

ICE CAP STATION
ARCTIC
CHALLENGE
2009

A Journey of Discovery

One man's courage to go beyond duty. One woman's dream to retrace his remarkable journey

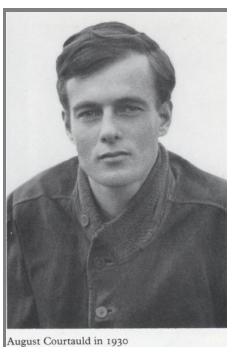
WHAT

During the winter of 1930, a young explorer named August Courtauld spent 149 days alone, marooned on the desolate, featureless and bitterly cold Greenland ice-cap. Constant blizzards caused him to become trapped and buried under the snow for six weeks in a small, frozen, dark ice-chamber. But he never doubted that he would be rescued, and finally in May 1931, he was.

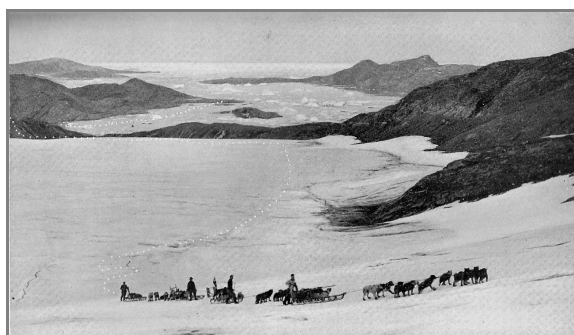
August was part of the British Arctic Air Route Expedition 1930-31, led by Gino Watkins, which aimed to map the mountain ranges and coastline of east Greenland and conduct meteorological research for one year, in order to determine the possibilities of an air route to be opened up over the Arctic between Britain and North America. Due to lack of supplies, August's bravery in volunteering to man weather station alone in such extreme and atrocious conditions, while his comrades returned to base, became Arctic legend.

It is this spirit of determination and unfailing courage which has inspired his 36yrs old great-niece Chloë Courtauld, to follow in his footsteps, into one of the most hostile wildernesses on earth, carrying out weather readings along the route and comparing them to those of the British Arctic Air Route Expedition and raising money for charity.

The Ice Cap Station Arctic Challenge 2009 has chosen The Scott Polar Research Institute as its official charity. All funds raised will go to furthering the scientific and historical research of the Institute and to the projection of that research through the outreach activities of their polar museum.



August Courtauld in 1930
AUGUST COURTAULD



BUGBEAR BANK, GREENLAND



CHLOE COURTAULD

"The silence was almost terrible. Nothing to hear but one's heart beating and the blood ticking in one's veins" August Courtauld, 1930

The Greenland ice cap will be the best test of courage and determination, pushing endurance and strength to the limit in one of the world's most inhospitable environments.

WHERE / HOW

Capturing the romantic spirit of adventure of the 20's and 30's and unravelling the history of her polar explorer forefather, Chloë, along with her expedition team mate Constant Tedder, 38yrs, will embark in May 2009 on a hazardous 410km, 21 day trek across the Greenland ice-cap. Starting on the east coast, near the original base camp of the 1930 expedition, they will travel on ski's, supported by two dog teams pulling sledges packed with essential supplies and scientific equipment – re-enacting the way her great uncle journeyed across the ice.

The expedition team will have to negotiate strong winds, dangerous crevasses, deep snow, temperatures of around -20F as well as the threat of polar bears. They aim to arrive after approximately twelve days at the exact location where August got buried under the ice, 2,600m up on the ice-cap. After spending a day or two at the Ice Cap Station, the team will then return to Isortoq on the east coast, travelling a distance of 205kms.

Combining a rich and fascinating history with a personal journey of discovery, this will be a heartfelt and emotional adventure. It will be something few have ever experienced, crossing time, generations and boundaries.

“Deeply moved by my great uncle's remarkable survival story on the Greenland ice-cap during the winter of 1930, where his powers of courage, inner faith and spirit of determination kept him alive in one of the most hostile environments on earth, I have felt compelled to want to re-trace his footsteps across the ice-cap and go to the place where he spent 149 days alone in a bitterly cold, dark and featureless white frozen desert, eventually becoming trapped and buried under the ice.

This expedition is giving me the chance to understand and share in my great-uncle's thirst for challenge and adventure, as well as the exhilaration of going into the unknown. It is the chance to get to know myself better, as well as an appreciation of the hardships, risks and dangers explorers like my great-uncle had to endure. Most of all, it is giving me the chance to bring his spirit alive and keep a little flame ignited in his memory.”
(Chloe Courtauld)

“It is a real honour to be joining Chloe on her quest to follow in the footsteps of her great explorer relative, August. My personal reason for joining the expedition is to visit the Greenland Ice Shelf and see first-hand its changing state. The latest scientific advice delivered to the international scientific community by Konrad Steffen of the University of Colorado, Boulder, seems to confirm that the Greenland Ice Shelf is melting much more rapidly than previously thought and that the increasing water flow through its crevasses is creating a positive feedback loop. This may result in the complete break-up of the ice shelf this century, which would result in a sea rise of as much as 7m as there is so much fresh water contained in the ice shelf. By undertaking this journey I hope that I can help to draw additional attention to this critical issue in advance of the critical negotiations taking place UN Climate Change Conference at Copenhagen later this year.”
(Constant Tedder)

WHEN

Chloë and Constant, along with their Inuit guide, Dines Mikaelson 31yrs, and one dog team driver, will set off from Tasiilaq on the east coast of Greenland on 8th May 2009.

“If there was ever a time to dare to make a difference, to embark on something worth doing, it is now. Not for any grand cause, necessarily but for something that tugs at

your heart, something that's your inspiration, something that's your dream." (Anon)

Interesting Facts:

- They sailed on "Quest", the boat belonging to Sir Ernest Shackleton's on his last expedition to the Antarctic (he died on board).
- The Air Minister (Lord Thompson) and Director of Civil Aviation (Sir Sefton Brancker), Major Stephen Courtauld (Chairman and major benefactor of the expedition) ([hyperlink: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_Courtauld](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_Courtauld)) were part of the farewell party in July 1930 from St Katherine's Dock.
- HRH Prince of Wales (President of the expedition committee) and The Danish Government gave considerable help and advice.
- Mollie Montgomery (Lady Butler of Saffron Walden) ([hyperlink: http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/4691035/Lady-Butler-of-Saffron-Walden.html](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/4691035/Lady-Butler-of-Saffron-Walden.html)) was engaged to August when he left for the British Arctic Air Route Expedition (BAARE) – they married when he returned and had six children. August took Mollie to G'land in 1934 and she became the "first white woman to land on the East coast of Greenland".
- After August died, Mollie went on to marry Sir Rab Butler ([hyperlink: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rab_Butler](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rab_Butler)) – Foreign Secretary, Home Secretary and at one stage potentially the next Prime Minister.
- Jill Kennington (Chloe's step-mother) ([hyperlink: http://beta.vogue.co.uk/news/daily/2002-07/020716-kennington-uncovered.aspx](http://beta.vogue.co.uk/news/daily/2002-07/020716-kennington-uncovered.aspx)) did a modelling shoot for Vogue in the 1960's at the North Pole – she was the first person to model in the Arctic.
- Peter Courtauld (Chloe's grandfather) gave a lifeboat called "The Augustine Courtauld" in memory of his brother in 1974 to Poole Harbour – commissioned at Poole Harbour. One of the first of the modern lifeboats. Partly funded by RNLI funds.
- August set up The Augustine Courtauld Trust; ([hyperlink: http://www.augustinecourtauldtrust.org/history.html](http://www.augustinecourtauldtrust.org/history.html))
- August Courtauld's final visit to Greenland was leader of the British East Greenland Expedition, 1935-1936 (with Professor Lawrence Wager), to explore and conquer the highest mountain in the Arctic, called originally Hvitserk (meaning "white shirt") referred to by Viking Gunnbjorn. The name by which it is now known is Gunnbjornsfjeld. It measures 3,693m and wasn't climbed again until 1971.
- The Courtauld Glacier and Courtauld Fjord can be found in Ostgronland, Greenland in his memory.
- The Scott Polar Research Institute ([hyperlink: http://www.spri.cam.ac.uk/](http://www.spri.cam.ac.uk/)) is an International centre for research into the polar regions and is also home to unrivalled resources of polar information and expertise, housing the world's largest polar library. The Institute's archives, museum and library provide members of the general public, as well as scientists, government bodies, industry and polar inhabitants with important information on a variety of topics, including climate change, management of natural resources and historical expeditions. Through both the publication of research and via public outreach,

the Institute helps educate and inform a worldwide audience about the polar regions.