

company of Hans Frederiksen and Ernst Wind, who helped to transport his equipment from Hochstetter. On the way they stayed overnight at Ottostrand. Here there was: *"a new man,⁶²⁵ Odd Bogholm. He is to be here on his own this year"*, Larsen wrote.

As the distance between Mønstedhus and Ottostrand is only 10 km it was only natural that Larsen and Bogholm soon agreed to help each other and keep each other company. On 17th November 1951: *"Bogholm and I set out for Aalborghus. After about one kilometre we saw two dark spots on the ice in Roseneath Bugt. Assuming they were seals we drove towards them, stopped about 200 m from the first one and took a shot at it. At this point we could not hold back the dogs any longer and drove right up to the seals. Too late we realized that they weren't seals, but walruses, so to save some of the dogs from being killed, we had to shoot the other walrus too as it attacked. We looked for possible blowholes or cracks in the ice, but found none. The animals were very skinny, so I assume they had crawled up onto the ice at new moon, when it was spring tide and there was probably open water around the icebergs in the bay".⁶²⁶*

Bogholm celebrated Christmas with Larsen at Mønstedhus, together with Hans Frederiksen from Hochstetter with whom Larsen also had joint activities. During the spring of 1952, they put out materials for two huts in Langelv. However, the huts – in this book called "Langelv" [914] and "Langsø" [915] – were never built. At the end of May, Larsen and Frederiksen went south to stay at Sandodden for the summer. Erik Larsen left Greenland in the summer of 1952.

1954

After 1952 Mønstedhus was not used for wintering as Nanok had given up its trapping activities. However, it became known that during the summer of 1953 heavy swells had eroded a large section of the shore so that the station was now barely two metres from the coastal cliffs. Nanok initiated a rescue mission, and in the summer of 1954, J.G. Jennov and Mogens Graae arrived with the "Kista Dan" that was calling at Daneborg. From Daneborg the two men together with Hans Frederiksen and Erik B. Larsen were airlifted by Catalina to Mønstedhus: *"It wasn't particularly difficult to lift the house onto rollers on top of planks that we had brought along, and others we found by the provisions shed. It turned out to be considerably easier to push the house using a jack and then tightening it up with tackle. When we finished the work in the evening the house had been moved 6.1 metres"* Jennov wrote on the 20th August 1954. The following days they moved the house further inland, so finally it was some 20 metres from the cliff. After a job well done the four men were



As the sea in the summer of 1953 had taken a large part of the shore, it became necessary in 1954 to move Mønstedhus further inland. © Mogens Graae

picked up by the ship "Jopeter" on the 24th August. Jennov 1939; A161; G102; G133.

Recent status

Erosion on this coastal stretch is not a new phenomenon. After the 1954 move Mønstedhus stood solid and stable for many years. It was a good building and much used – a good place to spend a rest day. The station was frequently used by Sirius and other travellers, because there is only one north-south route worth taking on this particular stretch of coast – you simply could not miss Mønstedhus!

In the four consecutive summers of 2001-2004 ice conditions along the east coast of Greenland were rather unusual. There was almost no drift ice along the coast and the huge Atlantic swells made tremendous cuts into the coast. In November 2001, a Sirius sledge team gave the first alarm, that the distance between Mønstedhus and the coastal cliff was now only three metres. It was obvious that something would have to be done urgently if Mønstedhus was to be saved. Unfortunately, Nanok at this time was unable to help as the ownership of the old Danish stations and huts in North-East Greenland was unresolved. As a consequence, all that Nanok could do was to urge Sirius and other relevant parties to act as soon as possible.

Sirius undertook the task, but unfortunately there were delays and when the "removal" team from Sirius finally arrived at Mønstedhus on 14th September 2002, the historic building had fallen over the cliff. Only four days earlier an aeroplane had reported that the station was still intact at the cliff edge! Sirius saved all that was possible, and built a smaller hut "Ny Mønstedhus" [532-4] out of material from the old station. There was nothing else to do – but the loss of Mønstedhus was a disaster that should never have happened!⁶²⁷

M Ø N S T E D H U S



Mønstedhus [532]. Mønstedhus was a Danish trappers' station built in 1938 for Nanok. It was used as a trappers' station until 1952, then as a travellers' hut until September 2002, when it was taken by the sea. (Left) Mønstedhus [532-2], 5th June 1978. © Peter Schmidt Mikkelsen (Below). Mønstedhus [532-2] as it appeared shortly after it had fallen over the cliff, 14th September 2002. © Søren Rysgaard (Lower, left) Ny Mønstedhus [532-4] was built of materials from Mønstedhus by a Sirius team, September 2002. (Lower, right) Ny Mønstedhus [532-4], 4th August 2004. (Bottom) View north east towards the Haystack mountain. © NCN

