

ARCTIC

Soviet Icebreaker Rescues Researchers In Arctic

The scientific research vessel, the ice-breaker Otto Schmidt, has returned to port in Murmansk after a long voyage of many months in the Arctic.

After they had been forced to evacuate the SP-28 drift-ice research station in January, the scientists continued their research work to the north of Greenland aboard the ice-breaker Otto Schmidt. With the help of the nuclear-powered Rossiya, the vessel penetrated right into the ice-pack where the SP-28 station was located and was able to continue the rest of the drift project with the station.

It was a very risky experiment, because if there had been any sudden pressure from the ice, the vessel could have been crushed. But the minute there were any signs of increased pressure, the ice-breaker moved to safety in an area of ice-free water, a safe distance from danger.

Vessel and ice drifted together over 950 miles. The information gathered by the Soviet scientists during this time has been of great interest to scientists from northern Europe and North America, since this was the first time that this area of the Arctic had been systematically studied.

Izvestiya

22 March 1989

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