

Soviet Icebreaker Turned Into Arctic Research Station

The Musmansk Regional Directorate for Hydrometeorology's scientific research ice-breaker, the Otto Schmidt has completed its unique Arctic expedition. For more than 40 days and nights it drifted in the ice of the Greenland Sea, carrying out a series of scientific experiments in the difficult to access expanses of the Arctic.

It was on 24 January that the Rossiya nuclear-powered vessel took the over-winterers and their equipment off the SP-28 station on its crumbling ice-floe drifting in the Greenland Sea, and "froze in" the ice-breaker, the Otto Schmidt, as a replacement for the SP-28 station, to continue with the scientific research. It was not long before the effect of the swell and strong underwater currents had made themselves felt, "base" ice-floe broke up, leaving the Otto Schmidt trapped in the ice fields. The ice-breaker continued to drift while the scientific expedition on board busily carried out its meteorological, hydrological and hydrochemical research. They didn't even stop work when the ice-breaker found itself in a critical situation, between Greenland and the island of Jan-Mayen, where it came under pressure from pack ice many metres thick. But everything turned out well and the Otto Schmidt ended its drift of 950 miles at the mouth of the Danish gulf.

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(full text)