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THE SCORESBY SOUND COMMITTEE'S 2ND EAST GREENLAND
EXPEDITION IN 1932 TO KING CHRISTIAN IX.'S LAND

LEADER: EJNAR MIKKELSEN

THE FORMER ESKIMO HABITATION IN
THE KANGERDLUGSSUAK DISTRICT
EAST GREENLAND

BY

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WITH 33 FIGURES IN THE TEXT AND 1 PLATE

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INTRODUCTION

As the zoologist of the Scoresby Sound Committee's 2nd East Greenland Expedition and on the strength of my former contact with Eskimo archaeology, through my determinations of bones from Eskimo kitchen middens, I was entrusted with the task, not only of undertaking zoological investigations of possible kitchen middens, but also, in general, to attend to the archaeological collections and investigations made in the course of the expedition.

The distance from Cape Dalton to Kangerdlugssuak, which was more particularly the base of operations of the expedition, offers features of great archaeological interest, seeing that it is situated between the Angmagssalik habitation towards the south and the former Eskimo habitation in northeastern Greenland, from the region round Scoresby Sound and northwards. Until 1932 this distance had only been traversed by one expedition (the Amdrup-Expedition, 1900). On Skærgaardshalvø, at the mouth of Kangerdlugssuak, this expedition found a number of deserted Eskimo houses, several graves, tent-rings etc. which clearly proved that Eskimos had lived there in former times. On the distance Kangerdlugssuak—Scoresby Sound it was, however, not until at Dunholm, north of Cape Dalton, that AMDRUP found Eskimo remains. This expedition, it is true, was undertaken in a rowing boat, which followed the outer coast, and therefore it is possible that traces of a former Eskimo habitation might be found by closer investigations along the stretch between these two points. AMDRUP, however, is inclined to think that the coast along this stretch is too inhospitable to permit Eskimos settling there, at any rate for any length of time. Generally speaking AMDRUP is beyond doubt correct. With the exception of Miki's Fjord, which is situated a few kilometres east of Kangerdlugssuak, the Scoresby Sound Committee's 2nd East Greenland Expedition was unable to prove the remains of any earlier Eskimo habitation, and this in spite of the fact that we undertook rather detailed investigations in a number of localities; viz. Cape Dalton, Cape Ewart, Cape Barclay, d'Aunay Bay, the bay

north of Cape Daussy and Wiedemann's Fjord. It might of course at all events be possible that the Eskimos have settled in the intermediary regions, but it is not very likely, all the more as most of the other fjords are pronounced ice-fjords, where natural conditions are very unfavourable to the Eskimos. Owing to the bad conditions of weather it was not possible for the Expedition to enter Irminger Fjord, which is situated immediately east of Miki's Fjord, and where probably an Eskimo habitation was formerly situated¹).

¹) Later on, in 1935, HELGE LARSEN M.A. succeeded in proving the existence of such a former habitation in this fjord.

THE SETTLEMENT IN MIKI'S FJORD

It was not until the expedition reached Miki's Fjord that it found the above-mentioned remains of a former Eskimo habitation. Nearly opposite the mouth of this fjord, on the northern side, a foreland or ridge extends into the water. The place is in several respects very well suited as a dwelling place for Eskimos. The ridge runs north-south and slopes terracing towards the south. To the west of the ridge there is a broad, open valley, and on its western side other mountains rise. Towards east is a mountain-slope with a dense and luxuriant vegetation. The place must, therefore, have been sheltered from the north and was very sunny. The surface consists of Gabro, which forms a firm rocky ledge, clear of debris, where it has been easy to move about and build houses, and in addition, access from the sea to the lower terraces has been extremely easy. Curiously enough, there does not seem to have been drinking water in the neighbourhood, the distance to the nearest river being now about a quarter of an hour's walk. The obvious suggestion is that the Eskimos, in the dry period during the summer, have lived in tents elsewhere or managed to melt lumps of ice.

In the said terraces there were five sets of house-ruins, situated at different levels, from about 20 to no less than 50 metres above sea-level. With the exception of a single house which had been dug into the soil, and the shape of which it was impossible to trace in detail, the houses were rectangular, and several of them lay on the firm rock. Otherwise, their state of preservation and size varied greatly. The lower houses were the largest and best preserved, whereas the upper ones apparently were small and greatly decayed, but as will be discussed later these small houses were only parts of originally larger ones. When examining the objects found in these houses it appears that they are essentially of the same culture period and represent the Inugsuk culture (cf. TH. MATHIASSEN, No. 9 in this volume).

House No. 1.

House 1 lies 19 metres above the surface of the sea, on the top of a bare rock devoid of vegetation and sloping towards west, east and

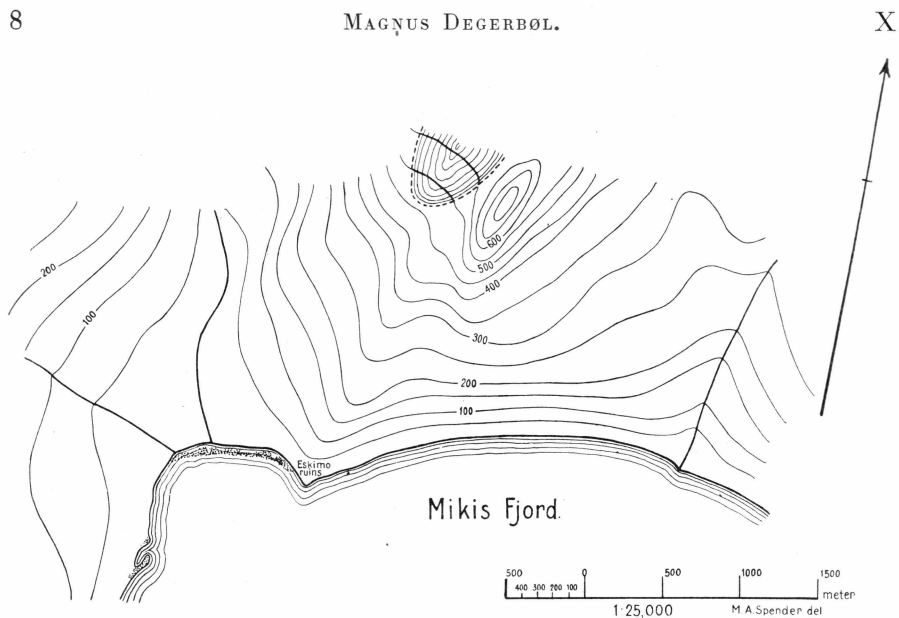


Fig. 1. Map of Miki's Fjord.

south. Towards the sea there are four ledges. From the sea there is easy access to the lower of these, seeing that one can pass straight from a boat on to the rock. The distance to the sea is here about 35 metres.

The house was well preserved and built of large stones, which were

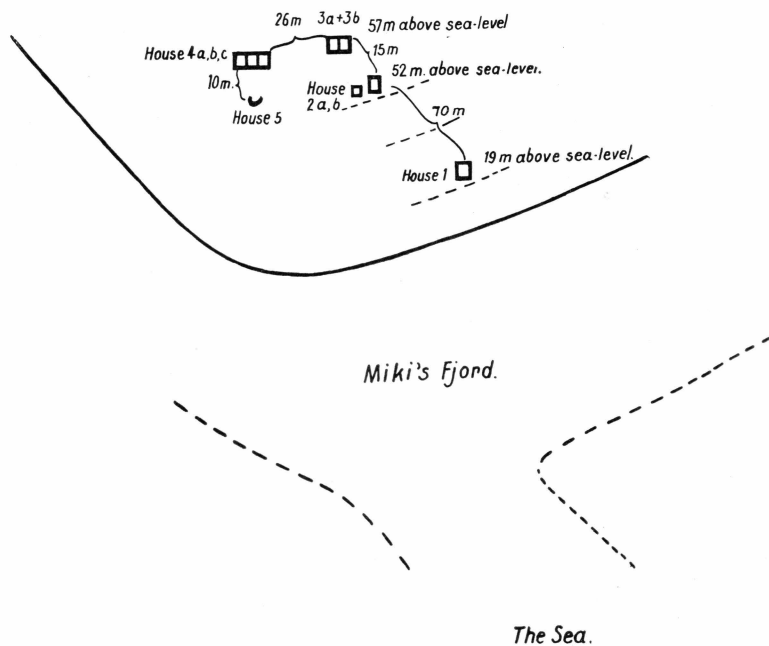


Fig. 2. Plan of houses 1—5.

well joined together. In the interspaces there was soil, now partly covered with plants. The shape of the house is very nearly rectangular. The rear wall has beyond doubt been somewhat shorter than the front wall, but the measuring of the latter presented some difficulty, owing to the fact that the wall in a niche had collapsed in the left front corner of the house. The length of the rear wall is 2.5 metres; the front wall measured about 2.9 metres, whereas the depth of the house is 3.5 metres.

The house passage, which follows the incline of the rock towards south, has an angle of inclination of about 20° . The length is 4.25 metres,

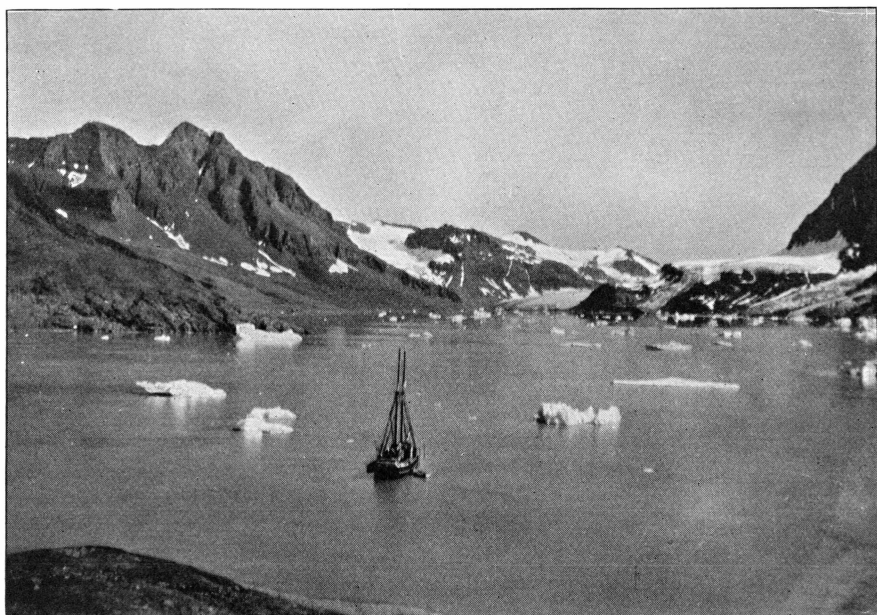


Fig. 3. Miki's Fjord looking eastward. Eskimonæs on the opposite coast to the left.

while the width varies between 45 and 60 cm. The floor of the passage is covered by a culture layer, 30 cm thick. The height is 85 cm, measured from the cleared foundation, which consists of flat stones, to a roofing stone, about 1 metre in front of the wall of the house and still in place. The house passage opens into the right half of the house. Along its lower edge the house passage towards west is built up against a small ledge in the rock, which forms the one wall of the passage, being 32 cm in height and 1 metre in length. Just outside the mouth of the passage this rocky wall curves towards west, and right under this corner, in a depression under the rock, a human skull could be distinguished. From the outside it was just possible to discern the side of the skull and, through a crack in the latter, part of its inner side, which is now white

and bleached and partly covered by vegetation. The skull lay on the right side with the forehead turned towards west; it was squeezed so hard against the side of the rock that it could not be removed without some difficulty. Only by scraping a little soil away from under the skull, we were able to get it out. A little below the forehead was a decayed upper jaw. In general this, as well as other skeleton parts, which are exposed to the air, are fairly well preserved, whereas the parts covered by the soil are more decayed and pierced by plant roots. In this upper



Fig. 4. Eskimonæes, Miki's Fjord. The settlement seen from the north.

jaw the lateral front tooth was on the point of breaking through; the incisal edge has undoubtedly been discernible in the gum, whereas the first molar, the so-called six-years' molar, is in place. The skull must therefore have been that of a child, the age of which may be estimated at about eight years.

Under the skull, parallel with its longitudinal axis and partly hidden in the soil, we found a humerus, which evidently had belonged to the same individual as the skull. None of the other skeleton parts were found in the passage. Close to the occipital bone there lay the lower end of a humerus, with the appertaining forearm, ulna and radius, of a ringed seal (*Phoca hispida*).

In the house passage there were still more human bones, but these must have belonged to an adult individual. Against the western side of

the passage, i. e. at the same side as the remains of the child, lay, at a distance of 64 cm from the skull, a right femur, the head of which pointed towards the house. At a distance of 20 cm from the head of this femur there were fragments of a pelvis and a left femur, pointing obliquely towards the eastern wall, but with the head in the opposite direction, towards the outer opening of the passage. A humerus, the head of which was pressed into the eastern side wall, was found obliquely under this femur. Along the same wall, but quite near the entrance, were finally parts of another humerus and a forearm.

In the culture layer of the house passage and especially in the outer half of it were, furthermore, a quantity of bones of ringed seal, *Phoca hispida* (5 different radii, 4 different ulnæ, 2 shoulder-blades, 3 different humeri, 2 astragalus, 1 calcaneus, several toe-joints and vertebræ); the following bones of harp seal (*Phoca groenlandica*): 1 ulna, the upper end of a radius, 1 humerus, 2 right shoulder blades, 2 left femurs, and half of a pelvis and 1 ulna of a bearded seal (*Erignathus barbatus*).

There is consequently no doubt that the house passage contains the skeleton parts of a child and at any rate one adult individual. It is difficult to decide whether there has been an actual burial. The child, beyond doubt, has been placed in a depression in the rock in the wall of the house passage, but no implements or toys were found near the bones. The bones of the adult individual were placed in such a manner as to indicate that he or she had been pressed into the passage, with the knees drawn up towards the chest, almost in a squatting position.

In the passage way there were only a few implements. On removal of a roof stone which had fallen down into the very entrance, a dark piece of slate was found, shaped as an ulo. One metre from the entrance, at the bottom of the mould-layer, there was a coarsely manufactured stone adze.

At the mouth of the entrance the ledge running along the western wall of the house passage forms an angle in an easterly direction, so that the house itself has been built on a rock 30 cm higher than the bottom of the passage. The Eskimos, in other words, have made use of the conditions of the ground, and the house in that manner becomes so much higher than the passage, by which means a step or well-space has been formed at a short distance from its opening into the house.

The interior of the house was partly filled with several layers of stone, and is now covered by turf. The stones lay helter-skelter, though in several places in such a manner that there were a number of large rounded stones under the turf, interchanging with large flat stones, then a layer of mould and, finally, flat floor stones. Several of the upper stones undoubtedly emanate from the tumbled-down roofs, as suggested by several much decayed remains of seal skin and crumbling wooden laths.

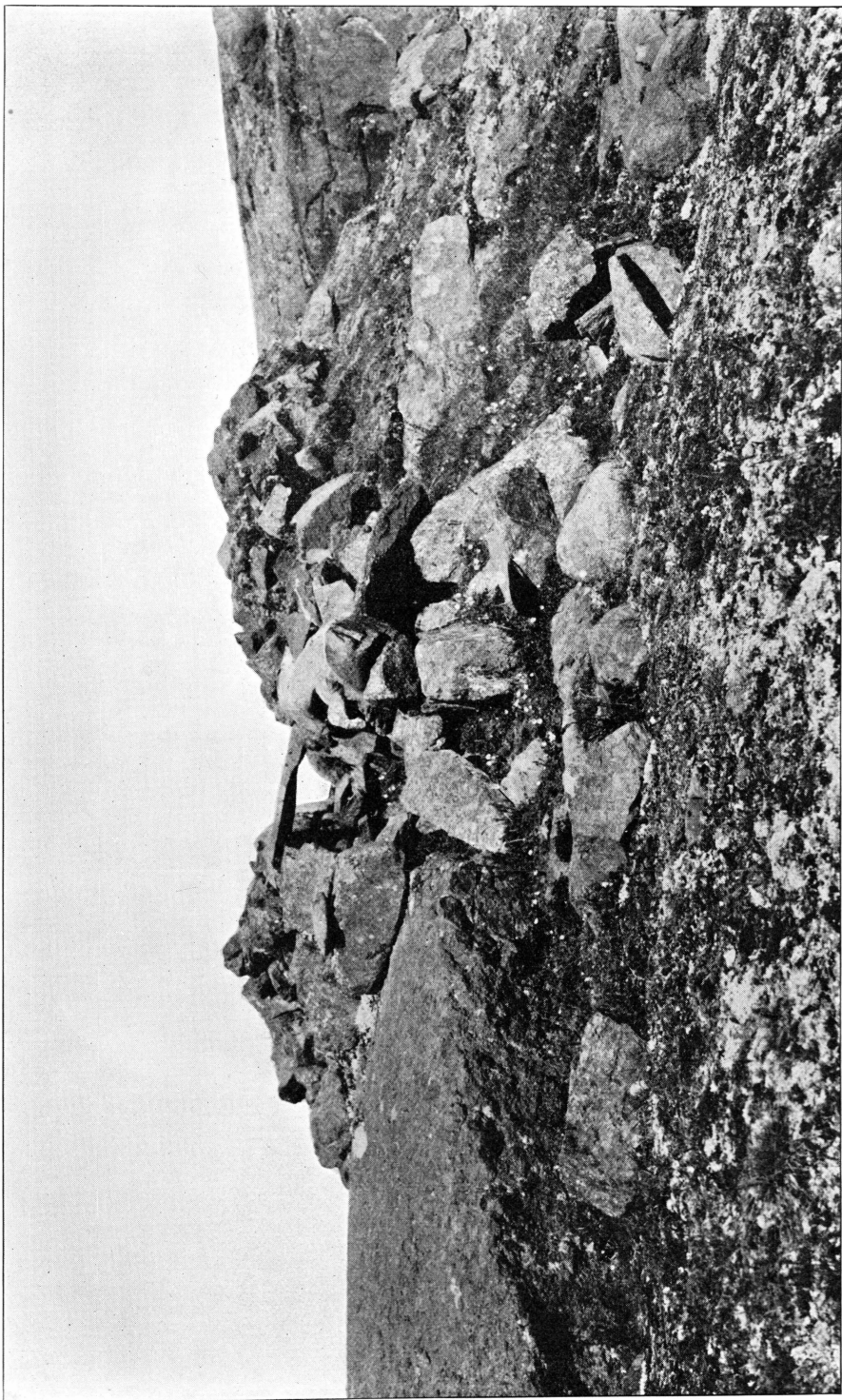


Fig. 5. House No. 1 from the front. One of the roofing stones of the passage way is still in place.

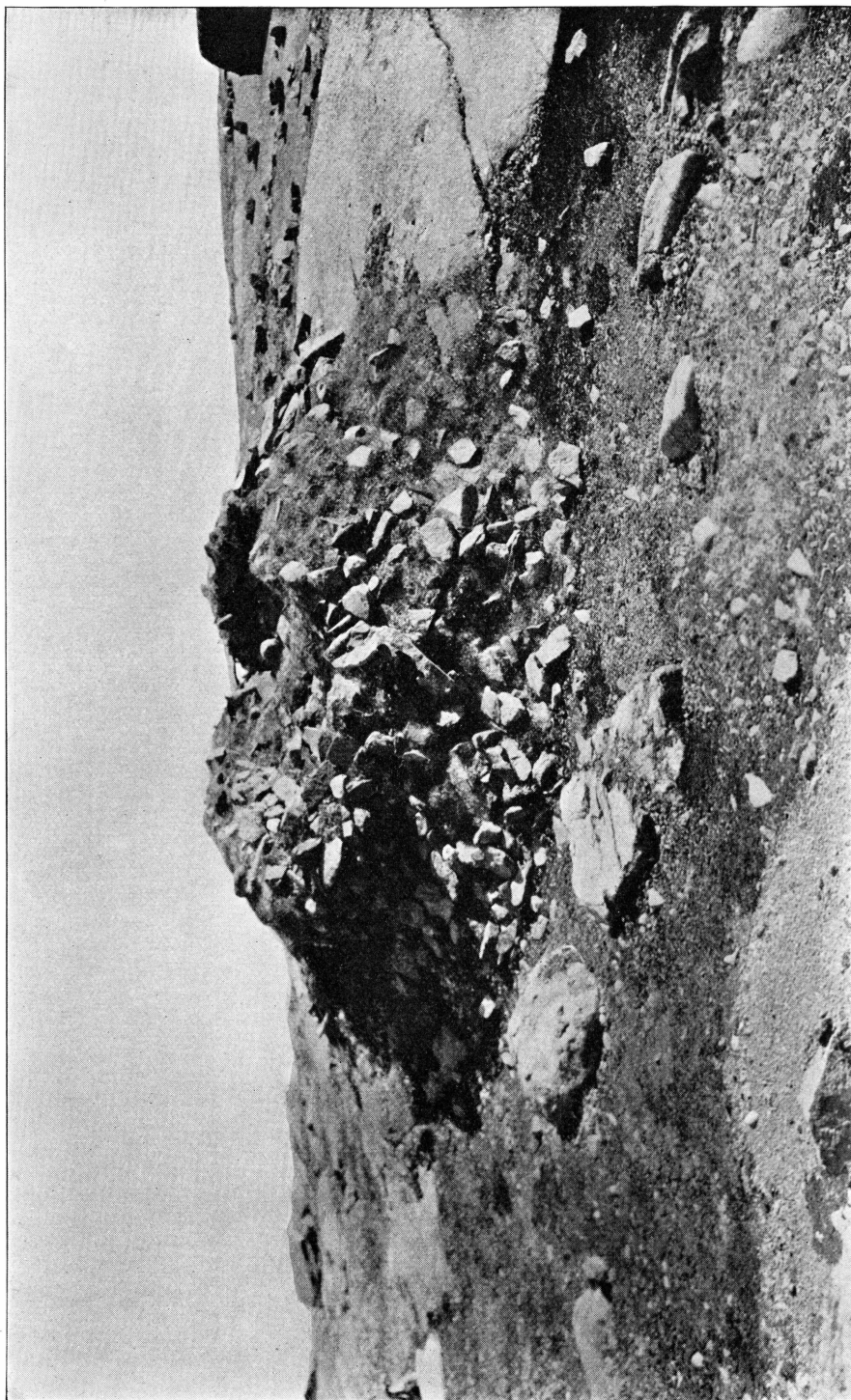


Fig. 6. House 1 from the rear.



Fig. 7. Just outside the mouth of the passage way, in a depression under the rock, a human skull could be distinguished.



Fig. 8. The passage way of House 1, after excavation. From the interior of the house. A metre in front of the doorway the ledge along the western wall of the house passage forms an angle in an easterly direction, so that the house itself has been built on a rock 30 cm higher than the bottom of the passage way. The Eskimos have made use of the condition of the ground, and the well-space has thus been formed in front of the house, in the house passage, and not as ordinarily in the house itself.

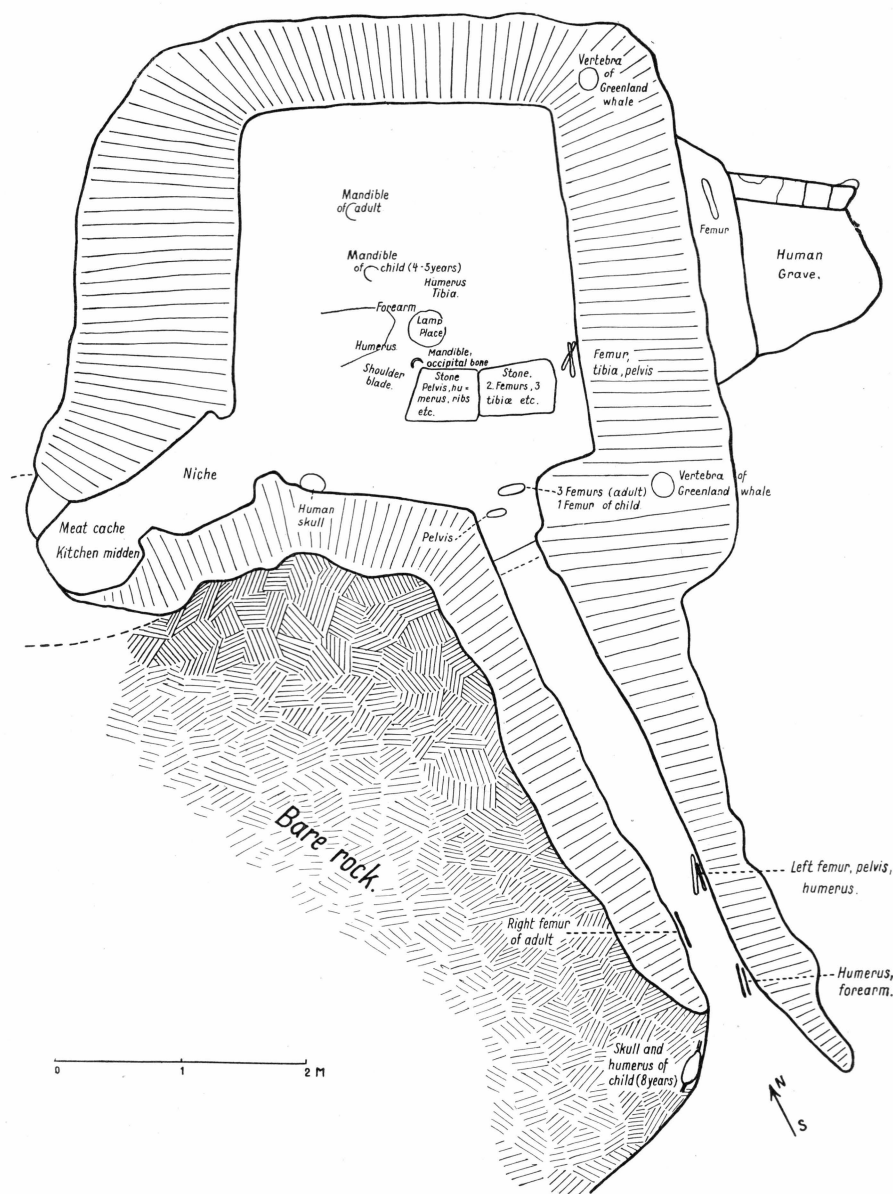


Fig. 9. Plan of House 1. The many human bones found in this house are indicated. There are furthermore a quantity of animal bones scattered among the human bones, and so it is only possible to distinguish the latter from the former by a zoological determination.

Also within the house itself there were several human bones, besides a great number of animal bones and a quantity of implements. At the rear end of the passage, above the well-space, we found the right and left half of a human pelvis and the decayed remains of a human sacrum. Besides these there were the humeri of a ringed seal, as well as the hip-bone of a dog and a coarsely manufactured and double-edged stone implement. At the place of transition between the house and the passage, in the culture-layer above the firm rock, which here constituted the floor of the house, there were 4 human femurs (the left femur of an adult person, the right and left femurs, also of an adult person, though somewhat smaller, and the left femur of a child) together with a quantity of bones of ringed seal and harp seal. Near the right corner of the house, directly on the floor, there were a drill bit of slate, the left lower jaw of a fox, a circular perforated stone disk, the left upper jaw of a dog and, quite close to the wall of the house, a human right femur, the head pointing towards the rear wall of the house. Across these bones lay a human tibia; then below the femur a pelvis, and finally under that charcoal. Somewhat towards the middle of the eastern wall lay a few stones partly covering these bones, above which again lay a bit of sealskin, 40 cm long and 27 cm wide; this bit of skin had been folded into three equal parts.

A metre behind the opening of the house passage into the house, pointing towards the eastern wall, lay a large flat floor stone, 45 by 50 cm, with a number of human bones upon it, viz. parts of right and left femurs, two left and one right tibiæ, a humerus and a hip-bone, all belonging to adult persons, and a much decayed right femur and humerus of a child. Scattered among these were many bones of ringed seal and a few bones of a harp seal.

To the left of this stone lay a similar large floor stone, on which there were also a number of human bones: pelvis, humerus, collar bones, many ribs and shoulder blades. The entire sternal part must have been there, and it lies in its natural position. Towards the middle of the house a lower jaw was found, and at a short distance from there, near a fire place, lay the occipital bone, also of an adult person.

This fire place, which appeared like a black mass of earth with charred bits of wood, was situated a little in front and to the east of the middle of the house. Besides the two large floor stones already mentioned, there lay round this large black area a circle of similar large stones. Also here there were many human bones: the right shoulder blade with the humerus and forearm attached to it. These remains turn their dorsal side upwards and show that the person in question has lain on his or her stomach, or at any rate on the side, in such a manner that he or she has ultimately been squeezed so as to turn the underside downwards

to the floor. The distance from the head of the humerus to the fire place is 35 cm, so that the human being must have lain quite close to it. Under the said shoulder blade and humerus, crosswise of these, is another part of a forearm, viz. the left ulna and radius.

About 30 cm east of the humerus with the appertaining forearm is the lower end of a human humerus, which is situated in such a manner that the head points towards the western front corner of the house. Under this humerus is a tibia, the lower end of which points towards



Fig. 10. Mandible of child, 4—5 years, and other bones.

the front of the house, its upper end points obliquely towards the fire place, at a distance of 25 cm from the latter.

10 cm from the upper end of the tibia towards the western wall lies the lower jaw of a child, rather decayed, though not more than the permanent front teeth can be discerned, though entirely hidden in the jaw, whereas the milk molars are still in place (fig. 10). As the lower medial front teeth are generally in place at the age of 6—8 years, I estimate the age of the child to be 4—5 years.

Half a metre from the lower jaw of the child, 80 cm from the left side wall and 1 metre from the rear wall, there is one more human lower jaw, but of an adult individual. The wisdom teeth are in place, but all, even the front teeth are unworn, so the jaw must have belonged to a comparatively young individual.

Only one skull of the human skeleton parts still remains, however, without a lower jaw. This skull was squeezed against the front wall of the house, close to the left corner, as seen from the doorway on entrance.

If one tries to form a survey of the number of human beings whose remains are to be found here, the following is the result: In a circle round the southwestern side of the fire place there must have lain a human body, either on his or her stomach, or in such a position as ultimately to have been squeezed into that position. The left arm has been turned in under the chest, and the legs pulled up under the body, the knees being somewhat bent. In some manner or other, for instance by the falling down of the roof, several of these skeleton parts have been displaced, particularly humerus and forearm. As to the other parts it is difficult to form any definite opinion. Besides the bones in the said skeleton there are, at the entrance of the house and along the eastern wall, 6 femurs of adult persons. Whether or not one of these femurs should be regarded as belonging to the skeleton round the fire place, where there was only one femur, the fact remains that there are skeleton parts of at least three more adults. In the house there are thus the remains of at least four adults and two children, the femurs found being considered as belonging to the skull and lower jaw found at the opposite side of the house. This scattering of the remains is very peculiar, but on the other hand it is difficult to imagine that all the other skeleton parts should have rotted away, all the more as well-preserved animal bones are found round the human skeleton parts. If we should not consider the femurs found singly as belonging to the parts of the skulls, there are thus the further remains of three adult individuals, and, in addition, the bones of an adult individual and an older child found in the passage way. To the latter probably belong the said children's limb bones found within the house itself.

The question which now presents itself is in what manner all of these people have perished, and why they are lying in the house and the house passage? It is well known, for instance from Nualik, where the Amdrup-Expedition found an Eskimo house with all the inhabitants lying dead in it, that catastrophes like ptomain-poisoning, hunger, epidemic diseases, and the like may kill such people. But in that case it is to be expected, as proved at Nualik, that the individual skeleton parts are lying in a fairly correct position and that the contents of the house, by way of implements etc. are untouched. But neither the one nor the other condition was fulfilled in this case, so that it is to be presumed that at any rate some of the inhabitants of this house must have departed with the implements, or that these have later on been removed by others.

If the inhabitants had died from poisoning, it is to be supposed

that their skeleton parts would now have been found in their natural positions, even though they had possibly later on been somewhat scattered by foxes. Therefore, it seems to me a more likely supposition that the inhabitants have gradually succumbed to hunger and that those who lived longest may have had recourse to cannibalism. It is very striking that several of the limb bones of the child, whose skull was found under the ledge at the beginning of the house passage, are beyond doubt lying in the very house. Add to this that the human skeleton parts, as already mentioned, are scattered among the animal bones, so that it is only possible to distinguish the latter from the former by a zoological determination. It is also very striking that the skull without the lower jaw should be squeezed against the front wall of the house in the left corner.

Besides the animal bones mentioned in the preceding it is worthy of mention that many seal bones were lying off the middle of the front and left wall. Off the western front corner there were the humerus of a polar bear and a middle part of the same, which was split up by means of a number of drilled holes; it was found among the tumbled-down stones, in a vertical position below the turf. Off the western main wall there were, further, several bones of polar bear and the cranium of a fox.

Also a number of seal bones lay under several of the floor stones, which, however, were placed directly on the firm rock.

There were several implements scattered about the house. Besides those already mentioned we found, off the eastern wall, a harpoon head cut of bone. A fragment of an ulo, a small red stone chip, 34 mm long and broken at the point, the astragalus of a ringed seal, pierced proximally and with a deep groove in the articular surface as for a drill mouth piece. Behind the fire place were found: the remains of a bone comb, and the remains of three stone-implements; part of a very large ulo, part of a smaller ulo with a hole, a roughly hewn stone adze broken at the end, as well as part of a slate grindstone. At the eastern rear corner of the house there was in the wall itself, about 25 cm from the floor and 35 cm from the rear wall, a leister harpoon (Th. M. Pl. 2, fig. 3¹) as well as a small bag, containing a red powder. According to the investigations of I. GRØNTVED M.Sc. this powder consists of a species of *Ustilago vinosa*, a fungus which is a parasite on the pollen of *Oxyria digyna*. Undoubtedly it must have been used for certain practical purposes, presumably as a dye. Near the skull in the left corner there was a stone implement, 106 mm long, 33 mm broad in the middle and 4—6 mm thick. It was hewn of greenish slate; the one longitudinal side and the one end, which is pointed, are polished on both sides.

In front of the niche in the turf there was a bone plate of the shape

¹) Refers, as in the following, to Th. Mathiassen, No. 9, in this volume.

of a shield, a harpoon wing, the tissue on one side being of a spongy nature (Th. M. Pl. 2, fig. 5). The lower part of a narwhal tusk was found beside these remains.

Curiously enough there were no remains of any platform along the main wall of the house, and the floor stones did not even extend as far as there. Below the turf there were no floor stones, but only the firm rock. In the left rear corner there was a long wooden rafter which undoubtedly had supported the roof.

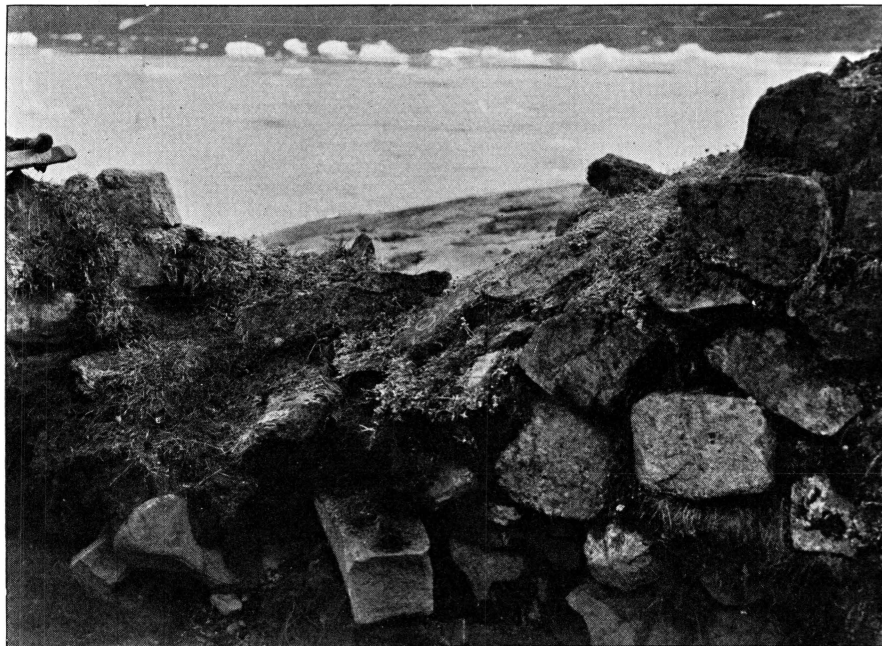


Fig. 11. The wall over the collapsed niche. On the northern side of the niche the wall measured 1.2 metres in height, on the southern side 1 metre, but in the place of the niche the height was only 55 cm.

In the left front corner of the house there was a niche or a stone recess into the wall, or what might be called a built-in press. Large flat floor stones extended from the stones round the fire place into the niche. The niche itself had collapsed, but could easily be reconstructed, the sides being clearly defined. The roof stone had fallen down and now stood in an oblique position, pointing downwards. Owing to the wall in the niche having fallen down, it was very low in this place. On the northern side of the niche the wall measured 1.2 metres in height, on the southern side 1 metre, but in the place of the niche the height was only 55 cm (fig. 11).

Outside this niche there was, in the western wall of the house, a

compartment or chamber. Seen from the outside it reminded of a meat-cache, there being some bleached seal bones at the bottom of it, which could barely be distinguished among the stones covering it (fig. 12). By excavations under these bones quite a different picture to that of a meat-cache presented itself. It turned out that the surface bones lay on a 10—20 cm thick culture layer or dark earth, which was, rather sharply defined, above an actual layer of bones. This layer, which was 10—15 cm thick, almost entirely consisted of well preserved bones, and there was



Fig. 12. Outside the niche there was, in the western wall of the house, a compartment or chamber. Seen from the outside it reminded of a meat-cache, there being some bleached seal bones at the bottom of it. The roofing stones are here removed. — Below this meat-cache, covered by a culture layer, there was a compact layer of bones. In this there were the remains of at least 22 ringed seals, 7 harp seals and 1 polar bear (kitchen midden).

hardly any intermediary soil. These bones were chiefly the bones of ringed seal, but there were also a number of bones of harp seal. There were a few bones of polar bear, and under the bone layer was a little soil, directly on the firm rock. The bones in this layer lay so close that it most of all resembled a kitchen midden. All in all, the remains of rather a large number of skeletons were found there. There were the following remains of ringed seal (*Phoca hispida*): 17 right temporal regions and 22 left ones; 9 right femurs, four of which were

of young animals; 7 left femurs, two of which were of young animals; 6 right humeri, of which five were of young animals; 8 left humeri, of which three of young animals; 6 right and 6 left shoulder-blades, 6 right and 6 left radii, 3 right and 3 left astragali. Otherwise, all the bones of the body were represented, though there was only one penis bone.

There were i. a. 7 left and 6 right temporal parts of harp seal (*Phoca groenlandica*), 4 facial parts, 3 ulnæ and 3 radii, besides a few remains of most of the bones of the body skeleton.

Polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) was only represented by the upper end of a radius and a single heel bone. The bones of this animal have evidently been collected to be used for implements, and this also appears from other finds.

In this comparatively small chamber there were thus the remains of at least 22 ringed seals, 7 harp seals, and 1 polar bear.

The significance and use of this chamber, the foundation of which is 70 by 70 cm, is not quite clear. Has this chamber had a direct communication with the inner parts of the house? and what has been the use of this chamber? Now the niche, it is true, is filled with fallen-down stones, but on the removal of these it proved that the flat floor stones continued somewhat into the wall, though not quite into the chamber. On the inner side of the chamber there was, however, a flat stone, under which there lay a pierced canine of a polar bear. That the chamber must have been in connection with the niche seems to appear from the fact that the layer of bones in it continues into the floor stones of the niche, though not quite so thickly. It is possible that there has in this place been a narrowing of the passage, which has possibly been blocked by loose stones. Even under the floor stones of the niche there were many seal bones.

From the upper bleached bones it might, it is true, be inferred that the chamber had ultimately been used as a meat cache, but if so, the lower-lying huge layer of bones seems very peculiar. It is more likely to suppose that it is in reality a kind of kitchen midden. In this connection it might be of interest to notice that in front of the house there was only an indication of a kitchen midden. This may, however, possibly be explained by the fact that it has in the course of time been washed away by running water.

Human grave along house ruin 1. There is one more peculiarity about this house. Against the eastern wall, on the outer side, there is a grave in which we found a human skeleton. The foundation of the grave is the firm rock on which the house had been built.

The grave is formed in the following manner: four stones have been placed against the house wall with a flat stone on top, while another, but essentially thicker flat stone, which has been placed edgewise, forms

the northern side of the grave. It is placed in such a manner that it inclines somewhat towards the grave (fig. 13). From these two sides, which are 25 cm high, large flat top-stones slope towards the rock in a direction northwest—southeast, and here is the grave. Thus there are, as a matter of fact, only two sides to this grave, one towards the house and one in a northerly direction, but eastwards and southwards the top-stone rest on the firm rock itself. The height of the grave thus gradually



Fig. 13. The human grave along the eastern wall of House 1. After excavation.

risers towards north and west, the distance from the house wall to the outer edge of the grave being 1.6 metres.

The skeleton lay north—south, with its head southward. Farthest south there was a lower jaw, curiously enough standing on the crowns of its teeth with the under side upwards. Near it lay a couple of upper teeth and a fibula. Towards north there lay a couple of shoulder blades, some vertebræ and a few ribs. Against the side of the house there lay a humerus and a heel bone. In the northwestern corner there lay the bones of a hind limb bent at the knee. Furthest out in the grave towards east lay a few bones of a forearm and a few upper teeth. The position of the bones imply that the body must at one time have been squeezed into the grave, with one leg bent under the chin and the other leg only bent at the knee joint.

Curiously enough, on the large flat stone along the side of the house, i. e.: outside the grave, between the latter and the edge of the top-stones, lay a human femur and a little farther away some bones of a harp seal.

In the eastern side of the grave there was one implement, a harpoon head. It was well preserved with the bone blade attached and with an open socket; but the latter, according to TH. MATHIASSEN, has been closed by a piece lashed on to it, and it belongs to the Inugsuk type (Th. M. Pl. 2, fig. 1). Near the shoulder blades lay a couple of small fragments of quartz.

In order to investigate whether utensils or the like should be hidden within the partly collapsed stone walls, the eastern wall was pulled down. It then turned out that, at both corners, right in the middle of the wall, about $\frac{1}{2}$ metre from the floor there were the lumbar vertebræ of a young Greenland whale (*Balæna mysticetus*). They were devoid of epiphyses, the largest diameter being 18 cm, the greatest height 9 cm. It is possible that these vertebræ, though of very small importance in proportion to the great wall, may simply have been used as ordinary building material, but as these two pieces, apart from a few fragments, were the only remains of the large whales in the dwelling place, and as they further lay in the same manner and at the same level in the two corners, their presence can hardly be regarded as being due to chance. But the significance ascribable to them is not easy to define. It is evidently a case of some religious rite, the laying down of a kind of house amulet, perhaps a proof that the inhabitants still preserved the memory of belonging to a people, who had dwelt in houses constructed of the vertebræ of whales.

Summary of House 1. The house is situated on a terrace with southerly exposure, 19 metres above sea-level, 35 metres from the nearest landing place. It is rectangular in shape, its inner length being 3.5, its width 2.25 metres. The house passage faces south, following the slope of the ground; the length is 4.25 metres, the height 85 cm, the width about 60 cm. In the western front corner of the house there was a compartment or a niche in the wall, which probably communicated with an outer chamber (meat-cache), in which there was a compact layer of bones, 10—15 cm thick and covered by a culture layer 10—20 cm thick. In this there were the remains of at least 22 ringed seals, 7 harp seals and 1 polar bear (kitchen midden). There was a human grave built along the eastern wall of the house.

At the mouth of the house passage, in a depression in the rock, was the skull of a child of about 8 eight years of age. Farther into the passage were furthermore found animal bones and a few implements

besides skeleton parts of a human adult. Within the house were also found human skeleton parts. Round a fire place, slightly in front of and to the east of the middle of the house, lay a skeleton of an adult person. Within the house, scattered among the animal bones, lay i. a. 6 femurs, 2 lower jaws and 1 skull of adult individuals; and in addition, the lower

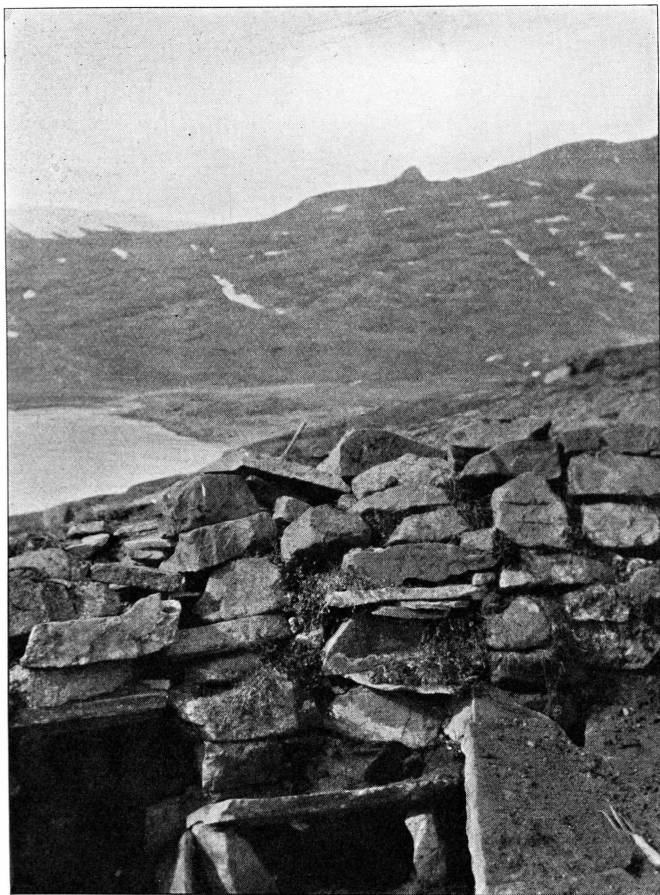


Fig. 14. View from House 2a to the west.

jaw of a small child, about four years of age, and a few limb bones of a younger and an older child.

By pulling down the eastern wall we found in both corners, in the midst of the wall, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ metre from the floor a lumbar vertebra of a young Greenland whale (house amulet).

Houses Nos. 2a and 2b.

A couple of terraces higher than House 1 lie Houses 2a and 2b, about 52 metres above sea-level. House 2a is the largest and best

preserved. The house walls still stand at a height of a little more than a metre, and also the interior is in good state of preservation. Along the rear wall is a broad platform, continuing in a small platform along the left side wall. In the western front corner the niche is seen, completely preserved. It is only in the middle of the house that the collapse of stones has been so great as to entirely cover the floor.

In its shape House 2a (fig. 18) thus suggests House 1; like the latter it has a niche in the western front corner, but whereas the niche in House 1 was entirely fallen in, it is here quite clearly defined with roof



Fig. 15. The interior of House 2a before excavation, seen from eastern wall.

stone etc. The platforms were in good state of preservation, whereas, as already mentioned, they were lacking in House 1. House 2a is also situated as House 1 as regards the four corners of world. The house passage runs north—south, but here opens nearest into the western, left corner of the house, whereas in House 1 it opened into the eastern, right corner. The length of the passage way, measured from the outermost roofing stone to the doorway, is 2 metres. The house passage begins farthest out with two wings, formed by a couple of flat stones having been put on edge and inclining outwards and downwards from the hole of the entrance at a length of 75 cm. The house passage continues into the house, its floor stones extending about 60 cm into it. They are here 60 cm lower than the floor stones of the house. At the opening of the passage into the house, there is thus an entrance-well or an ascent, which is 60 cm long, 60 cm broad and 60 cm deep. On the sides this

ascent is sharply defined, as between the bottom of the passage and the floor of the house vertical stones have been placed on end. The height of the house passage is 60 cm, the width about the same. On removing the floor stones in the house passage it proved that they covered a culture layer, which was rather thick, viz. 40 cm.

The length of the rear and front walls of the house is 3 metres. The western side wall only measures a little more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ metres, whereas the eastern side wall measures 3 metres. The length from the opening of the passage into the house to the rear wall is 3.25 metres.



Fig. 16. The interior of House 2a after excavation, seen from the eastern wall. The platform, side platform and niche are seen.

This difference in length is due to the house passage opening into the left of the house, so that there is a wall to the left of the entrance hole, whereas to the right of it there is flooring consisting of large flat stones.

The platform along the rear wall of the house is constructed of long stones, in fact so long that approximately only two sets of stones are required to cover the distance from one side wall to the other, there being, however, a couple of smaller flat stones at the ends. The depth of the platform is considerable, 1.2 metres formed of three flat stones, one behind the other. In the middle of the platform there is a support in the shape of a kind of wall built of several stones; the right side is only supported by a single stone, the left side by a couple of stones. From the platform down to the floor there is a distance of 30 cm, and thus a space arises between floor and platform. Along the left wall of

the house, from the main platform to the niche, there is a flat stone which is 80 cm long and 38 cm wide. Also this side or lamp platform is 30 cm high, on the sides supported by a couple of vertical stones.

The niche has as roofing a large, flat stone, being 60 cm high and 75 cm deep and wide.

In this house there were a number of seal bones, scattered in many places, but there were great quantities under the floor to the right of the ascent and particularly quite close to the house wall. In the midst of the house, also under the turf, lay a fairly large flat stone, one end



Fig. 17. House 2a with platform, side platform and niche, seen from eastern wall.

of which was supported by the vertically placed shoulder blades of a very large polar bear. A square piece of this had been cut out by means of the usual row of holes. Apart from this, most of the bones are of ringed seal, but there were also a quantity of remains of harp seal. The bearded seal was only represented by a few bones. There was a fragment of the epiphyse of a vertebra of a large whale, while a smaller toothed whale (small narwhal?) was represented by a caudal vertebra and part of a forearm.

House 2b. A little more than 1 metre to the west of House 2a, at the same height above sea-level, lay House 2b, the distance between the inner sides of the walls in those houses being 2.75 metres. House 2b was much smaller than House 2a, very much collapsed, with walls which only rose a little above the ground and the interior of which was

filled with large stones. The house passage, which faces south, towards the sea, was very short, completely overgrown and pierced by roots. It was not until we had removed a culture layer of 40 cm that the original bottom was exposed. The length of the passage to the inner side of the front wall only measures 1.60 metres.

The interior of the house was likewise only exposed after a very considerable clearing away of rubbish, and this compartment must have been extremely small. The width was only 1.15 metres, the length along the right, eastern side wall 1.30 metres, along the western wall 1.75 metres.

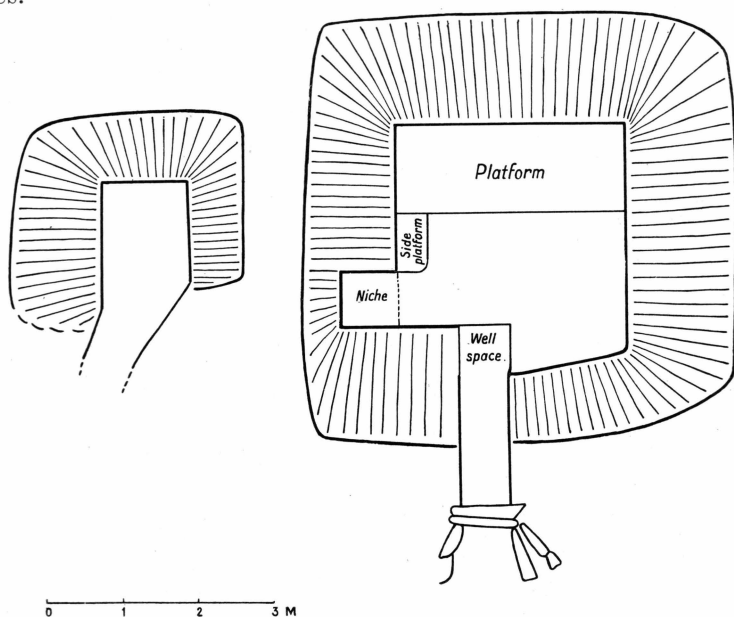


Fig. 18. Plan of Houses 2a and 2b.

In this house there were a considerable number of implements. A little in front of the middle of the house there was a well-preserved lamp, and to the right of this a long flat bone-point, a harpoon blade, and a particularly fine specimen of an Ituartit harpoon head of narwhal-tusk with a metal point and a bone toggle (Th. M. Pl. 2, fig. 7).

In the midst of the house there was a sooty spot, the lamp place, and under this, a little to the right, a charred harp seal with all its bones preserved, excepting the penis bone. A little to the right of this lay several remains of ringed seal. At the rear wall there was a knob for at bladder dart (Th. M. Pl. 2, fig. 4).

To the right of the entrance a large shoulder blade of a polar bear and, above this, in the wall a fragment of a sledge shoe. About $\frac{1}{2}$ metre from the entrance there was another large harpoon blade.

Houses Nos. 3a and 3b.

On a terrace higher up than Houses 2a and 2b there is a double house, Nos. 3a + 3b, 57 metres above sea-level. The two compartments are divided by a common wall. The western house, 3a, is in the best state of preservation. The house passage which faces south, that is towards the sea, has clearly opened into the right eastern corner of the house, where a roofing stone is still found in place. Otherwise it is not possible to follow the house passage which has greatly collapsed, the

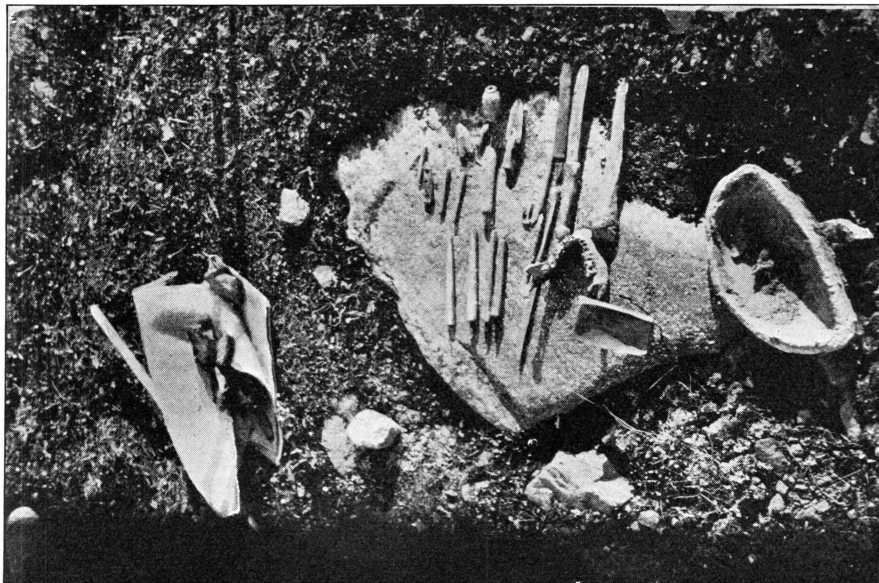


Fig. 19. Human mandible and some implements from House 3a.

stones being scattered. Also the interior of the house is filled with stones, under which there was a culture layer, at the entrance as thick as 60 cm. Under this was found some rather decayed wood, and after the house had been excavated, the following measurements could be taken: the width of the house in the middle is 1.20 metres, the length is 2.75 metres, and the height of the remaining walls is about 1.10 metres.

In this house we found in the rich, dark culture layer several human skeleton parts and comparatively many and uncommonly well preserved implements. Right to the left of the entrance lay a human lower jaw and, curiously enough, a harpoon head was found between the very rami of the jaw (Th. M. Pl. 2, fig. 2). Besides this, against the wall of the house, there was a soapstone lamp and immediately to the left of it a charred layer of mould with many seal bones which, in all probability had been formed by whole bodies of seals or parts of seals having lain in a heap and then, at a later period, having been transformed or

charred. Opposite, at the front right eastern corner of the house, were found 2 human femurs and 1 tibia. Pressed against the wall was here an extremely well preserved knife of exquisite workmanship, with handle and blade (Th. M. Pl. 2, fig. 9). A similar, but loose part of the blade of a knife was found together with a human ulna and the canine of a polar bear, at the very place where the passage opens into the house, between the above mentioned parts of human limbs and the soapstone lamp. About the middle of the house, 1 metre from the rear wall, was found a small crescent-shaped soapstone cooking vessel, and round this latter several bone artefacts: 4 complete drills (2 specimens depicted on Th. M. Pl. 2, figs. 10—11); a scraper made of the lower jaw of a narwhal, a thimble-holder, a barrel-shaped "bead" of a narwhal tooth (Th. M. Pl. 2, fig. 17), a harpoon point and 3 ornamental bodkins. The most interesting of these artefacts is the scraper, which has been made of the hindmost part of the lower jaw of a narwhal; as TH. MATHIASSEN says, such scrapers are curiously enough not found in any other locality. The piece has been taken right out of the lower jaw of a narwhal, and after sharpening the edge a little it was ready for use. One must admire the ingenuousness and the sharp sense of form, which enabled the craftsman to take a complete implement right out of the skeleton of an animal.

Between the cooking vessel and the middle wall there was part of a sledge shoe and the fibula of a bearded seal; the lower end of the piece was pointed, and it must have been used as an implement.

Where the house passage might be supposed to begin there lay, under a stone, an instrument resembling a chisel with an iron blade Th. M. (Pl. 2, fig. 12). Nearer the house there was a piece cut from a narwhal tooth and a pierced canine of a polar bear.

It thus seems that in this small house we have found the remains of a very able artisan who has died in his house. The fact that the harpoon point was found in the lower jaw might point towards his having died a violent death, or possibly to his having taken refuge in his house, after being mortally wounded. It is worth noticing that neither in this case have we found the actual skull. Has it been taken away and possibly buried somewhere like the child's skull in House 1?

The second compartment, No. 3b, has probably never been used as an independent house. It was greatly decayed and entirely filled with large stones, but even after the latter had been removed, we could not prove the presence of a house passage or even an exit from the compartment. The latter was of about the same size as House 3a; its greatest width might be measured at 1.6 metres; whereas the length was only a little less than 2 metres.

In order, if possible, to arrive at a solution as to the relation of these two compartments, we undertook excavations under the partition wall

between them. It then proved that the latter stood on a layer of gravel and clay, but with a thick culture layer under it; right under a flat stone, what had evidently at one time been a floor stone, and under the midst of the wall we even found two pierced canines of a polar bear and several remains of a seal.

From this it clearly appears that an originally larger compartment has been divided into two smaller ones, by means of a partition wall. It is improbable that the eastern compartment, No. 3b, has been used after the putting up of this partition wall. It is true that the house passage opens into the right corner of the side compartment, No. 3a,

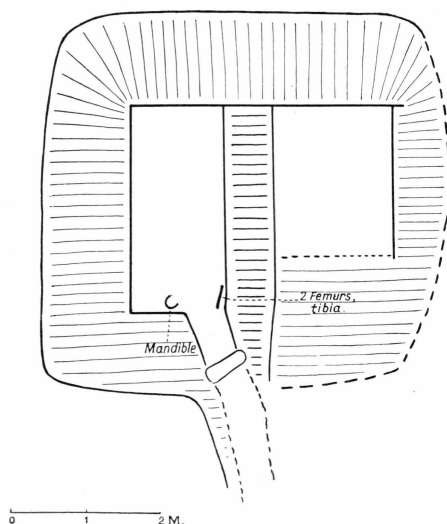


Fig. 20. Plan of Houses 3a and 3b.

i. e. along the common partition wall, and it somehow conveys the idea of having pointed in the direction of the other compartment. From this it might perhaps be inferred that the house passage has been used for both of the two compartments, but judging by the results of the investigations made this is, however, extremely unlikely.

That compartment 3b has, at any rate at one time, been used for dwelling purposes, appears i. a. from the objects found there. At the middle of the rear wall was found part of a lamp; to the left of this in the corner a toy lamp, without wick ledge, and in the opposite left corner another toy lamp, but with a wick ledge (Th. M. Pl. 2, fig. 19). In this corner was, furthermore, found a thick, dark layer of charred meat with seal bones. It should still be mentioned that, in the compartment, there was a very much decayed knife handle with a grip of a similar type as the well-preserved knife in No. 3a.

All this seems to prove that we have to deal with a house, which was originally larger, but which later, by means of a partition wall, was divided into a smaller western house, in communication with the original house passage, and a larger, eastern compartment, which has never been used since the dividing up. The establishment of an existing large original house implies consequences of considerable interest, as an entirely new type of house arises. The small compartments, 3a and 3b, have their greatest length in the direction of the house passage, such as we find i. a. in the northeastern house type, north of Scoresby Sound. The original house, on the other hand,

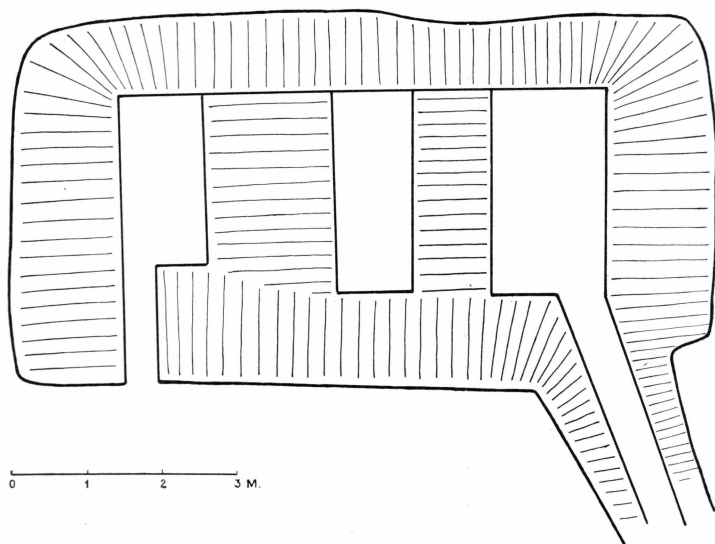


Fig. 21. Plan of Houses 4a, b, c.

had its largest extension at a right angle to the direction of the house passage, a feature which is not known from northeastern Greenland, although from Angmagssalik (TH. MATHIASSEN, 1933) and from older houses in West Greenland (BIRKET-SMITH, 1924).

The cause of this division is undoubtedly to be looked for in the decreasing population. There have not been people enough to fill, i. e. to heat the large compartment, and therefore it has become necessary to make it smaller.

Houses 4a and 4c.

At very nearly the same level, but 25 metres farther towards west, another set of houses, No. 4, was established. Here we found three compartments, which were entirely filled with large stones, but of which evidently only the two outer ones, the eastern and the western, were actual houses with a special entrance facing the sea. The middle com-

partment, on the other hand, was without an entrance. The eastern house, No. 4a, is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ metres wide and about $2\frac{1}{2}$ metres long, with the house passage opening into the right corner. Immediately on the right side of the house there lay the frequently mentioned dark layer of "charred" seals. There were very few implements, a drill bit of slate, an ajagag of the penis bone of a seal, a similar but not worked bone, the outer paw-joint of a polar bear and a scraper made of the lower jaw of a narwhal. Besides there was a fragment of a lamp, which was, however, not made of soapstone. There were no floor stones in this house. Upon the whole it holds good of all these houses up here that, unlike the lower ones, they are not built directly on the firm rock, but that the rock is covered by a thick crust of weathered substances.

The western house, 4c, is very like this one, only a little smaller. — In the compartment, 4b between these houses, were the remains of a lamp, which like the former one was not made of soapstone.

What was said about Houses 3a and 3b also applies to these houses. The compartments, which were last in use, are comparatively small, their greatest length being in the direction of the house passage. But these last houses are undoubtedly also only parts of an original large house, the middle part of which has been cut off by means of two partition walls, as being of no more use; thus the two compartments were made more suited for the decreasing population. The greatest length of the original house was about 7 metres, being at right angles to the house passage (Common House type).

House No. 5.

A little less than 10 metres from these houses we found very faint traces of one more house, No. 5, which was only barely discernible in the ground. In front (that is on the side facing the sea) of a couple of large, natural boulders lay a few smaller scattered stones, which might, if one felt so inclined, be regarded as the remains of a house passage or a house. By making excavations among these two blocks, below a stony layer of mould, 90 cm thick, a couple of floor stones were found, on which lay the bone of a seal, the tibia of a dog, the canine of a polar bear and a knife made of green slate. Outside these flat stones it was impossible to follow the shape of the house, as everywhere we struck a firm and apparently untouched weathered layer; and it seems likely that no stone wall has ever existed. Perhaps this is an instance of one of the older circular houses dug into the ground, which were mentioned by TH. MATHIASSEN (1933).

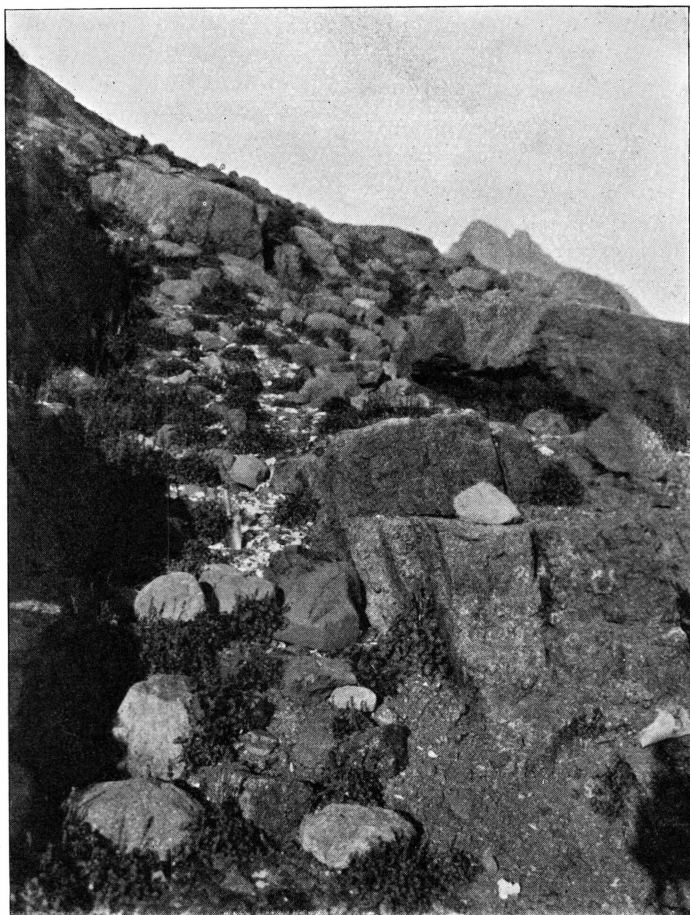


Fig. 22. Kitchen midden. Miki's Fjord.

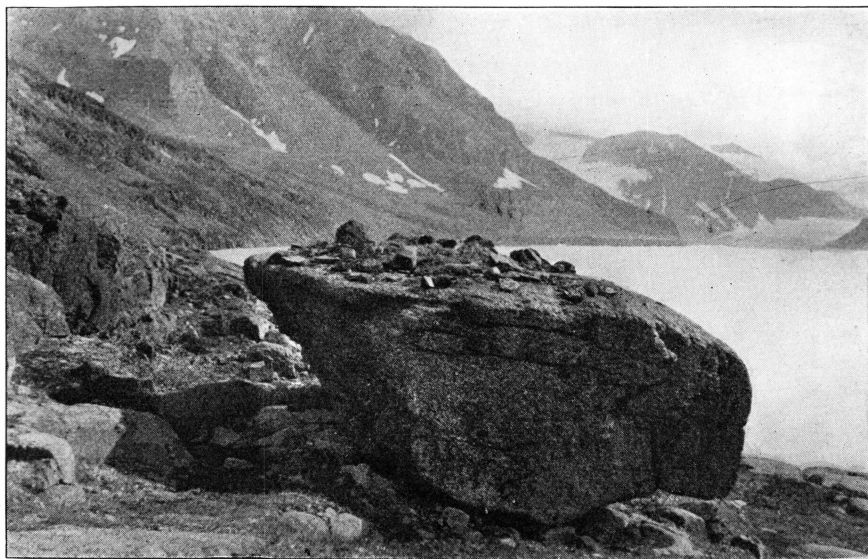


Fig. 23. Boulder in front of House 1. On this large and high boulder the Eskimos placed skins etc., which should be protected against the dogs.

Kitchen midden.

Remarkably enough, only in front of House 2 a kitchen midden was found, which was not even particularly extensive, although in the depressions between the rocks bones might be found down to a depth of 1 m. An investigation of this material revealed a similar ratio between the hunted animals as we found in House 1. The greater part of the bones is of ringed seal, but the harp seal, too, is fairly well represented. Not so commonly occurring are the bones of bearded seal, narwhal and polar bear. Bones of the last-mentioned animal have no doubt, as previously pointed out, been sorted out for implements.

Probably, in the course of time, many bones have been exposed to a strong decomposition, or they may have been washed away from the heavily sloping rocky ground.

GRAVES AT MIKI'S FJORD

Besides the grave which was built against the wall of House 1, there was only one more grave near the afore-mentioned houses on Eskimonæs in Miki's Fjord. As it will appear from fig. 24, this grave is situated in a natural cleft in a rock, the north side of which forms the one longitudinal wall of the grave. The figure also clearly shows the construction of the grave; towards west it is closed by a couple of large, heavy stones; towards south and east there are several larger stones; the top is partly covered by a large roofing stone. The inside height is 75 cm, the two side walls (cf. fig. 25) are somewhat different in length; the northern side, which as already mentioned is the firm wall of the rock, has an inside length of 1 metre, whereas the south side is 1.65 metres in length.

The skeleton itself was rather decayed. Only the upper part of the skull which lay towards the west was preserved; the forehead was directed towards the west, while the lower jaw lay behind the occipital bones. From the position of the skeleton — the left femur lay with the front downwards, the right one behind it right against the southern wall, and the tibia at right angles to it — it appears that the body must have lain on the right side, in a greatly twisted position, with bent knees, so that the left femur has later on fallen forwards. In the right corner there were some greatly weathered remains of sealskin, and along the northern side of the grave there were three seal bones, one at the western end, one at the eastern end and one in the middle. A fairly large number of fragments of wood were found. On the northern side, directly on the firm rock, lay, partly covered by stones which supported the roofing stone, a piece of wood, 20 cm in length and charred at the end. Under the lower of the two stones, which had closed the grave towards the west, lay several fragments of wood, which must have extended into the grave. In the right corner of the grave lay a 10 cm long, rounded wooden handle, which may have belonged to a tub or the like, but no remains of any such utensil were found. It looks as if the body has been sewn into sealskin and carried on wooden rafters.

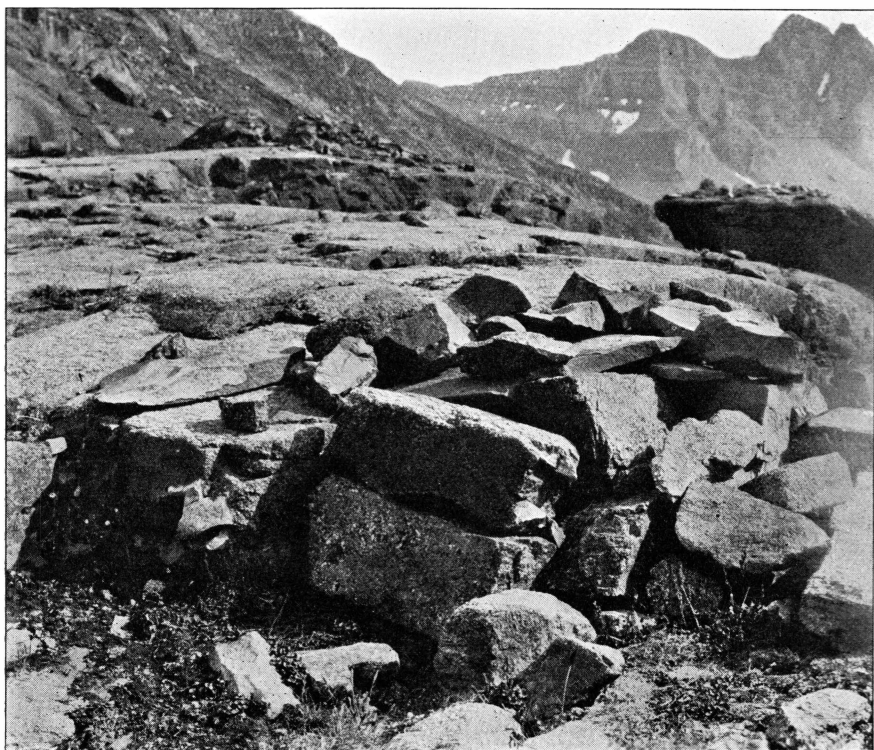


Fig. 24. Human grave in Miki's Fjord. Towards west the grave is closed by a couple of large, heavy stones; towards south and east there are several larger stones; the top is partly covered by a large roofing stone.

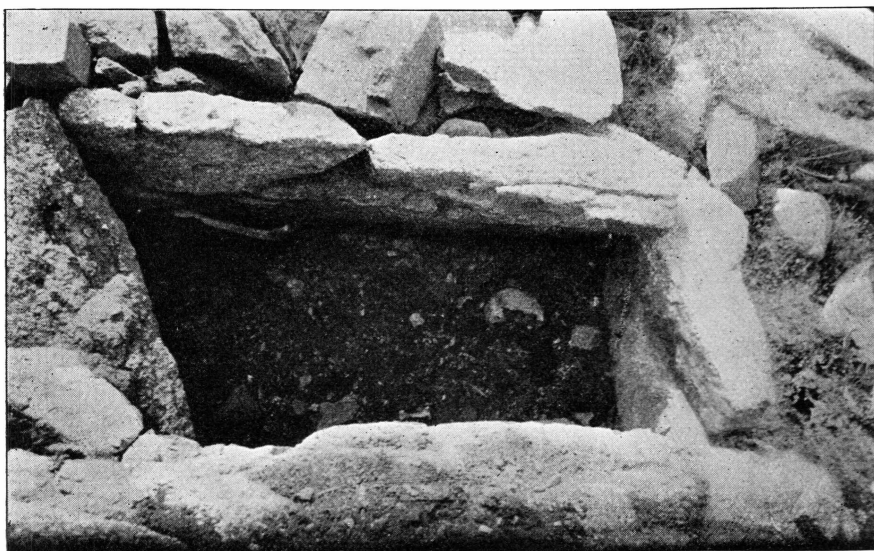


Fig. 25. Interior of human grave.

There were no implements or other objects in or outside the grave.

At the head of a small bay, extending towards the west of the dwelling place on Eskimonæs, which has been described above, and into which a small river debouched, there were several meat-caches and real human graves, about ten in all. One of these was constructed in a very peculiar manner; it was shaped like a circular hut, the interior of which was divided into two compartments, one of which was a human grave, the other a meat-cache. — Several fox traps were observed.

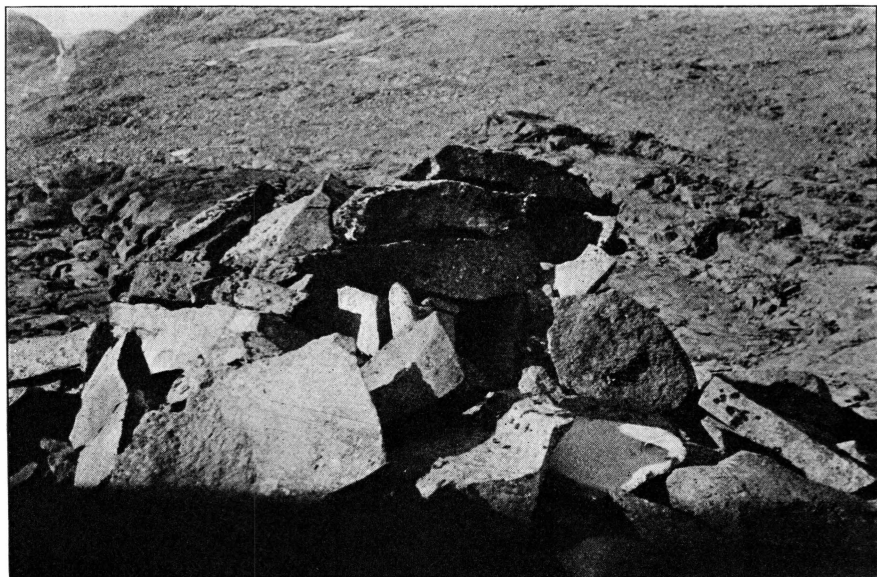


Fig. 26. Fox trap.

KANGERDLUGSSUAK

A Woman's Grave.

On a small headland behind Skærgaardshalvø, Kangerdlugssuak, where in 1900 AMDRUP found several graves with rich contents of grave goods, there were a number of graves, of which only one, the grave of

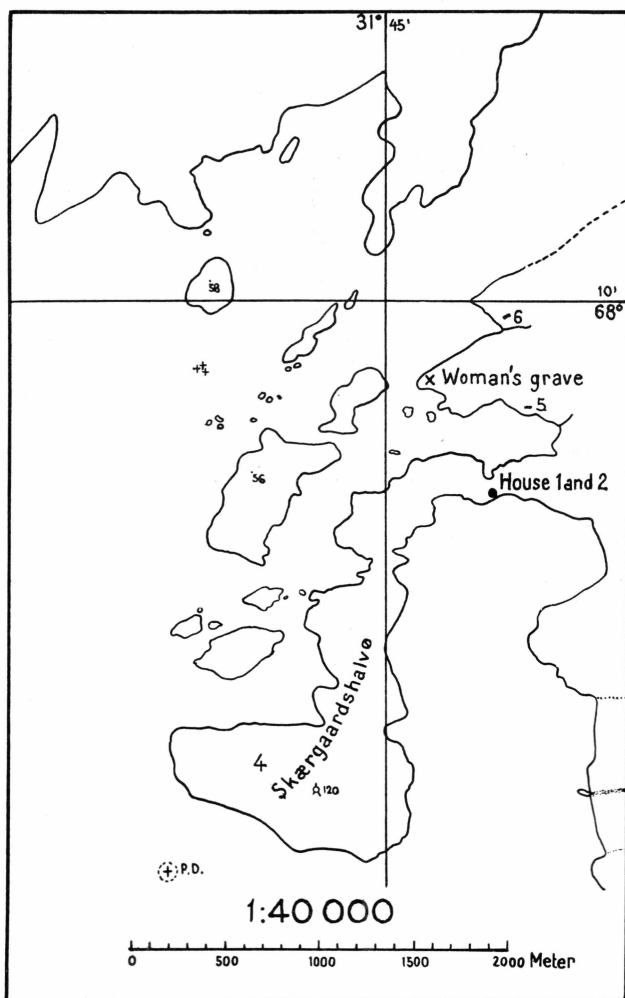


Fig. 27. Map of Skærgaardshalvø, Kangerdlugssuak.



Fig. 28. Small chamber at the foot of child's grave.

a woman, contained various objects which had been given to the dead. The grave which, like the other graves up here, was built on the naked rock, lay so near the sea that between it and the steep coast there was just room for one person standing.

With the exception of a single tooth the skull had disappeared,

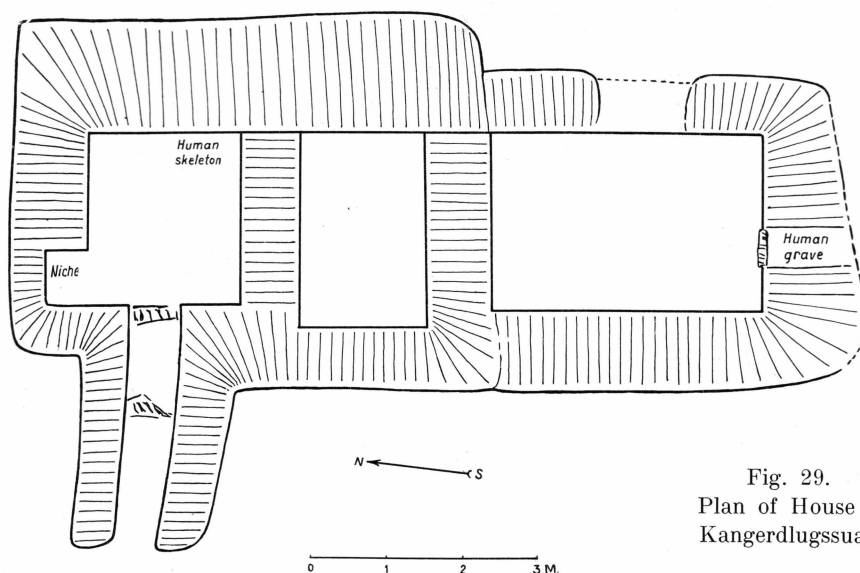


Fig. 29.
Plan of House 1.
Kangerdlugssuak.

while her hair was still there. Apart from this, there were only the remains of a couple of femurs, while the tibiae, which were bent up under them, were laid crosswise.

At the head of the grave there was a small separate chamber, more or less pentagonal, but not larger than that a wooden tub (MATHIASSEN 1934, p. 8), which had fallen apart and outwards, covered nearly the whole bottom of the compartment. Among these staves we found a dipper of wood, and under that in loose gravel, evidently put there

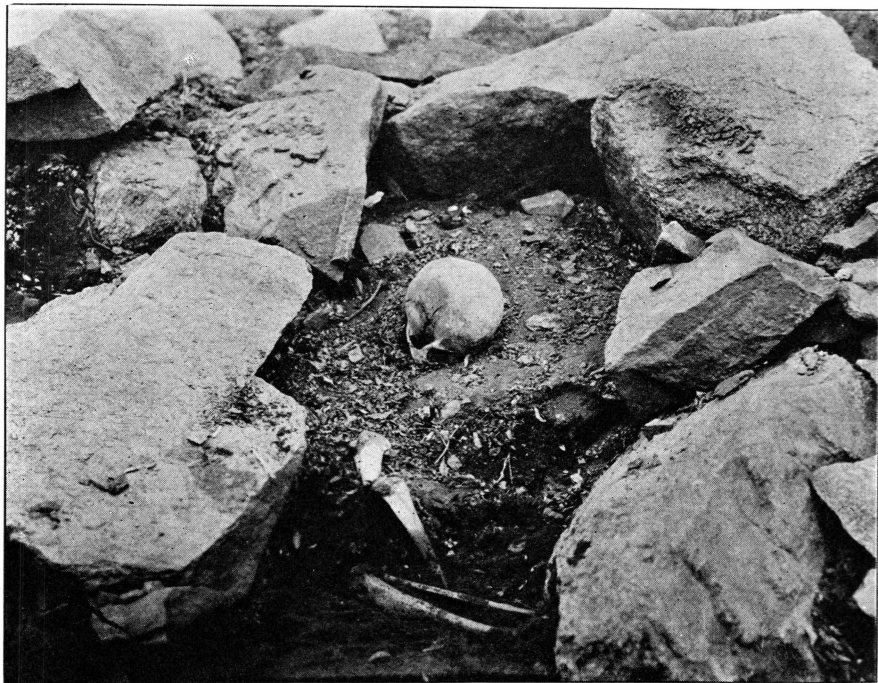


Fig. 30. Human grave in House 1. Kangerdlugssuak.

by human hands, a wooden box containing a number of trinkets. In it we found no less than 199 worked specimens: women's tools, ornaments and household utensils. Most of these objects were beautifully preserved (Th. M. Pl. 1), as is often the case with grave goods which have lain in a comparatively dry place.

This find is one of the largest grave finds in Greenland, and according to TH. MATHIASSEN it contains several objects which are not known from other localities, and which show that the place has been inhabited for such a long time that an independent development may have taken place. A small ornament, an oval plate of walrus ivory, domed on one side, flat on the other and with holes through the edges of the broad side (Th. M. Pl. 1, fig. 31), is unknown from any other locality.

An entirely new element, which has not formerly been known in the Eskimo culture, is 84 beads, small white circular disks made of mussel shell (Th. M. Pl. 1, 36). In this case it may be worthy of mention that in several of the excavated houses were found a few shells of *Mya truncata* and *Saxicava artica*, which the Eskimos consequently now and then must have gathered and brought home.

A needle case contained two needles of walrus ivory, and this, according to MATHIASSEN "is the first time bone sewing needles have

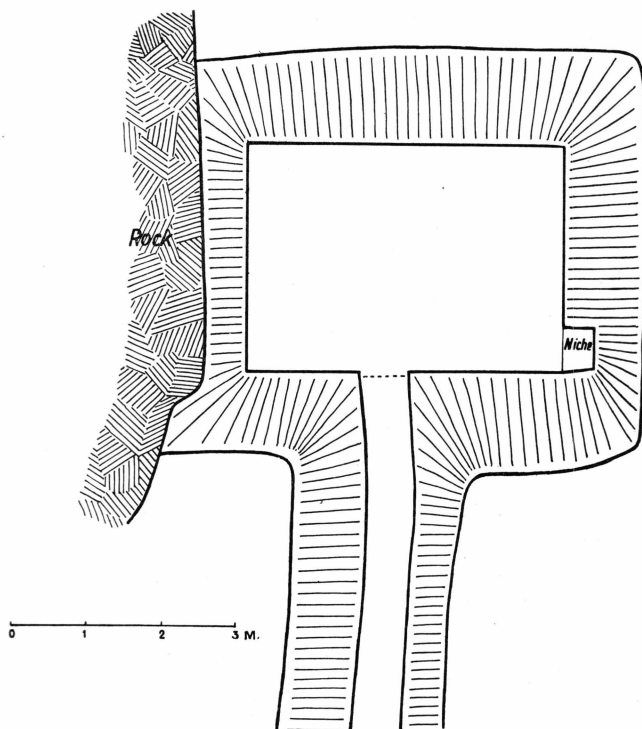


Fig. 31. Plan of House 2. Kangerdlugssuak.

been found in Greenland, even if we know that they have been used; small fragile objects like these are only rarely preserved".

As to this find see also the article by MATHIASSEN.

A Child's Grave.

At the base of Skærgaardshalvø a child's grave was found, built against the side of a small rock which runs southwest—northeast. The length of the grave was 1.10 metres, the greatest width in the middle 50 cm, the width at the foot 25 cm, at the head 35 cm. The head of the body turned towards southeast. At the foot of the grave there was a small chamber, 30 by 30 cm, in which there lay a decayed wooden

tub with a handle, a toy leister and a toy sledge. The upstanders of the sledge were of the broad Angmagssalik type. Hitherto these broad upstanders have never been found north of the Angmagssalik District, and they have not been known from Angmagssalik until 17th—18th century, and this might indicate a later connection with the Angmagssalik District (Mathiassen).

Between the top stones above the chamber we found two fragments of calcareous spar, one of which was pierced.

3 metres from the head of the grave we found a small meat chamber,



Fig. 32. House 2. The large heap of stone to the right is the house passage, and the dark hole to the left of this wall is the niche.

40 by 40 by 40 cm, with much decayed remains of the hair, the skin and the bones of a seal. Also about 3 metres from the grave, but in another direction, there was a small natural niche in the wall of a rock, closed by three flat stones placed obliquely, under which there lay a limb bone of a polar bear, which was pierced by a number of holes. It cannot be decided whether these objects had any relation with the grave, but as the latter and its immediate surroundings were rather isolated and lay at a long distance from the nearest houses, one is tempted to think so.

Houses Nos. 1 and 2.

Also a few houses were investigated at the base of Skærgaardshalvø (cf. fig. 27).

House 1 showed similar conditions as House 4 in Miki's Fjord. It contained 3 compartments. In the first compartment there is to the left, as seen from the doorway, a niche in the wall. Along the rear wall there lay a human skeleton. The hindmost half of the passage way had evidently been enclosed by partition walls. In the middle compartment there was no passage way. In House c a human skeleton was found in a niche or the inner part of an old passage way in the wall.

House 2. In this house the passage way was extremely long and covered by a large compilation of stones (fig. 32). The greatest ex-



Fig. 33. House 2. The niche.

tension of the house proper, 4.20 m, goes at right angles to the passage way. The depth is 3 m. In the right corner of the house, as seen from the doorway, a niche is visible. At the entrance to the house the passage way was partly closed by a stone bricked up in a horizontal position. The room between the floor and this stone was closed with some flat stones, so that the passage way here too was partly closed towards the house. In an adjacent kitchen midden half a human mandible was found among animal bones.

It must finally be added that, on the western side of Kangerdlugssuak, there is also evidence of a former Eskimo habitation. Thus the two brothers WAGER and our physician JENS JENSEN told me that, on "Keglen" (i. e.: the cone), they had observed a small kitchen midden, and north of Cape Deichmann, divided from the latter by a small bay and a glacier, in an almost flat, slightly domical ground they found two well preserved house ruins as well as a grave.

SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

In his description of the implements and ornaments found in the houses and graves described above TH. MATHIASSEN (1934) arrives at the result that "the impression they leave is an extremely homogeneous one, that they all seem to belong to the same culture period". From my description of the houses it appears that these are not quite so homogenous. The state of preservation and the original shape is rather different. In Miki's Fjord the two lower sets of houses which lie nearest the sea are in the best, in fact, in a very fine state of preservation. Houses Nos. 3 and 4, which are situated at a somewhat higher level and farther away from the sea, are in a greater state of decay. House No. 5 deviated very much from the rest by being barely noticeable on the ground, and it probably represented the Angmagssalik circular house type, dug into the ground, which was investigated by TH. MATHIASSEN near Angmagssalik. — In Houses Nos. 3 and 4 we must distinguish between the original type and the one which was derived from it. The original houses, Nos. 3 and 4, were comparatively large houses, which had their greatest extension at right angles to the longitudinal direction of the house passage; later on, these houses have been divided by a partition wall, and only the smaller part of the house was used. That this is really the case appears from the fact that the afore-mentioned partition wall has been built on a culture layer, and the reason for making the houses smaller is undoubtedly the decreasing population. The houses found at Miki's Fjord thus seem to prove that the smaller house, the greatest extension of which is towards the house passage, has arisen from a larger house, the greatest length of which was at right angles to the house passage. (Common House type).

Houses Nos. 1 and 2 belong to the last developed and smaller type of house. They are in the best state of preservation and have much larger rooms than the secondarily formed compartments in Nos. 3 and 4. From this it appears that the original house type in Miki's Fjord is widely different from the rectangular and narrow house type, which we

know from northeastern Greenland, north of Scoresby Sound, and which corresponds more nearly with the later secondarily formed type in Miki's Fjord. — In House 2, Kangerdlugssuak, the greatest extension of the house is at right angles to the passage way.

The best proof of the length of time during which the houses in Miki's Fjord have been inhabited, is to be found in the implements discovered there. On the strength of these, TH. MATHIASSEN arrives at the conclusion that the immigration has probably taken place at the end of the 15th, or the beginning of the 16th century. From the fact that iron has been found in the houses it is inferred that they must have been inhabited as late as the 17th—18th century. Also the difference in the shape and state of preservation of the houses, as well as the thickness of the culture layers, seem to imply that the habitation has extended over a couple of centuries. It must, however, be born in mind that the large houses here identified belong to the last of the house types found in Angmagsalik. The house type found in the Kangerdlugssuak District can hardly be quite so late, but as regards this lack of conformity I shall leave the explanation to the archæologists.

It is a very significant fact that so many human skeleton parts were found in the houses, scattered among the animal bones. This in connection with the secondarily formed small houses shows that the population has not emigrated, but perished in their homes. Isolation, possibly in connection with revenge for bloodshed, illness and hunger periods have exhausted the strength of the tribe. In this connection a certain importance may also be attached to the fact that in Kangerdlugssuak it has perhaps not been possible to provide sufficient vegetable food, which in its turn has led to lack of vitamins. Judging by present circumstances and the animal bones found in the houses and kitchen middens the hunting of seals, narwhals and polar bears has in any case usually been good.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the leader of the expedition Captain EJNAR MIKKELSEN, as well as my comrades the botanist TYGE BÖCHER, who made the measurements and sketches of the ruins, the physician JENS JENSEN, the artist SVEN MIKKELSEN and the conservator MØHL-HANSEN who has taken most of the photos here published. They all helped me with the archæological excavations, and without their valuable assistance it would not have been possible to make them so exhaustive within the short time at our disposal.

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