

THE BRITISH YAKATUT EXPEDITION 1984

Expedition members: Krista Nicholson and Dave Johnston.

The Origin

The first outlines of our trip slowly materialised through an alcoholic haze in the Dockray pub deep in the English Lakes District. We were both working at Outward Bound Ullswater and wished to partake in a long kayak trip somewhere outside the U.K. Looking at the world atlas we spotted three feasible coastlines. The first being Norway, which we cancelled out because it was too close to home and therefore easy to chicken out of if we got too wet. The second being the Chilean coast. This we decided would be too expensive to get to, plus they were passing through a trigger happy phase in Government stabilisation. So the third coastline we immediately decided upon was the British Columbian coast of Canada and South East Alaska.

Planning

In planning the trip we first of all decided sponsorship would be helpful to get the trip off the ground. So, after discussing the route with a friend who had previous Alaskan experience, we decided to consider Yakatut as our possible destination. We thank our sponsor, Geoff McGladdery of Wye Kayaks, Andrew Ainsworth Designs Ltd and Optimus Ltd., all who provided us with top class equipment and advice.

However, in approaching the British Canoe Union for sponsorship and help, we received an extremely rude phone call from a particularly condescending gentleman, whose insinuation was that we were too inexperienced for Alaska and not well enough qualified. But, if we would submit detailed daily itineraries, an exact breakdown of equipment and food expenses, they "may" consider us. This we ignored because, for a proposed five month trip, all you need is a storm or delay and your itinerary is upset. To stick dogmatically to a time table you have to ignore opportunities that arise and flexibility is the key to a safe and enjoyable trip. Food expenses were impossible to supply without lengthy enquiries in Canada where we intended to buy our food. This, we decided, was an unnecessary and lengthy chore that would detract from our trip.

Casting Mr. Mortlock's unrealistic demands aside we chose to self finance our expedition, feeling that novices or people without a reputation in sea kayaking are not given a fair appraisal or advice regarding sponsorship.

Equipment

There is a full equipment list at the end of this report but the more important items we will touch on here. The most essential piece of equipment is, of course, the kayak. We chose the 'Islander', the 'Expedition' model made by Wye Kayaks. It proved to be very manoeuvrable and directionally stable. The other reason that it appealed to us was for the amount of storage space available. We carried over six weeks food as well as all the camping equipment, clothing, etc. Even with a starting equipment weight of over 300 lbs., the high performance and stability of this kayak was never marred. Paddles were Andrew Ainsworth's 'New Wave' design, long distance and sprint blades. An excellent paddle, although we taped the edges to minimise chipping from rocks. Good rain gear is a must bearing in mind rainfall averages along these coastlines exceed 270 inches in places. At one stage we had a spell of over 30 days when it rained every day. A large tarpaulin is handy, enabling you to sit and cook outside instead of being confined to a tent. We lit fires every morning and evening to cook on and dry next to, so fire starters and a good supply of lighters are useful. We also carried a large axe enabling us to split wood in order to obtain dry kindling. Towards the end of our trip, in glacial regions, firewood became scarce so a reliable stove was valuable for cooking on. Stoves were supplied to us by Optimus Ltd to whom we are very grateful.

Food

In planning food supplies for our journey, we found that talking to local kayakers was the best source of information. They steered us towards the most reliable and inexpensive stores and advised us on restocking en-route. We bought 90% of our food in Vancouver (a list of foodstuffs is at the end of this report). We posted a month's supply of food to four towns en-route. Postal rates within Canada are surprisingly inexpensive, so once en-route we had little expenditure to consider. We estimate food costs to be under \$1.50 per day. An easy source of protein was

fresh fish which we caught most days. In the Canadian waters we fished for cod with handline and jig with tremendous success. Cod slowly disappeared in South East Alaska and halibut (Pacific Sole) and salmon became common from then on. We also ate shell fish, oysters, clams and mussels, again in free abundance, but you must beware of 'Red Tide' which is shellfish poisoning. Fresh vegetables were available in stores en-route, although the selection can be minimal, expensive and often rotten. The rest of our diet consisted of a variety of grains, rices, beans and pastas. One of the reasons we decided to cook on open fires was that some of these foods take a long time to cook. Firewood is readily available and of course, free. Fuel would have been too bulky and expensive to use as our sole method of cooking.

Water was no problem as it is one of the main resources of this area and never in short supply. We carried three gallons to cater for small island camps and emergencies. It is wise to boil all water to combat a particularly nasty beaver fluke known as Ghairdia. It causes a long term intestinal complaint which would need medical attention. Glacial water should not be drunk at all.

We found that our appetites nearly tripled and we often spent stormed-in days just eating. Physical tiredness was expected and after two months of kayaking we found it necessary to take vitamin pills to supplement our spartan diet and on taking them an improvement was quite noticeable.

The Trip

The kayaks and equipment were shipped to Vancouver in January 1984. The shipment was to take six weeks so at the same time we flew to New York and spent seven weeks hitching and bussing across the States to the Grand Canyon, Yosemite and onward up the West Coast to Vancouver, only to discover on our arrival that our shipment had'nt even left England! Another example of unforeseen delays and the importance of flexibility because now our starting date had to be altered.

Whilst waiting for the kayaks, we both found work in Vancouver and after a lengthy wait the boats arrived.

The route

On April 14th. 1984 the trip took off from downtown Vancouver and headed North West between Vancouver Island and the mainland. Georgia Strait then dissolves into a series of narrow channels that we followed until we emerged into the open Pacific at Queen Charlotte Sound. The beauty of this coastline is that you can choose your route according to the amount of exposure you desire. A route can be chosen to take you out on the extreme West into the Pacific swells or you can stay inside in relatively protected waters with little or no ocean swells. We chose an inside route for 85% of our journey. From Queen Charlotte Sound we travelled north to our first food pick-up at Bella Bella, then on to Prince Rupert. We spent two weeks paddling around the Queen Charlotte Islands, crossing Hecate Strait by ferry. Kayaks, by the way, go free on Canadian and Alaskan State ferries. Back to Prince Rupert, Dixon Entrance and finally we reached Glacier Bay. It was in South East Alaska that we made a decision to change our final destination. We had met numerous people who had told us of the wonders of Glacier Bay, so the decision became Yakutat or Glacier Bay. The approach of winter made it fool hardy to contemplate both, so Glacier Bay it was.

One of the main influencing reasons being that there are now no ferries connecting Yakutat to the rest of Alaska and selling the kayaks would be difficult unless we paddled 270 miles south to Juneau.

The entire trip took 147 days covering a distance of over 1,600 miles. Our daily average was just over 10 miles per day. The longest day being a 34 miles paddle. Many other days were devoted solely to exploring the land or being stormed in.

Weather

The whole coastline is mountainous in nature with physical heights ranging from 3,000 feet to 15,000 feet. This combined with the warm Japanese current and winds predominantly from the western horizon, causes prolific coastal rainfall. Hence the lush dense rain forests covering the mountains to sea level. The Gulf of Alaska is the breeding ground for most of the coastal storms so beware of winds that can increase or change direction dramatically with little warning. South East Alaska is known as the 'Land of Greys' because of its damp grey beauty but the sun does shine sometimes for weeks and the magnificent views alone were enough to carry you through the rain until the next clear day.

Camping

Camping is rarely a problem along this coastline. Beaches are plentiful and apart from obvious inhospitable areas, campsites abound. The beaches are nearly always choked with logs so fires are easy to start especially with the aid of firestarters and an axe if it is wet. The forest from the water often looks impenetrable, but usually a short way into the woods the thick alder bush clears and the forest floor turns into an inviting carpet of lush moss and pine needles.

Camping in Bear Country

There are two main types of bear which inhabit the British Columbian and South East Alaskan coasts. Black bears are found along the whole coast line and grizzlies or brown bears are generally the predominant species on the islands North of Frederick Sound. Bears are common and should be respected. When camping in bear country the first thing to do is to cast all the horror stories you inevitably hear to the back of your mind and take as many practical steps as possible to avoid a confrontation. Bears in the wild are shy so when landing or walking in the forest make plenty of noise to let them know you are there so as to give them the opportunity of leaving. Avoid camping in a obvious bear area, that is, next to a large salmon stream or where there is bear scat. If you see or smell decaying meat or fish it could well be a bears food stash.

Food odours are the main bear attracters so keep food well away from your tent, and downwind if at all possible. You can hang food high above the ground but we found this to be difficult with six weeks food. We kept our food in the kayaks with the hatches and bulkheads rubbed lightly each evening with mothballs to mask the smell of food. We would also ring the tent with mothballs. Midnight snacks or cooking in the tent could be an invitation to an unwanted guest as are clothes with food spills upon them. As fishy smells are the most appealing to bears be aware that an incoming tide could bring remains of gutted fish back up on the beach. Some people even change their clothes at night from those they have eaten and cooked in. Wood smoke is a good deterrent and an extra log on the fire at night warns the bear of human activity in the area. Small island camps usually gave us peace of mind but even they are not totally 'bear proof'. Bears are excellent swimmers.

So with all possible steps taken to secure the camp sleep should come easily. Despite hearing regular gory bear stories from locals we never had a bear threaten us.

Natural Phenomena

Tidal rapids occur in various channels along the coast. They are always marked on marine charts but rarely on Ordnance Survey maps. The rapids are caused when a large body of water is constricted through a narrow or shallow channel, bringing the water speed in places up to 16 knots. They are spectacular to see. One evening we camped on an island in the middle of the 'Yukulta Rapids'. We watched floating logs being sucked into whirlpools only to surge to the surface again quite a substantial distance downstream. At slack tide the water looks harmlessly calm, until the direction of the water gradually reverses and the torrent starts again just as powerfully in the other direction. Rapids can be passed by careful timing of slack water and some would be quite easy to shoot at full tide if the direction is correct.

Hotsprings

These luxurious havens are fairly plentiful in British Columbia and South East Alaska. They are always a welcome stop after a few weeks of not being able to wash properly. Some are free, others, sadly, are not, but they all offer the opportunity to soak and relax in warm mineral water. Our favourite we found on 'Hot Spring Island' in the Queen Charlottes. There is a metal bath tub set on the beach with the hot spring waters piped into it. There is nothing better than lying naked in a hot bath watching a stormy sea pound the beach only feet away.

Glaciers

The most southerly active glacier in Western U.S.A. is the 'Le Conte' glacier just south of Petersberg. Visiting this glacier immediately whet our appetites to see more in Glacier Bay, many miles further north and this reinforced our decision to change the destination to Glacier Bay as opposed to Yakutat. The scale of the glaciers and the sheer weight of ice we found difficult to comprehend, let alone

describe. The snout of a tidewater glacier can reach tremendous heights, many we saw exceeded 200 ft in places along the crumbling precarious ice walls. We visited in total twelve different tidewater glaciers and all were 'active' and regularly calved immense chunks of ice into the waiting sea. We saw a 150 ft ice column slowly collapse into the water sending up an enormous spray of ice and water. The wave given off soon settles into a four foot swell that can overturn small icebergs and can be a hazard to an unwary kayaker. We also found that this swell could travel along a channel for up to three miles so be aware of your beached kayak whilst having lunch.

To give an idea of scale, we saw one splash from seven miles away and heard the classic sound of muffled thunder several moments later. There are a few things more pleasurable than kayaking through floating ice in the magnificent barren mountain scenery that one inevitably finds in glacial regions. During wet weather and cold spells we consoled ourselves with the thought that the glaciers would'nt be there if the climate was more comfortable.

Northern Lights

Aurora Borealis is a wonderful and bizarre sight peculiar to northern latitudes. It needs to be completely dark and a clear night in order to see them. Often they appear as a green glow in the northern sky although they can also be seen line an immense flowing net curtain hanging in the night sky. Green is the most common colour although they can also be multicoloured. Two in the morning seems to be the prime viewing time.

Wildlife

There is a profusion of wildlife in British Columbia and South East Alaska and any trip to the area is certain to encounter a rich selection of marine and land animals.

Rather than list all the major species seen on our trip, we will comment on some of the more spectacular and unusual.

Birds

The Bald Eagle is a magnificent bird, symbolising strength, trust and justice for the American. South East Alaska is the only state in which they are not an endangered species and are commonly seen many times a day. These white headed and tailed birds constantly amazed us with their grace and patience whilst fishing, swooping at great speed with talons open and nearly always achieving their goal. One, however, dived, latched onto it's prey and was immediately dragged under water until out of sight. We thought it must surely drown. After several moments underneath the waves it managed to release it's oversized prey and return to the surface. Once their wings are wet Eagles have great difficulty in flying. This particular eagle then struggled for about half an hour on the choppy sea before finally becoming airborne and making it's weary way landward.

Humming Birds were one species we did not expect. In the spring these tiny brightly coloured birds migrate northwards for the summer season along the British Columbian and South East Alaskan coasts. They are attracted to bright colours and would hover over our brightly coloured red and yellow kayaks mistaking them for a huge flower. It is possible to construct a humming bird feeder using sugar water placed in a small suspended receptacle, making photography of these birds easier. Other types of birds we saw were Tufted and Horned Puffins found in open sea areas and Glacier Bay. Woodpeckers are heard more than they are seen but one morning we were woken by a loud rapping on our ridge pole, obviously mistaken for a tree! Oyster Catchers entertained us with their antics and their shrill 'beeb' warning call. Arctic Terns migrate between the Antarctic and Arctic each year. These delicate looking birds will cover a distance of 22,000 miles each year. Last but not least the Crow, the clown of the air, constantly chasing, scavenging and giving fantastic displays of aerobatics in and around the tree tops.

Marine Mammals

Orcas/Killer Whales were the first we saw on our trip and they appeared in spectacular circumstances. We were in the middle of the a mile crossing when we saw in the distance, splashing near the opposite shore. By the size of the splashes we knew it must be whales. The splashing suddenly ceased so we paddled on. Minutes later there was an explosive 'puff' behind us only forty feet away and we saw the

body of a Killer Whale gliding quickly through the water. The fin was about five feet high. Soon there were four of them circling the boats, so we rafted up and had a bite to eat. They circled their clean powerful bodies around for a few minutes and disappeared. The next time we saw them they were over a mile away. Orcas were the only toothed whales we came across, they are also the fastest and most agile. They are able to cruise at 30 knots, Groups of Orcas appeared on many occasions during our journey, often close to the shore, with their large dorsal fins cutting through the water. On one occasion we camped on a small sandy island and a group of about fifteen passed by and started leaping clear out of the water, spy hopping and slapping their tails, which gave us a tremendous display of agile tricks for nearly half an hour before drifting away. Killer whales, incidentally, have been known to heave themselves quickly up a beach for 70-80 feet to catch a seal and then flip themselves with their prey back into the sea.

Minke Whales

Minke or Pike Whales are filter feeders (Baleen Whales). They usually travel alone and can be recognised by a small dorsal fin that appears immediately before diving. We saw these twice and they have a habit of following small boats for company. Kayaking up a long narrow strait in Canada, Krista remarked "we haven't seen a whale for ages", when suddenly, 'whoosh', no more than 10 feet away a Minke Whale surfaced and followed us for twenty minutes, diving under, surfacing in front, behind, left and right before disappearing and continuing on its journey.

Gray Whales

This is a relatively uncommon whale that can grow to 30 ft. Another Baleen Whale recognised by its grey barnacled skin and a series of bumps along its spine close to the tail flukes. The Grey Whale is a docile creature and even when we paddled very close to them they just continued on with their own business unperturbed. One time in the Queen Charlotte Islands we found a playful Grey Whale that followed us, swam under the boats and generally displayed an open curiosity. We were just as curious about him and found it quite exciting to have a whale swim under the kayaks in clear sight under the water. We followed each other for about two hours and each time the whale sounded (dived) the tail flukes rose slowly and gracefully into the air before submerging.

Just before we left the Grey Whale swam directly towards Krista's boat, slowly it rose and broke surface with its blowhole about a foot away from her boat, giving her a face full of fishy breath. The whale turned on its side to bring his eye above water before gliding under the the kayak without touching it.

Humpback Whales

The Humpback Whale is the largest whale that we encountered, growing up to 50 ft long and weighing over 30 tons. They are black in colour with white patches on the underside of their tails. They can be recognised by their size, the shape of their backs and their habit of raising their tail flukes before diving. They are magnificent animals with surprising agility. Frederick Sound, in South East Alaska proved to be the best viewing area and, as with the Orcas, we were treated to a display of tail and fin slapping and to our amazement, full body breaching. These powerful animals are able to generate sufficient energy to propel their bulks completely into the air before crashing down into the water with a splash that can be heard 3 or 4 miles away. The spumes given off when they first surface are more dense than those of other whales we saw, making them much easier to spot at a distance.

One evening we were camped on an island in Glacier Bay when from within the tent we heard a bellowing growl coming from close by. We automatically assumed it was a large bear very close to the tent. We lay still in terror wondering what to do next. The sound continued for a long time and eventually we decided to investigate. Our heads poked out of the tent expecting a death blow from a bear's claw. Instead we suddenly burst out laughing, it was a sleeping Humpback Whale snoring close to the shore.

Porpoises

The two main types are the the Dall and Harbour Porpoise. Both are common but are shy of kayaks and we never got closer than 30 feet. Even so, they are always a delight to see as they spring to the surface to exhale a whispery puff.

Sealions

Sealions were found along the entire coast from Vancouver to Juneau. They are ferocious looking creatures that attain a weight of up to 2,200 pounds. Despite their fearsome looks they are, in reality quite timid unless closely approached during the mating season or in their territory. On land they appeared to be extremely cumbersome but as soon as they are in the water their bodies seem to elongate and their movements become swift and graceful.

On land their eyesight is very poor so it can be easy to approach them. We found a beach with about 300 Stella Sealions and got to within 10 feet of them without being detected. They can sense lateral movement but not direct forward movement if it is slow. The noise they continually make is a rather deep, exotic belch that can sound quite terrifying at close quarters.

From our observations Sealions seem to travel alone or in pairs. Once when we saw a pair 'porpoising' along towards us we stopped to watch. A large white shape under the water loomed up towards Daves boat and the Sealion surfaced with its nose about six inches away from the bow before it realised there was a large brightly coloured object floating in the water. But just like the Grey Whale earlier in the trip it dived quickly under the kayak without even touching it. In this way we avoided another potential bath.

Land Mammals

Black bears are found all along our route although we didn't see one until we were almost out of Canada. Black bears are extremely short sighted and this enabled us to approach closely by water without being noticed. On one of our first sightings we were able to get close enough to hear them munching on the long spring grass.

One evening in the Queen Charlotte Islands we went for a walk along a beach before retiring to the tent for the night. Upon our return we discovered that something big and heavy had flattened our tent. There was no wind and no fallen branches but a wet slobber mark and a small tear presumably by a tooth of a bear, we never knew! It was too dark to move on so we settled down to a troubled sleep.

In Glacier Bay some weeks later, we pulled into a cove on a large island and set up camp. We ate supper and prepared for an early night. Dave went around the corner to relieve himself, and whilst in mid-squat a bear emerged from out of the bush and stood, head swaying, on the beach. "Get pans quickly", he shouted. "What do you want pans for?" came the reply. The bear moved slowly forward so we rattled pans as loud as possible to scare it away. All it did was walk forward attracted by the smell of our cooking. When it was within 20 feet of us it decided to stop. As soon as the pan rattling ceased it would take a step forward. So one of us rattled pans whilst the other tore down the tent and packed the boats. Only after a nerve wracking half an hour did we get to the safety of the sea. In the National Parks bears are regularly given 'people aversion therapy' which basically means a cartridge full of buckshot in the rear end if they get too bold with people. One bear in the Glacier Bay camp ground earned its buckshot for dragging all our equipment out of our tent and the cockpit of the kayak. He did all that after breaking into a tour boat and consuming a whole carrot cake. Luckily we were in the bar whilst this happened.

Brown/Grizzly Bears

A common question asked of Alaskan's is the difference between a Brown and Grizzly Bear. The answer varies. To some people Grizzlies live north of Frederick Sound. To others, Brown Bears are coastal and Grizzlies live 50 miles inland. To hunters Grizzlies live 75 miles from the sea, but to game biologists there are subtle anatomical differences between Brown Bears and Grizzlies. Our first Grizzly sighting came soon after Ketchikan, Alaska. We spotted a sandy coloured form moving on the beach. From $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles away we thought from its size it may be a moose but as we drew nearer it became obvious it was a bear. Approaching by kayak is ideal as the bear does not seem to worry about noises coming from the sea and in deep water you feel secure because you know a kayak is faster than a bear in water. We paddled closer hoping to get a good photograph. Very quietly Dave passed the telephoto lens to Krista and she began slowly unscrewing the other lens, trying to be as silent as possible. With a sudden movement the bear stood up and bellowed with its chest heaving and with the shock of that moment the telephoto lens went

into the sea. It continued standing and heaving its chest, grunting all the time. We then spotted the reason for its agitation - standing nearby in imitation of its mother was a small cub. The pair dropped to all fours and bounded into the forest.

Bears stand on their hind legs, not for an aggressive display but to get a better idea of who and what they are. We saw numerous Brown Bears from our kayaks and one on a forest trail. One incident worth mentioning happened on Admiralty Island which has the most dense population of Brown Bear in Alaska. We were camped on the end of a rocky spit, preparing for bed when three bears, two adults and a cub, came from the forest and onto the beach half a mile away. They turned towards us and started walking, unaware our presence was so close. Dave banged a pan and they ran into the trees. Two minutes later they re-emerged even nearer. We simultaneously thought it wise to leave and thus initiated our first night paddle. Eight miles later in pitch darkness we beached on a small island and checked for bear signs and built a fire. Sleeping was difficult because we had to continuously put ourselves out as sparks set us alight. A few hours later at daybreak we realised the fruitlessness of our efforts. Dave had slept all night with his foot in a large pile of bear scat.

On the entire trip we never had a bad experience with a bear but at certain times common sense is vital to avoid potentially hazardous confrontations

Moose and Wolves

These elusive animals were not sighted at all on the journey although track marks were common, especially around the delta of the Stikine River. Large dog-like tracks of the wolf were also spotted again on mainland beaches. One late evening whilst beaching our kayaks we were greeted by the eerie sound of the howls of wolves from the nearby hills. The haunting noise made us feel like humble visitors who didn't really belong in that wilderness.

Deer

Various types of deer inhabit the West coast providing a source of summer and winter meat for the year round inhabitants. The deer, as with some of the other animals we saw, appear to be very tame and rarely disappeared from the beach when we approached them by kayak. In the Queen Charlotte Islands we heard a high-pitched squeal coming from the forest and thinking it was a crow, we ignored it. The noise continued so we decided to investigate. There was a very young fawn with its foreleg trapped in the jaws of a Marten. The stoat-like creature was trying the usual tactic of breaking its prey's legs to immobilise it so that it could kill it. Our sudden presence startled the creature away just long enough for the frantic mother to chase the Marten away into its burrow.

People

As a rule the people we met were all extremely friendly and hospitable. Fishermen regularly gave us fish and sometimes a welcome beer or a dozen fresh eggs. Bob and Dodie Lunda were an Alaskan couple we met in Tenakee Springs. They took us out for a day in their salmon trawler and then invited us to stay in their home. They bought their house three years ago for \$50 from a disused cannery. They slid the house down the beach and floated it out on logs and then towed it behind their boat to a peaceful and secluded cove on Chichagof Island and anchored it. In the summer they fish and in the winter they trap, travelling to Juneau a couple of times a year for supplies. One problem they have in winter is that if it snows too hard the house begins to sink so they have to clear the roof of snow!

Another of the diverse spectrum of Alaskan characters was Wally, the owner of Baranof Warm Springs who lives at the head of picturesque Warm Springs Bay. Wally is an excellent story teller with an unusual past. "One winter", he told us, "was so mild that some of the bears forgot to hibernate and consequently became very hungry!". One bear came down to Wally's place and started eating the mussels growing in the support piles wedged underneath his house. "That wasn't so bad, but the dumb bear was pushing the piles over before he ate so I had to shoot him".

Coastal British Columbia and South East Alaska also have a very rich Indian heritage. The artistic Hyder tribe are found mainly in British Columbia and further north in South East Alaska the Tlingits become the predominant tribe. Both tribes had a reputation for being strong warriors and are famed for resisting the early

Russian attempts at colonisation

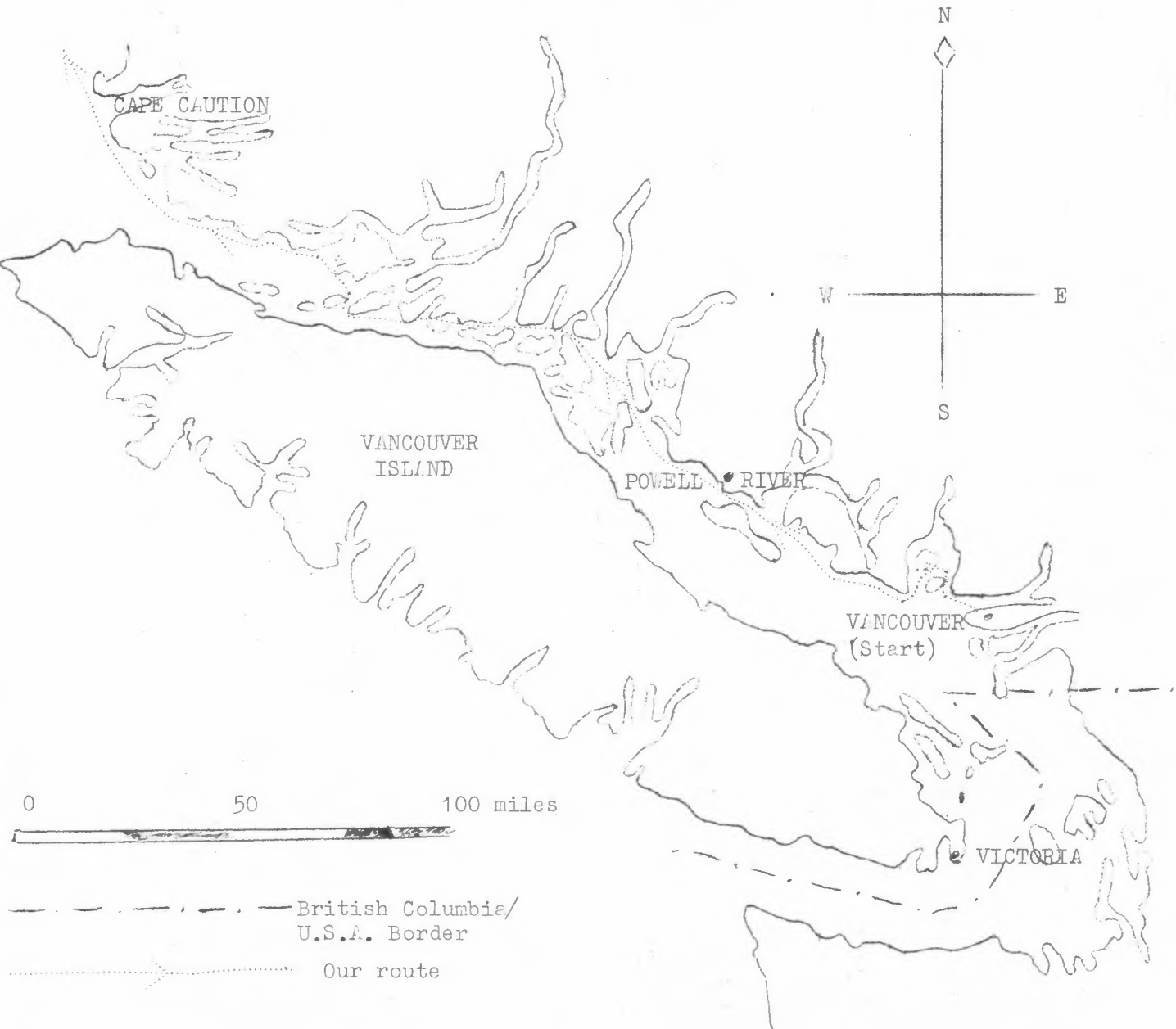
The Queen Charlotte Islands have several abandoned Hyder villages complete with original erect and fallen totem poles. Above one location there was even a pile of human skulls. Both tribes have inhabited the areas for centuries and Tlingit legend even records the advance and eventual retreat of the present Ice Age.

Summary

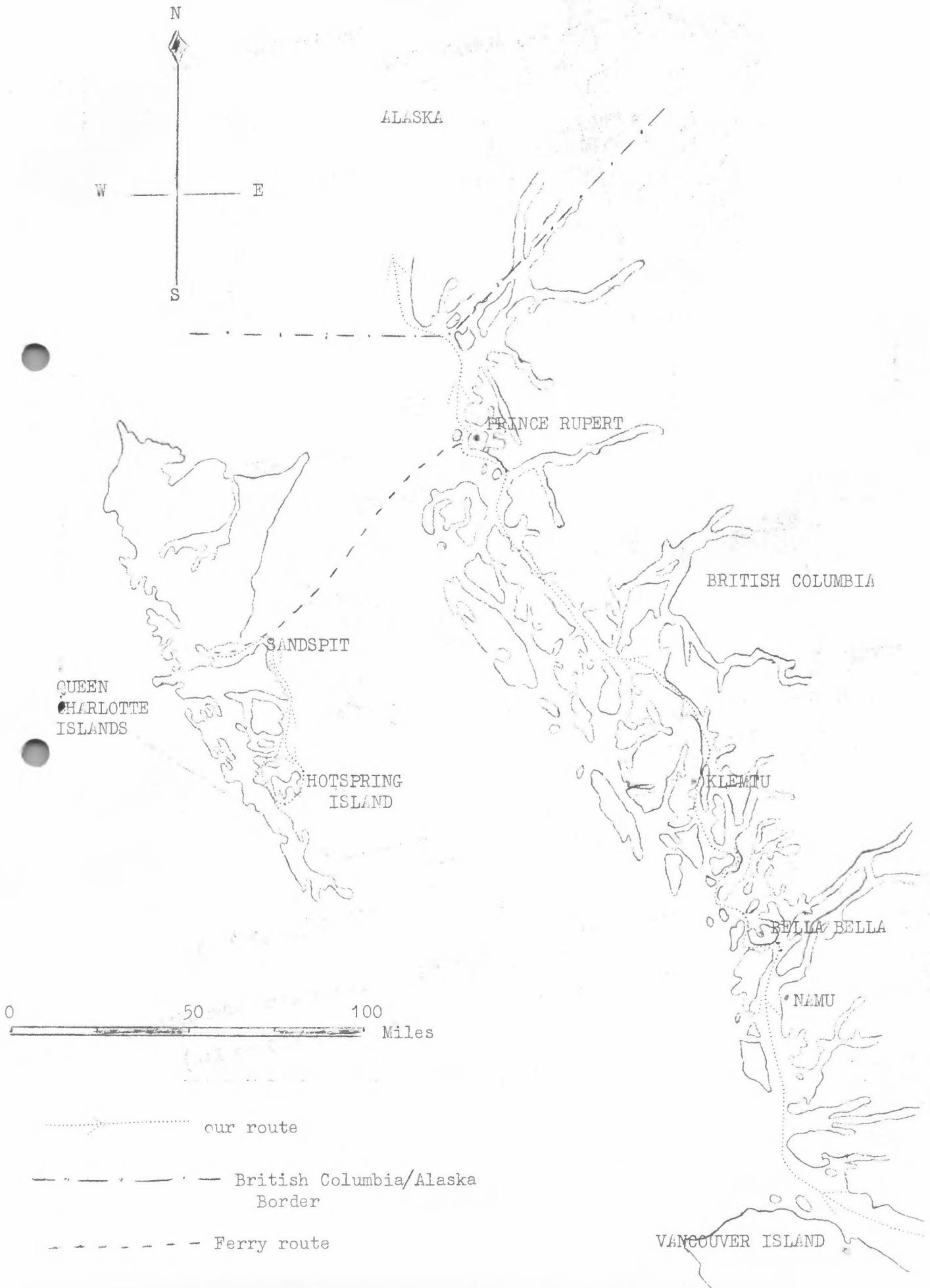
Before leaving England we met very few people who could tell us what it would really be like along this coastline. We had an overdose of horror stories about bears, ice, weather and tides. People would ask if we were well enough qualified to cope with it all. Were we experienced enough? People constantly questioned our ability and only a few gave us encouragement. Alaska seems to conjour up hideous illusions of danger but those who know their geography must realise that it is a huge and diverse land and that even the notorious seas have times of calm and the small section we visited proved to be very pleasant indeed. The trip was a good adventure and to any other people planning a trip to the area, our advice would be GO, but take the horror stories with a pinch of salt.

We thank all our friends, sponsors, the Long River Canoeists Club and the Advanced Sea Kayak Club for their possitive support.

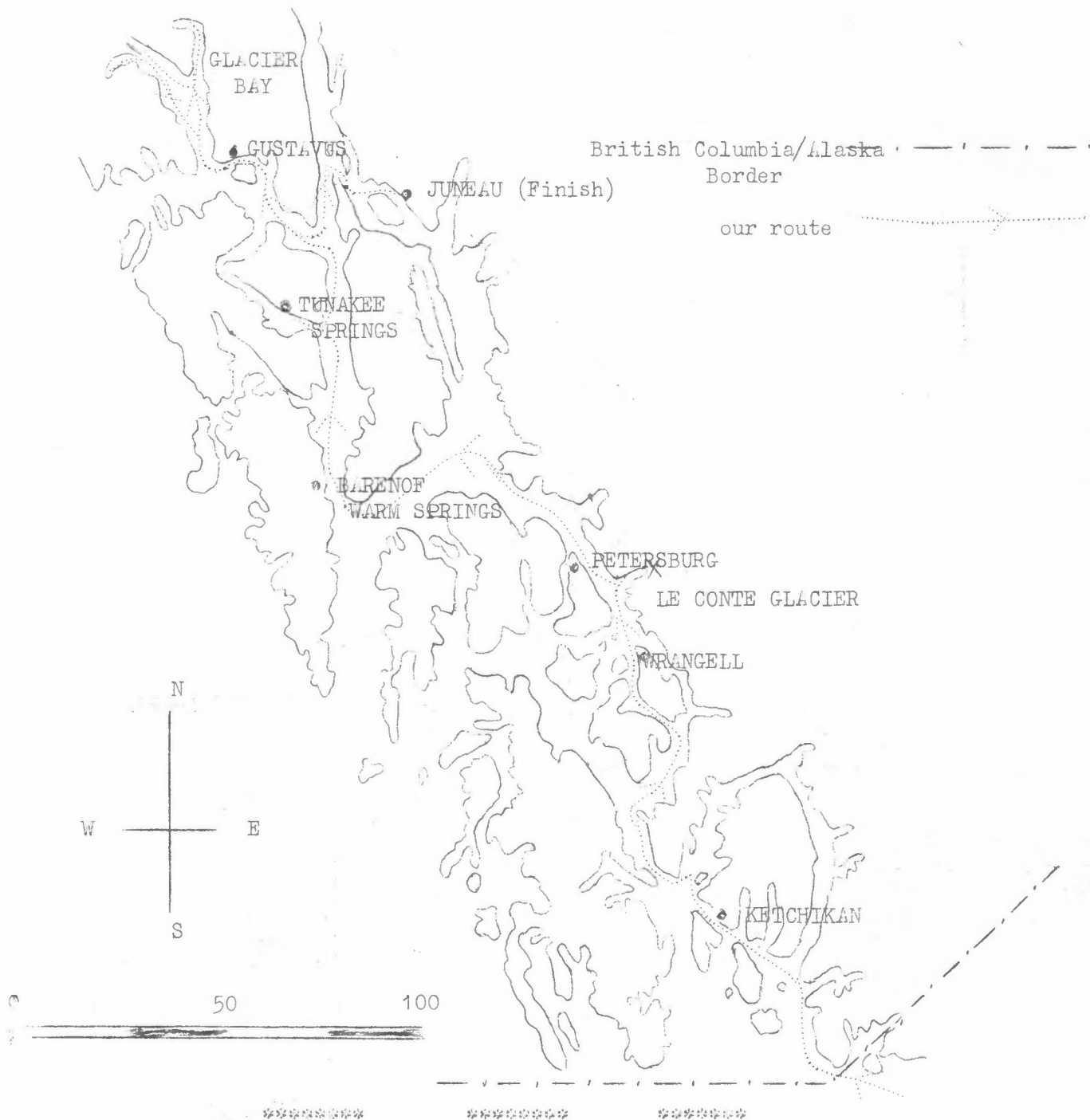
MAP 1 BRITISH COLUMBIAN COAST (SOUTH)



MAP 2 BRITISH COLUMBIAN COAST (NORTH)



MAP 3 SOUTH EAST ALASKA



EQUIPMENT LIST (All items shared unless otherwise stated)

Kayaking and sea safety equipment

- 1 Kayak each, Expeditioner Islander model (WYE KAYAKS) Equipped with deck lines, chart elastics, bilge pumps, bulkheads and hatches
- 1 Paddle each, long distance and sprint blades (Andrew Ainsworth Designs Ltd)
- 1 Pair of split paddles each
- 2 Spray decks each (Wye Kayaks)
- 1 Buoyancy Aid each
- 1 Sea canoeing cagoule each
- 1 Pair of pogies (canoe mitts) each
- 1 Pair of sailing boots each
- 1 Whistle each
- 2 Flares each

Camping equipment

- 1 Tent, VANGO FORCE 10 Mk III
- 1 Sleeping bag each (Firebird)

- 2 Karrimats each
- 2 Lightweight flysheets for shelters and food hanging
- 1 Rope - 6mm X 60 feet long for food hanging and washing line
- 1 Axe
- 1 Torch
- 1 Tin mothballs
- 1 Box firestarters
- 1 Packet of Bic Lighters

Cooking equipment

- 1 Primus stove
- 2 Litres Fuel
- 2 Saucepans
- 1 Cast iron frying pan with lid
- 1 Mug each
- 1 Cutlery kit
- 1 Penknife
- 1 Fish gutting knife
- 4 Scouring pads
- 6 1 Litre water containers (increased to 3 gallons later)

Navigational equipment

- 1 Set Nautical charts of British Columbian coast
- 1 Set U.S. Topographical maps of South East Alaska
- 1 Silva compass each
- 1 Pair of dividers
- 1 Book of Canadian tide tables
- 1 Book of Alaskan tide tables
- 1 Wrist watch each
- 1 Chinagraph pencil

Clothing

- 2 Helly-Hansen Pile sweaters each
- 2 Helly Hansen Pile trousers each
- 2 Lifawear undershirts each
- 2 Lifawear longjohns each
- 3 Pairs of socks each
- 1 Sun hat each
- 1 Woolly hat each
- 1 Pair of mittens each
- 1 Pair of jeans each (for town wear)
- 1 T shirt each
- 1 Extra sweater each
- 1 Swimming costume each
- 1 Towel each
- 1 Waterproof cagoule each
- 1 Pair of waterproof overtrousers each
- 1 Pair of training shoes each

Toiletries

- 1 Litre shampoo
- 5 Tubes toothpaste
- 5 Bars of soap
- 1 Toothbrush each
- 1 Comb / 1 Brush / 1 Handmirror / 1 Flannel / 1 shaving gear

Miscellaneous

- 1 Dairy each
- 4 Reading books - flora/fauna and novels
- 1 Barometer
- 1 Camera, PRACTICA 35 mm
- 1 Underwater camera
- 1 Rucksac
- 2 Pens / 2 Pencils

- 4 B.D.H. bottles
- 8 Skerry bags each
- 1 Pair glasses each (sun)
- 6 Fishing lures
- 2 Hand lines (120 feet of line on each)
- 1 Crab trap
- 1 First Aid kit
- 1 Repair kit containing fibreglass resin, matt, hardener, hacksaw blades, sandpaper, plumbers tape, canoe tape, neoprene material, denim material, needles, cotton, safety pins, wire, pliers, assorted glues and fillers, assorted string and cords, candles, emergency lighters, spare batteries and sharpening stone

NOTE, As well as the equipment listed above we also carried up to six weeks supply of food.

FOOD LIST

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Brown rice | Vegetable oil |
| White rice | Sugar |
| Spaghetti | Jam |
| Macaroni | Honey |
| Barley | Fruit crystal drink |
| Dried potato | Drinking chocolate |
| Assorted beans | Tea |
| Assorted split peas | Dates |
| Assorted lentils | Sultanas |
| Dried milk | Raisins |
| Dried egg | Porridge oats |
| Dried cheese | Cracked wheat |
| Dried vegetables | Wheatgerm |
| Dried soups, assorted. | Bran |
| Assorted flours | Rye flakes |
| Cornstarch | Oat flakes |
| Custard Powder | Sunflower seeds |
| Baking powder | Sesame seeds |
| Popcorn | Walnuts |
| Spices | Peanuts |
| Salt | Peanut butter |
| Vinegar | Lemon Juice |
| Marmite | Pancake mix |

For further details and any queries please contact:

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|--------------------|----|------------------|
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