

delays as some of the harnesses were of the old-fashioned type where seal skin thongs had to be tied instead of buckles, but I never looked around and was almost too cold and tired to really care anyway!

I was just ready to lift the anchor when I saw Ekpakohak scoot back to his dogs and go. At this, I jumped on Ayalik's komatik and off we went at a grand clip. Two teams always travel faster than one so we made good time going back to Kingalik Point arriving at around 6 p.m. I remember being very hungry and making a glutton of myself eating boiled rice kindly offered by Attigoeleak; it was expensive rice from the Hudson's Bay store. There was not much dog food around there either due to the recent bad weather. I picked up the police camera and offending rock, which I had left in the care of Attigoeleak, and headed back to Cambridge with Ayalik's dogs arriving at 1 a.m. on July 3. With all this rushing around with various teams, we had covered 165 miles in three days on water-covered ice.

Coming in to Cambridge, the ice was quite bad and I had to stand on the komatik as the dogs and I went through the water on top of the ice. We could go no further than where Peter Natit lived near the Department of Transport (DOT) as the river had opened up all the ice by the Detachment. Peter Natit saw me coming and kindly helped me unharness the dogs and set up the dog line. He had a crank phone connection to the DOT as he worked for them as a mechanic, having been down on a course at Leduc. While having tea, he arranged for the DOT boys to bring some old meat and fish for dog food and Cal Way came down in the DOT truck. He hauled me and my rifle and camera and rock back to the Detachment.

Back at the Detachment, Bob Milmine was delighted to see me and hear the events. He had troubles of his own as Mary, his wife, had to be evacuated to Edmonton to deliver their baby girl. An injured Kinmiuk had also been evacuated out to Charles Camsell Hospital in Edmonton, having never regained consciousness. The other news was that an army helicopter had just arrived at Cambridge Bay to take survey photos to make an

accurate map of the region. I was very tired and went to sleep.

The next morning I could hear the helicopter landing near the Detachment. The corporal in charge, Bob Milmine, had cleverly talked the army pilot into taking me back to pick up Ayalik. I noticed his eyes rolled a little when I went out with the .306 rifle; presumably any danger had not been stressed by Bob! We headed off across the land, which was only a third the distance of following the coast. Just before arriving where the small creek flowed in, we saw Ayalik's tent. Not by the coast where it had been but moved inland where dead ground kept it out of sight from the sea. There was no sign of movement so we both thought he must not be in. We landed anyway, as I wanted to look in the tent for the stolen rifles. Upon entering the tent, there was Ayalik apparently asleep in his sleeping bag. This was amazing when you think of the racket the helicopter made over the completely silent tundra.

At any rate, he was completely co-operative. I put the cuffs on him and we picked up all four rifles in the tent (three of which were stolen). I read him the Police Warning in Inuktitut and he asked if Kinmiuk was still alive and seemed very relieved when told he was. We took him back to Cambridge Bay leaving his tent and possessions out on the tundra, where they may still be to this day.

These are the events regarding the chasing of Ayalik. We had no gaol at Cambridge Bay at that time and Ayalik later told me that he had me in sight of his rifle but decided not to shoot. Sadly he went on to shoot a young member of the Force, Colin Lelliott, the next winter. The account of this is also covered in Robert Knuckle's book *In the Line of Duty*. Ayalik was also convicted on a further charge of manslaughter in November 1970. Since Knuckle's book was published, a memorial to Colin Lelliott has been dedicated at the new Cambridge Bay RCMP Detachment. ❖

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