

food. They had only one sledge dog remaining, as the others had died from disease. On the other hand they had a black cat, "Pjevs". She had sneaked aboard the "Dagny" in Copenhagen and evaded all attempts to catch her and throw her overboard. Pjevs survived the shipwreck, wintered at Kap Philip Broke and in 1921 returned to Denmark with the "Teddy". This achievement is without doubt unequalled in the history of North-East Greenland.

1923-24

The poor catch of 1920-21 led to the trapping on Shannon being abandoned; however, the problematic situation with the ice in 1923, and with "Teddy", led to the East Greenland Company once more using the Kap Philip Broke house. Three men were placed there: Leander Elias Emskær Larsen; Karl Richter, a young German zoologist who had become a trapper on the condition that he could also undertake scientific investigations; and Christian Frederik Rasmussen, a 22-years old carpenter from Kirke Stillinge in Vestsjælland. After one year in North-East Greenland, Rasmussen returned to Sjælland in 1924, where he became known as "Tømrer Skrut" (carpenter Skrut) and lived at Næsbystrand until his death in 1970.

The three men at Kap Philip Broke added a porch made of the middle part of an old "Norwegian whaling boat"³⁹⁸ to the Kap Philip Broke house, and also built the "Kap David Gray hytten" [472-1]. They remained on Shannon until May 1924, when they moved to Germaniahavn.

Shortly before they left the station they shot

a female bear. Afterwards they discovered that the bear had a small cub. They adopted the cub, and named her "Grethe": "Larsen had made a teat out of an old boot and bottle-fed the cub with diluted, condensed sweetened milk. Grethe had grown to like her "nanny" quite well, but the rest of us she detested, lashing out and spitting at us when we tried to pat her. When Larsen came she purred in a friendly fashion and accepted his stroking. Yes, she would even lie on her back so he could scratch her tummy".³⁹⁹ One morning Grethe's cage had been forced open and she was missing. They found tracks in the snow from another bear and at first they thought it was one of her fellow kin who had helped his imprisoned baby sister into freedom. A sympathetic thought, but then they found a fresh pool of blood and some fur tufts in the snow and realized that the old bear had only broken into the cage to eat the cub.

The Kap Philip Broke house was not used for wintering after 1923-24. In 1930 the house was donated to the Norwegian government⁴⁰⁰ who later sold it to Denmark.

In 1930-31, the Nanok men Andreas Hvidberg and James van Hauen started a wintering at Shannon, but in December went for a Christmas visit to the Hochstetter station, where they remained for the rest of the season.

Dahl 1924; Fiala 1907; Hvidberg 1932; Madsen 1963, 1989; Mikkelsen 1953; P152.

Recent status

The Kap Philip Broke house has only rarely been used since the 1930s, and while more-or-less intact is in poor condition.



Kap Philip Broke, 1924.
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KAP PHILIP BROKE



Kap Philip Broke [470], 8th July 2007. The house at Kap Philip Broke was built at the same time as the houses at Bass Rock [461] in 1901 for the Baldwin-Ziegler Expedition. Kap Philip Broke was used for overwintering in 1920-21 and 1923-24 by Danish trappers from the East Greenland Company. (Middle left): March 2004. © Erik Jochumsen. (Middle Right and bottom) In July 2007 the interior of the house was completely filled with a large lump of snow and ice. © NCN

