjacent to station.

Some concern about carrying of frozen bread & meat on traverse now that higher temperatures are more frequent. Bread returned by last traverse thawed out on arrival at Wilkes within a few hours. A specially insulated box, painted white has been constructed for next traverse.

Wednesday 11th Nov

Blizzard lifted at 1100 - a little late for much outside work.

Whitworth having problems with magnetic instruments required for traverse program, so it appears traverse will be delayed until Friday.

Thursday 12th Nov

Traverse preparations continued.

Friday 13th Nov

Ditto

Written by 2/E/C

Saturday 14th November

Weather conditions improved somewhat and the 2/E/C decided to move up to the plateau with all vehicles & to continue while visibility held. The day continued to improve though a good days run was made. A ding night was held at base. Seemed a happy enough affair.

Sunday 15th November

Lantane day for some but some activities for most.

Monday 16th November

Hall used D.H. with blade to clear snow around the water Jamway which happened the water runners last Saturday. It appears that the water wheel which runs a track has altered the drift pattern slightly and the door now at the end of the Refers corridor was half blocked up. He also cleared the snow from the garage doors.

Tuesday 17th November

2/E/C Inspected food Jamway with Cross & Murray & it has been decided to clear out this Jamway & also remove the food boxes from the corridor. Some of the boxes in the Food Jamway have been there for many

years by the look of things & will never be used while Australian food is available.

Wednesday 18th November

The traverse party sound as though they are progressing satisfactorily & reached $66^{\circ}30'S$ $110^{\circ}50'E$ today. Bishop spent much of today clearing up various odd jobs around the station & has done a good job.

Thursday 19th November

Traverse party completed baseline $66^{\circ}30'S$ $110^{\circ}05'E$ & start on the North South by tomorrow. Jeff Hutchinson has apparently hurt his eye with a sporting handle on the Sno trace. Murray gave instructions for care of injury by voice although the field party could only be read on CW.

Bishop shot a leopard seal on an ice-floe & after dinner floe hopped out to it & after driving a stake into the floe it was hauled into the shore on a rope. Bishop assisted by Hall & Small then butchered the seal.

During the day Smith & Bishop took the dogs out to look for seals around Sophocles' cove. This appears to be satisfactory members there but not much sea ice remains.

During the afternoon a start was made by Truman Murray, Small, Hall, Bowthorpe & 2/1/c to clear out some of the surplus bones from the food Jamesway - Cross, assisted from inside the Jamesway.

Friday 20th November

Routine Day

Saturday 21st November

While Hall was refuelling during the morning Ellis noticed that the rubber hose connecting the pump to the fuel tank inside the garage had burst & diesel fuel was spraying on to the Diesel Generator in the garage. Hall who was on the roof at the other end of camp had also noticed a drop in pressure at his end & was coming to investigate. About 20 - 30 gallons fuel spilt onto the floor in the garage & it was a lucky thing that some did not ignite against the hot exhaust pipe of the generator which was running. The rubber hose was replaced by Hall in the morning. Fibres were shown in the evening.

Sunday 22nd November

Spent mainly to Recreational activities. - As it was a warm day many people walked to Penguin rookeries &

other places of interest. Lane went tobogganing.
Monday 23rd November

Murray as official photographer working
 hard classifying negatives printing etc. Slight
 discussion about water runs at afternoon tea
 time. No run done by Scientist last
 week. Met. section - or rather a couple of
 members fell put upon. Tanks were filled
 by Morgan & 2/1/2 from 4 pm - 12:30 pm

Tuesday 24th November

If the warm weather we have been
 experiencing continues the melt should start
 in earnest shortly. For Bowthorpe Murray
 making plans to visit Haupt Wanaup area
 to do photo theodolite work for glaciologist.
 Morgan joined Met staff temporarily on
 night duty tonight. Birdnich went to
 new camp site with Berghy for day to continued
 surveying. He will be returning tomorrow
 with Bonnici for 3 days. Work seems to
 be progressing satisfactorily. Field party DTH 111° 05' E 66° 39' S
Wednesday 25th November

Air temperature up to 38°F with clear blue
 skies. Much outside work done. Seismic but
 started by Freeman & Small. Bowthorpe Smith
 hauling stones & hydrogen cylinders with
 Combarin. Murray at Penguin rookery
 for day.

Thursday 26th November

The work on the new seamer hut continues with small carting drums of gravel & sand today & Freeman doing the constructional work of boring etc. They should be ready to pour by next week some time.
Fula Party BTH 66 H75 111.05 E

Friday 27th November

Routine Drig after dinner. Doughtorpe Smith Morgan launched another of Doughtorpe's large plastic balloons in calm weather. They are launched this way to take advantage of the sun to keep them aloft.
Fula Party BTH mine as yesterday

Saturday 28th November

Doughtorpe balloon continues to send back data.
MTC & Buppy went to Stephenson's cave with dogs on sealing trap. Shot one bat.
It was about a dozen cows some with pups. A curious jelly like substance about 3 feet long & an inch or a half in diameter was found in the water between 2 ice floes. Saw about 3 or 4 of these & brought 2 back for Morgan to inspect one of the tentacles decomposed almost immediately but the other piece we brought back has been preserved in alcohol in reasonable condition.
A dog was kept in the evening to

celebrate Bowdler's birthday

Sunday 29th November

A few more heads after last night & a quiet day for most. Hall and Williams left in the afternoon to spend a couple of days at Jack's Danga. Field Party has not moved for last few days.

Monday 30th November

Morgan assisted by Ellis are assembling Morgan's Temperature Probe in the garage. This instrument is designed to measure temperatures down to 1000 ft — provided of course the ice-drill can drill the hole.

Tuesday 1st December

Melt water and Camp drain water is becoming a problem. There is now a pool a couple of feet deep near the pump room and the Water Jammerway. And if the fine warm weather continues the Water Jammerway will be flooded shortly. Hall and Williams returned from Jack's Danga on foot as they ran out of fuel for the Polar shortly after leaving Jack's Danga. They returned after lunch on the other Toboggan & picked up the standard on.

Wednesday 2nd December

Erskine went to new campsite

for the day accompanied by Smith who
 could not afford a longer time. He will be
 returning tomorrow for 2 days with Bonnici.
 Murray started today on a program
 of collecting bird bloods & killed his
 first Penguin today. Joseph Lawrence
 did the actual killing. Transverse
 Party Alt 66° 39' S 111° 27' E.

Thursday 2nd December

Hall started 955 and commenced
 clearing snow around the end of the
 pump room to start the drain flowing.
 A channel about 6 ft deep & a blade
 width was carved through the drift for
 about 30 yards. A channel was then
 dug by Hall & W/LC with picks &
 shovel to start the water flowing. Once the
 water was actually running it cut its
 own channel in the ice eventually
 cutting its way down to rock & draining
 the accumulated water quickly. The operation
 was carried out on a sunny day with
 the temperature above freezing. It seems
 that an extension to the bon drain
 system is not really necessary if the
 pack up could be drained on this
 way each year. We will have to see
 how many times the drain needs clearing.

before the whole stream which runs past the balloon hut starts to flow.

For, Bowdler and Freeman departed for Haupt Namatah on the Naduvell to carry out Photo theodolite work for Magon. Their estimated return date is the 7th. One more morning's work is needed on the summit before pouring the concrete can begin. Murray performed a small operation to remove a cyst from Surtak's face. Alice assisted him.

Friday 4th December

Murray and A/C investigated cave on south side of camp looking for shells which have been requested by CSIRO. Saw several on sandy bottom and will attempt to collect some later in the year.

Saturday 5th December

Transit Party BH still $66^{\circ}39'$ $111^{\circ}27'E$. Hildner & Rogers arrived unexpectedly at base tonight during the pictures. They will return to the field party tomorrow. Their visit provided the men at base with the opportunity to talk to new faces & was a good thing in its way.

Hall did some more digging trying to drain the pool near the clothing store.

Sunday 6th December

Rogers & Melcombe departed - Rogers this time taking the Met. data books he forgot last time.

One water pump used for drainage became O/S today when a small pebble smashed the impeller.

Brophy & Murray went with dogs on sealing trip. Murray collected leeches & aortas of the 2 seals shot & dissected them this evening.

Monday 7th December

Williams worked clearing Ammonia bottles - carting fuel ones to Ballam hut & tidying crates. It is now quite difficult to drive a vehicle to the Ballam hut following the melt since drainage operations began beside the fire tank.

Hall & S/T/C installed a long ~~run~~ running from the front of the mess to the water gateway so that vehicles will not have to tow the water sledge around past the food gateway & down to the water gateway. Conditions became extremely difficult there in summer. Smith had the stitches removed from his face today.

Tuesday 8th December

Weather worsened becoming grey and
windy

Wednesday 9th December

Routine Day

Thursday 10th December

Routine Day

Friday 11th December

Bonnie came to me with a story that
Bryphy had been spreading rumours that he
was blagging - mainly I think because
he has been assisting Ordreich out at the
new campsite. The upshot is apparently
that Bonnie has said he won't work all
the night shifts for the Met section.

Saturday 12th December

Had a chat to Jon about
Bonnie's story. Apparently Jon has asked
Bryphy for his story & the two differ.
Jon says he cannot determine who is
correct and has ringfenced the Met.
Route giving everyone equal work.

During the water run this week
the new pipe worked well so should save
some money moments which occurred earlier
in the year arising around the Water Jockey
but telegram in code advising
Ray of situation in Met. section. The
main effect here will be that Ordreich's

Work at the new composite will be delayed.

Sunday 13th December

Recreation Day. Alf and Murray went to Rokey A and found first penguin chick for this year. Bobby and small went sealing in Stephenson's cove and returned with an immature Emperor Penguin which they had trussed up on the sledge. The bird was photographed by most of our keen photographers & then let go.

Monday 14th December

Ray could not decipher my original telegram and I had to send him instructions how to do it - I had coded the message incorrectly. At any rate he, Mike Jones and Neil arrived this evening - had a short chat this evening but will discuss fully tomorrow.

Tuesday 15th December

Discussed situation fully with Ray who then talked to Fox about his commitments for the rest of the year. Fox did not agree to releasing man to help Dumich on full time basis but only during the spare time of the individual members of the Met. section.

Discussed with Morgan and Ray Morgan's plans for the remainder of the

year. He will leave for S2 with Freeman early in the New Year and meet up with the main traversa party at S2 about the 14th Jan.

Wednesday 16th January December

Murray and Brophy went sealing. Murray collected specimens from the 2 seals shot and dissected and preserved them in the evening as part of a program he is carrying out for Institute of Med. & Vet. Science Adelaide.

Thursday 17th December

Large balloon launched by Mike Bowdler and Gordon Smith as part of Conway program.

Friday 18th December

Conway Balloon still aloft. Routine day otherwise.

Saturday 19th December

Quinich Hall and self went to new Compu in Hodwell to guy caravan there. Three of runners are on rock and one on ice so there is danger of ice melting and the caravan sliding down the slope. Along the rock 3 drill holes were dug in a nearby rock and three guys installed.

Murray, Small & Brophy went to Jack's Donga by dog sled.

Sunday 20th December

Morgan and Fogarty travelled north along the coast by dog sled. They sighted and photographed 3 emperor penguins including 1 fully grown bird. Murray started shua trap up near the dog lines and searched the bay on the south side of base for shells using the readers.

Monday 21st December

Murray and Morgan went to Cape Folger as part of Geology program. Heavy snow cover hid all crevasses making them dangerous. They also investigated the Mitchell Peninsula area. It is still possible to get to Odbut island via an ice bridge from Robinson Ridge which is accessible from the ridge.

Box traps launched 60 ft long red plastic bag. This was the container in which one of the large balloons came.

Tuesday 22nd December

Murray completed shua trap and caught several birds whose bands were recorded. Braden and Smith went to the new campsite for the next few days to continue the surveying program. Morgan will also assist but will travel back each night. More concretizing completed in Seismic hut.

Wednesday 23rd December

Murray and Fon went sealing.
2 seals shot and collections of blood and organs
made. Budnich and Smith returned from
new site.

Thursday 24th December

The Radio room has been painted
over the last few days by Woods and
O'Brien. The colour scheme has been changed
several times but now looks very smart
indeed. Christmas celebrations started during
the evening when more wine than usual
was put out for the cocktail half hour
and continued after dinner in what
proved to be a pleasant impromptu party.

Friday 25th December

Christmas Day. Celebrated in traditional
manner by all. Dinner of sea food
cocktail, Entree Chicken breasts, and Roast
Chicken main course followed by a sweet
was served about 4pm and was
preceded by drinks with and
followed by beer and wine. A few
felt the after effects of the wine tasting
evening last night but all in all it
was a pleasant day. -

Saturday 26th December

Boring Day Holiday for most
with a few beers served

Sunday 27th December

Weather turned overcast and rain
fell in the afternoon. In between times we
had snow & sleet but one definite
shower of rain. Freeman and Morgan
worked over in the Seismic hut erecting
the inner sanctum. Morgan is
extremely anxious to get away on schedule.

Monday 28th December

More work done by Freeman
over in Seismic hut. It looks as
though he will be finished in time to
agree about New Years Day with Morgan.

Tuesday 29th December

Mat section notably Williams
and, for water painting the buildings Williams
painting the Raob done and for the
Raob hut. This is the first time the
Dome has been painted.

Wednesday 30th December

Freeman took moldings and boring
from around base concrete poured assisted
by Small. Two of the pillars are
superficial and will have to be reinforced.
Water is also getting through the outer wall.

and the holes will have to be blocked

Thursday 31st December

Ellis started painting the mess yesterday and finished today. He has done a good job and gave the floor a thorough cleaning after he had finished. The room looked extremely neat for the New Years Eve party which was a very successful function. All hands sang Auld Lang Syne at midnight but the festivities continued until much later.

Friday 1st January 1965

A day looked forward to by all I am sure. Murray and Fox went sealing and shot 3 seals. They had to leave a few of the implements behind on the return journey with the very full load of meat. Murray again collected specimens and now has only one more to collect. Magan & Framan departed for SZ via Pt Nimitz.

Saturday 2nd January

The sea ice is now very rotten in Stephenson's Cove and probably will not last too much longer. The vehicle situation at base is critical as now the large Palaris has become p/s. It needs fuel pump and clutch repairs for which there are no parts.