

## **Young entomologist escapes being stranded for an indefinite period in Northeast Greenland at the outbreak of World War II.**

As a 20-year old, Niels Haarlov spent the winter of 1939–40 with the other members of the “Danish Northeast Greenland Expedition” in Northeast Greenland. His role was insects in the soil and the collection of insects for the Zoological Museum in Copenhagen. In April 1940, the expedition received the dreaded news of war in Europe and gloomy prospects for the planned return journey. The further prospect of being stranded for an indefinite period drove Niels Haarlov into making a rash decision to undertake a breakneck journey by dogsled down Greenland's east coast. The journey took place during May and June of 1940, racing against the breakup of the ice. Niels Haarlov drove to Scoresbysund and on to Hauna just in time to catch the last ship from Greenland. By way of Iceland and Spain, the young man returned home to Denmark unscathed in November 1940.

The dramatic journey is described in his intense account "1000 km by Dogsled", which is spiced with fascinating descriptions of the scenery. Also included is his diary from the scientific expedition, from the outbound journey in July 1939 and through the winter until the spring of 1940. It reveals not only a young man's reflections on life and his delight with his profession, but also describes the daily life of the expedition's members far from the civilised world as the threat of war escalates. Both the description of the journey and the diary are richly illustrated with high quality original photographs.