

Yakutsk aboard trucks, having travelled along a two-hundred kilometre long ice road, the men really had to switch to teams of horses. The travellers covered a seventy-kilometre long route on horseback through the frozen taiga to Bayaga, the next settlement.

"It didn't take long for the adventures to begin and that was probably because we didn't have a shaman along with us," joked the leader of the expedition Jacek Palkiewicz. Not long before we got to Tanda the front-wheel hub of our truck broke. We had to get out of the back of the truck, where, huddled close together in warm reindeer skin clothing, we had felt fairly comfortable. Since we were without any means of transport, we decided to make our way to the village on foot. After three kilometres in our heavy clothing, it was like being in a Turkish bath. The hospitality of the local people gave us a great deal of pleasure. At Tanda many of the locals invited us to spend the night in their homes. I accepted the invitation of Ivan Nikonov, a Yakut livestock expert. My comrades spent the night with other families."

The group spent the second night in the winter quarters of the horse-breeders, alongside of which the herds of Yakut horses had pawed up the snow to find fodder for themselves. At Bayaga the travellers were introduced to the creative work of folk-craftsmen.

"Now we are proceeding to a musical accompaniment," smiled Jacek, trying to play a khomus, an ethnic stringed musical instrument played by mouth, which he had been given as a gift. I'm only sorry that it can't be played when it's cold, because your lips stick to the metal."