

DET KONGELIGE INDUSTRI-, HÅNDVERK-  
OG SKIPSFARTSDEPARTEMENT

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NORSK POLARINSTITUTT

# SKRIFTER

Nr. 104

TIDAL OBSERVATIONS  
IN THE ARCTIC  
1946—52

BY

HELGE HORNBAEK



I KOMMISJON HOS  
BRØGGERS BOKTRYKKERIS FORLAG  
OSLO 1954

NORSK POLARINSTITUTT  
(Formerly Norges Svalbard- og Ishavs-undersøkelser.)  
Observatoriegaten 1, Oslo

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Skrifter 1—50, see numbers of Skrifter previous to No. 100.

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A. W. BRØGGERS BOKTRYKKERI A/S

## **Preface.**

The tidal observations dealt with in the present paper have been carried out by Norsk Polarinstitut on expeditions to Jan Mayen and Svalbard in the years 1946—52.

*H. H.*

## Svalbard.

### *Hopen 1947.*

In 1947 the tidal observations were carried out on Hopen by the topographer Th. Askheim in connection with his surveying of the island.

For practical reasons he mounted the automatic tide-gauge in a well close to the sea shore. The well communicated with the sea through a pipe working like a siphon.

The geographical co-ordinates of the observation point are:

76° 30'.1 Lat. N.      25° 04'.1 Long. E. Gr.

The scale of the gauge was 1: 11 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>.

The weather was rough during the observation period. The force of the wind was often strong breeze and the direction was generally off-shore.

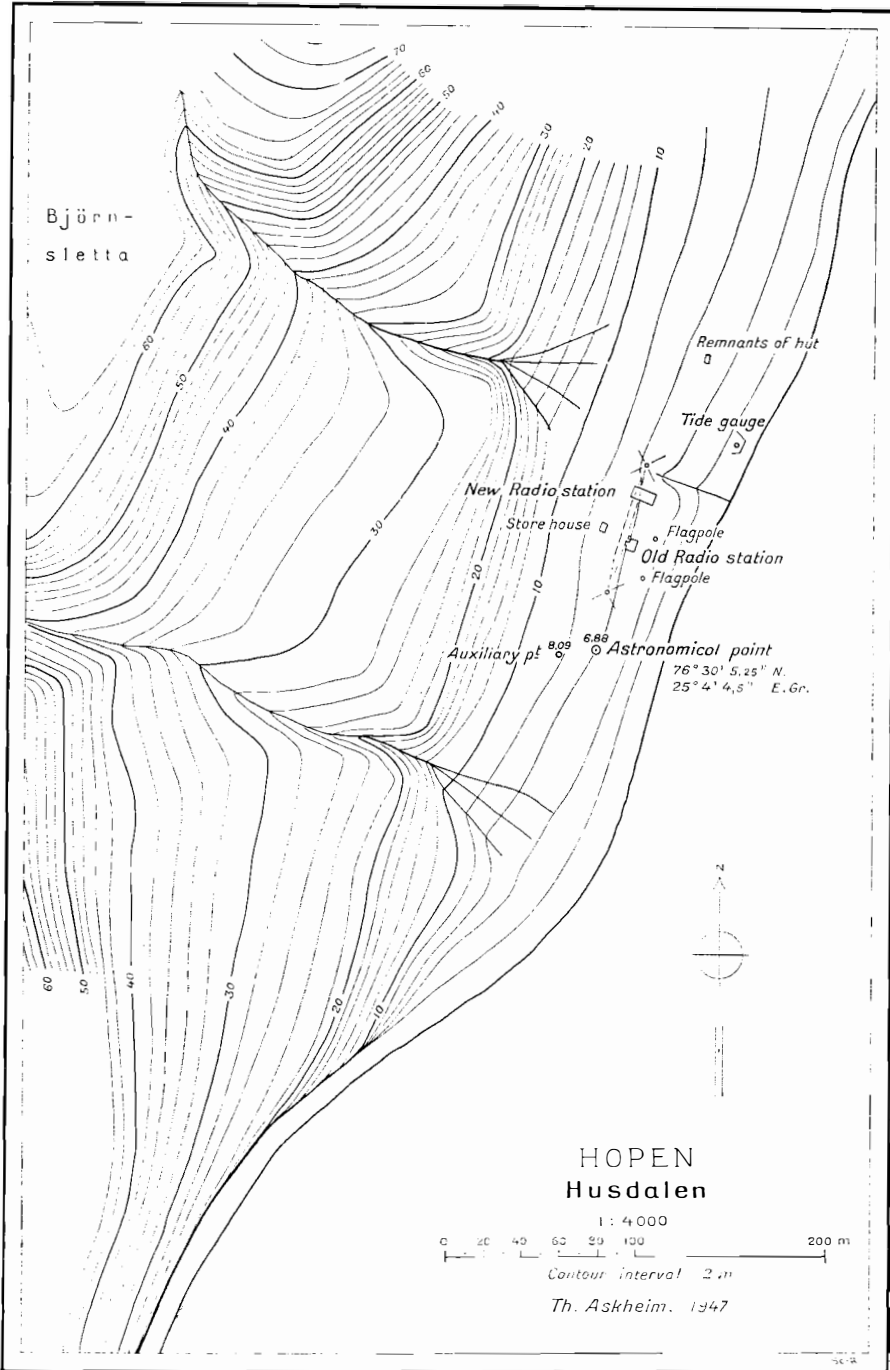
Two copper bolts were fastened in two concrete blocks in the neighbourhood, from which Dr. Hans Henie in the same period made an astronomical determination of position. The bolts were levelled in relation to the tide-gauge. They are 6.88 m and 8.09 m above the mean sea-level, respectively.

The tide-gauge was in operation from Aug. 2 to Sept. 12. The period Aug. 3 0000—Aug. 31 2300 was chosen for the harmonic analysis.



Fig. 1. Hopen. Position of tide-gauge. Th. Askheim phot. 1947.





*Kvalvågen 1952.*

The geodesist S. Helle carried out tidal observations in connection with astronomical determination. For that purpose he used an automatic tide-gauge which he succeeded in mounting on a steep cliff close to the hut which he occupied.

The geographical co-ordinates of the observation point are:

77° 30' Lat. N.      18° 12' Long. E. Gr.

The scale of the gauge was 1: 11 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>.

The weather and sea conditions were favourable during the observation period.

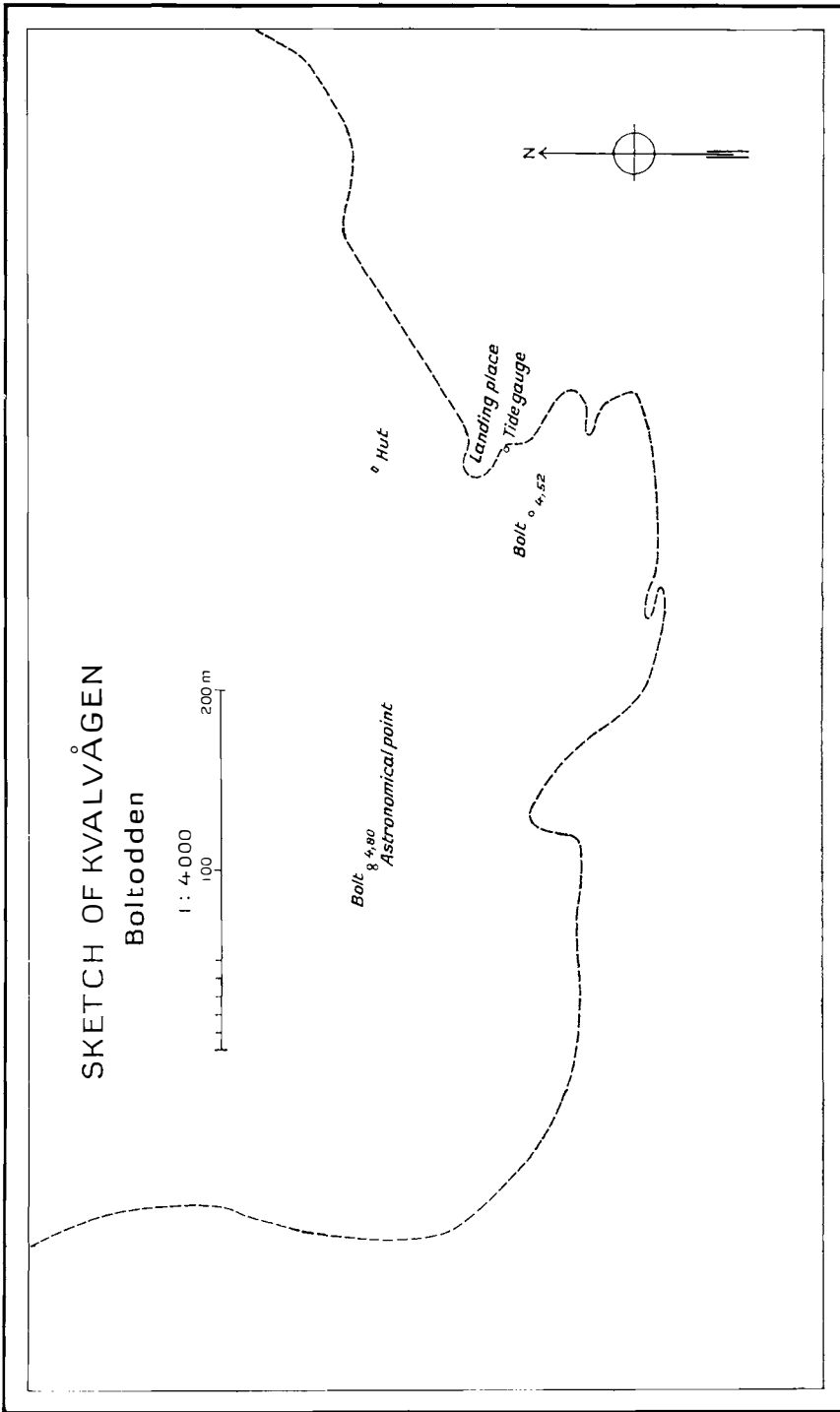
Two brass bolts were levelled in relation to the tide-gauge. One is driven into the rock about 30 m from the sea shore. Close to the bolt the letters F. M. are carved in the rock. The other one is set in the rock 3.5 m to the north of the astronomical point from 1952. The bolts are 4.52 and 4.80 m above the mean sea-level, respectively.

The tide-gauge was in operation from Aug. 3 to Sept. 5. For the harmonic analysis the period Aug. 5 0000—Sept. 2 2300 was chosen.



Fig. 2. Kvalvågen.  
Position of tide-gauge.  
S. Helle phot. 1952.





*Sveagruva 1946.*

In connection with his survey of the area around Sveagruva the topographer W. Solheim had opportunity to pay some attention to the tide. He had no automatic tide-gauge at disposal, but took staff readings around high and low water. The tide-water staff was placed near the dam of Susesjøen.

The geographical co-ordinates of the observation point are:

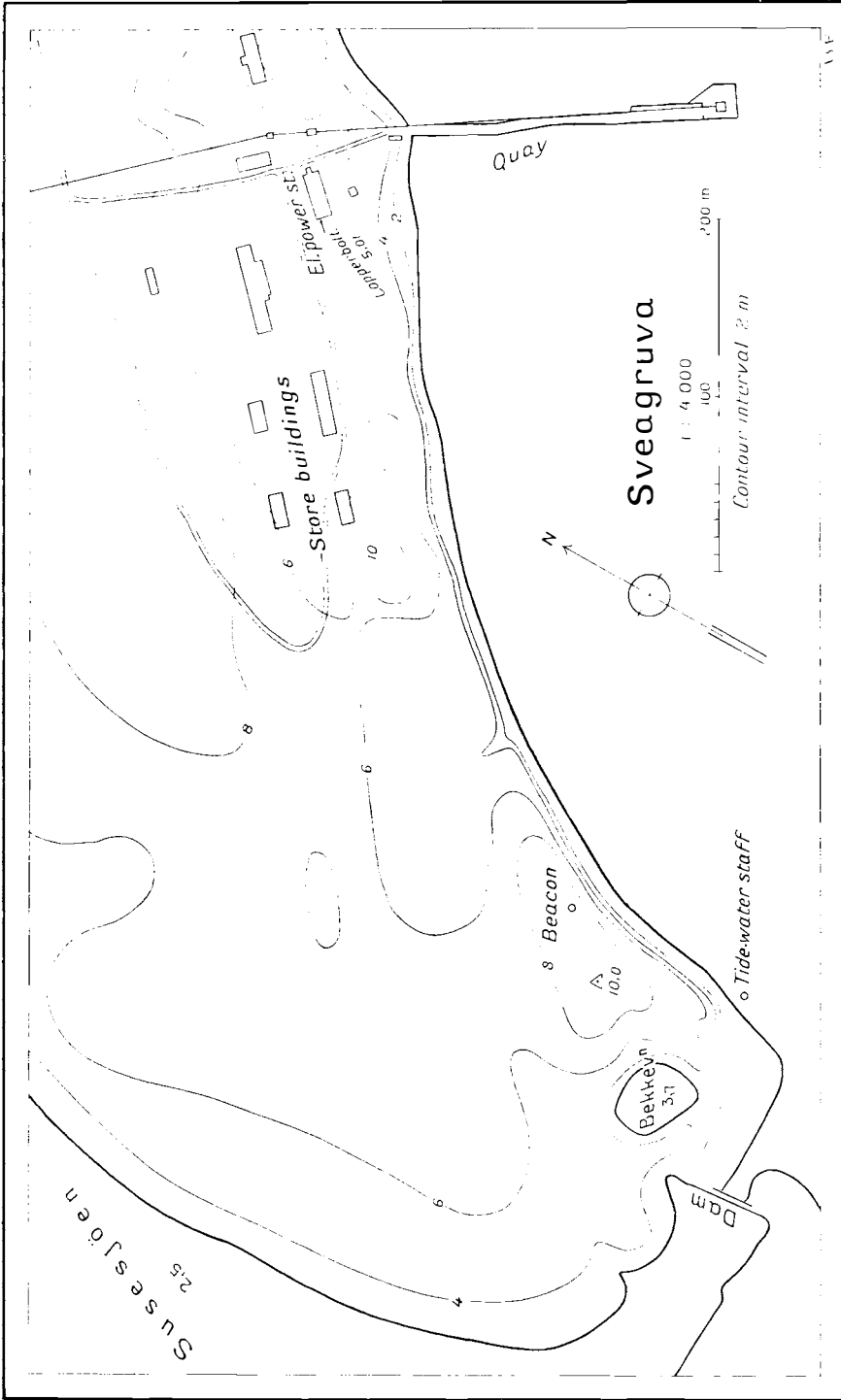
77° 53' Lat. N.            16° 43' Long. E. Gr

At that time an electric power station was being built at Sveagruva. A copper bolt was placed in the southern wall of this station about 0.5 m from the ground. The bolt was levelled in relation to the tide-water staff and was found to be 5.01 m above the calculated mean sea-level. The wall, however, may have been displaced owing to frost and thaw in the ground.

The weather conditions during the observation period were generally favourable.

The readings started Aug. 19 0000 and were closed Sept. 2 1730. During this period some interruptions occurred: Aug. 24 0800—Aug. 25 0900, Aug. 29 1800—Aug. 30 0800, Sept. 1 0000—Sept. 1 0900, and Sept. 2 1800—Sept. 2 2300.

For the harmonic analysis the period Aug. 19 0000—Sept. 2 2300 was chosen. The lacking readings were interpolated graphically.



*Kapp Linné 1946.*

In connection with the rebuilding of Istfjord Fyr og Radio the hydrographer, Lt. Commander R. Lyngaas, carried out tidal observations. He made use of an automatic tide-gauge which was mounted on the steep cliff on the northern side of the boat creek.

The geographical co-ordinates of the observation point are:

78° 03'.4 Lat. N.      13° 38'.3 Long. E. Gr.

The scale of the tide-gauge was 1:16 <sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>. During the observation period the weather and sea conditions were favourable.

A copper bolt was set in the bluff on the southern side of the boat creek and levelled in relation to the tide-gauge. The height of the bolt above mean sea-level is 3.10 m.

The observations cover the period July 26—Aug. 12. From Aug. 2 8000 to Aug. 4 1800, however, the recorder was out of action, and for this interval the data were determined by graphical interpolation. The period July 27 0000—Aug. 10 2300 was chosen for the harmonic analysis.

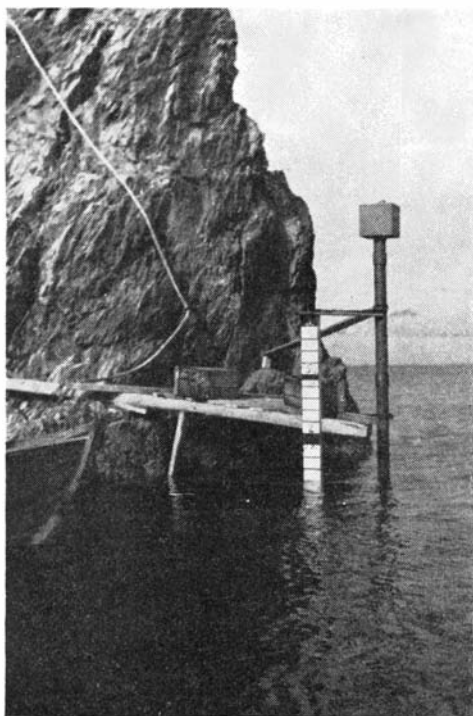
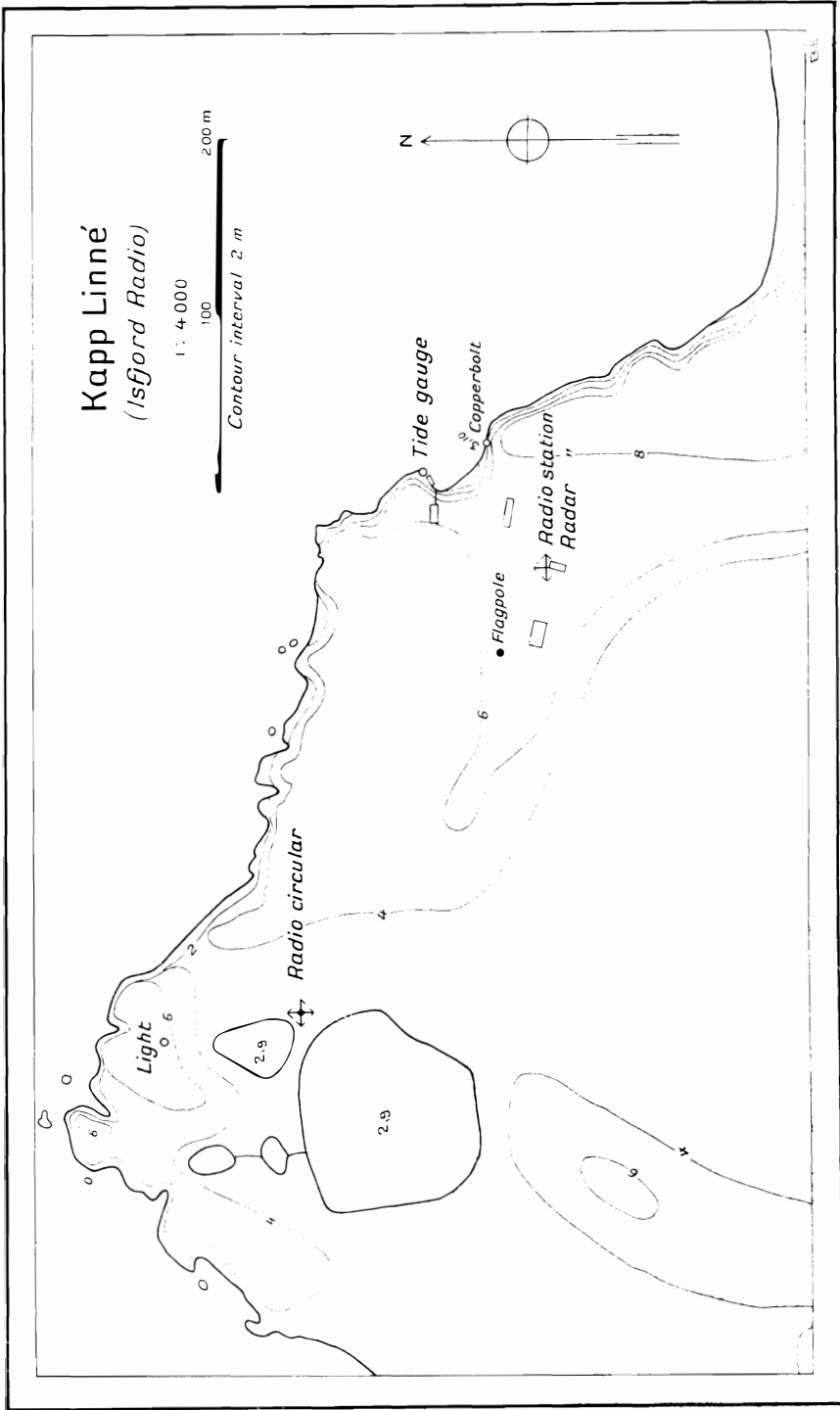


Fig. 3. Kapp Linné.  
Position of tide-gauge.

R. Lyngaas phot. 1946.



*Ny-Ålesund 1949.*

The tidal observations at Ny-Ålesund were carried out in 1949 by the hydrographers Lt. Commander K. Z. Lundquist and H. Hornbæk, in connection with the surveying of the harbour areas. They had at disposal an automatic tide-gauge which was mounted on the quay.

The geographical co-ordinates of the observation point are:

78° 55'.7 Lat. N.      11° 57'.3 Long. E. Gr.

The scale of the tide-gauge was 1:16 <sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>.

The weather and sea conditions during the observation period were not always the best.

The tide-gauge was in operation from July 9 to Aug. 27. Initially it was difficult to make the gauge work regularly, and interruptions occurred. The period July 24 0000—Aug. 31 2300 was chosen for the harmonic analysis. During this period some short breaks occurred, and in such cases graphical interpolation was applied.

## **Jan Mayen.**

*Kvalrossbukta 1950.*

Besides the surveying work the topographer Th. Askheim also carried out tidal observations by means of an automatic tide-gauge. Close to the shore he dug a well where the tide-gauge was mounted. Communication with the sea was obtained through a pipe that worked like a siphon. Unfortunately he had not made the well sufficiently deep, where the floater touched the bottom at some of the lowest low-waters, causing gaps in the records. In such cases staff readings were made on a tide-water staff in the sea. On those occasions there was always an off-shore wind and calm sea.

The geographical co-ordinates of the observation point are:

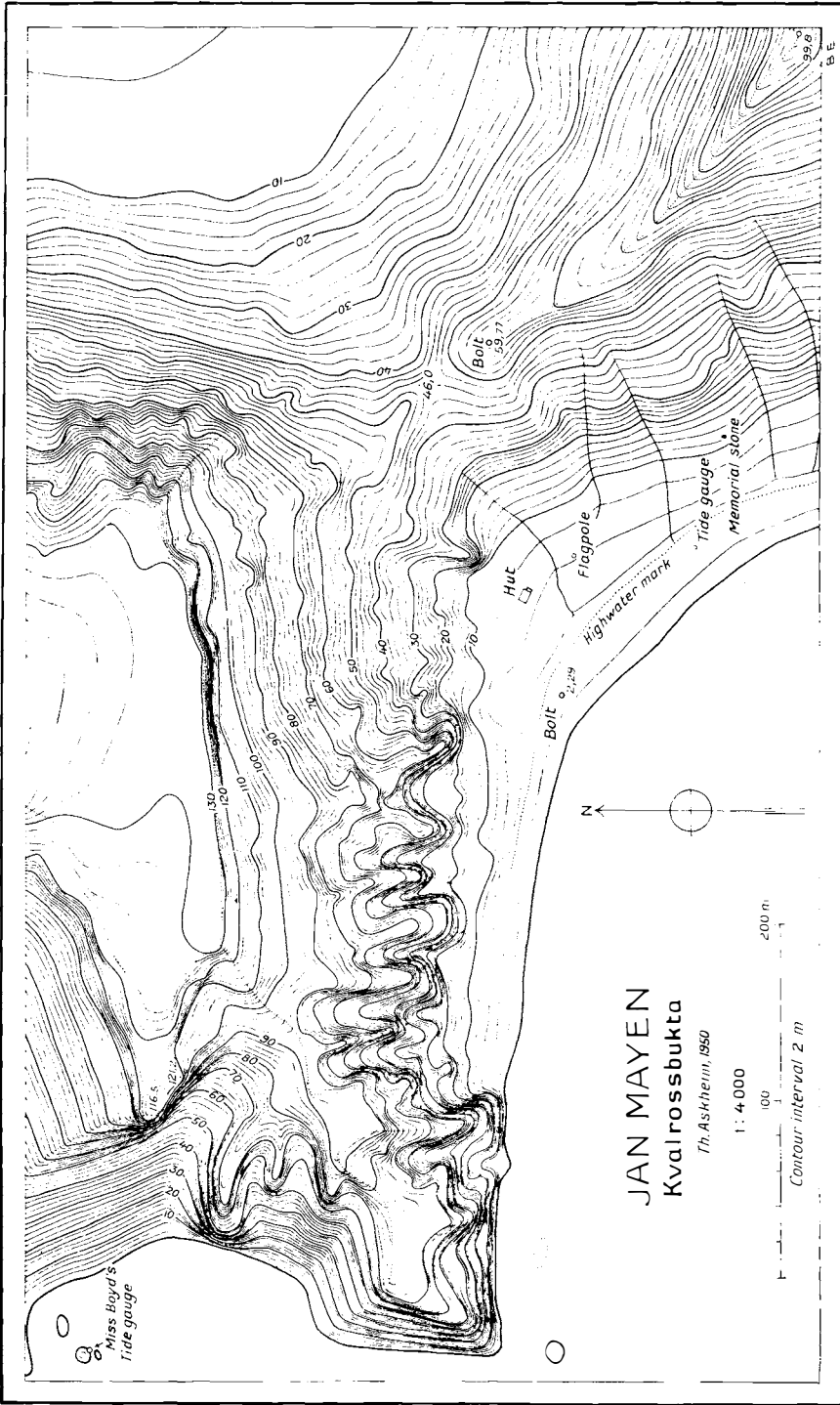
70° 58'.3 Lat. N.      8° 41'.2 Long. W. Gr.

The scale of the gauge was 1:7 <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>.

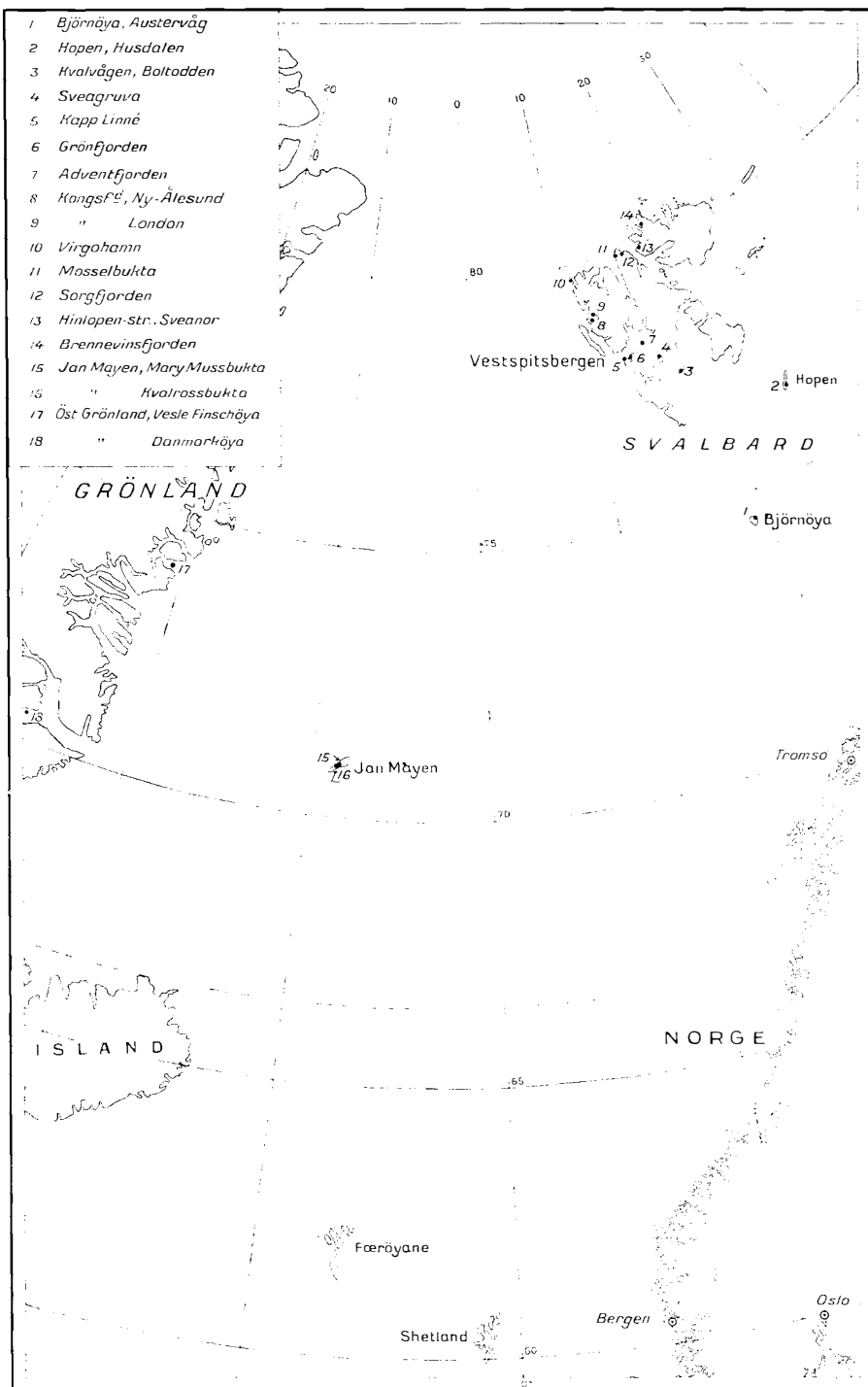
The weather and sea conditions throughout the observation period were generally satisfactory, owing to off-shore winds.

Two bolts were levelled in relation to the tide-gauge. One was placed in a large stone on the beach, and another in the rocks of the hill behind the hut. The bolts are 2.29 m and 59.77 m above the mean sea-level, respectively.

The observations cover the period July 13—Sept. 2, but at first Askheim had some trouble with the gauge, resulting in breaks. During the last 30 days the observations were consecutive, and the period Aug. 4 0000—Sept. 1 2300 was chosen for the harmonic analysis.







## **Results.**

The harmonic analyses of the tidal observations have been worked out according to the method of Dr. Doodson (Admiralty Tide Tables, part III). The analyses of Hopen and Kapp Linné have been made by Prof. Dr. J. Fjeldstad, the others by the hydrographer H. Hornbæk.

All observations except two were carried out by means of an automatic tide-gauge of American type. At Jan Mayen an automatic tide-gauge of Norwegian make was used, and at Sveagruva staff readings only.

The harmonic analyses for Sveagruva and Kapp Linné are based on observation periods of 15 days, the others on periods of 29 days.

No.	Station	Lat.	Long.	M <sub>2</sub> cm	M <sub>2</sub> °	S <sub>2</sub> cm	S <sub>2</sub> °	N <sub>2</sub> cm	N <sub>2</sub> °	K <sub>1</sub> cm	K <sub>1</sub> °	O <sub>1</sub> cm	O <sub>1</sub> °	S <sub>3</sub> M <sub>3</sub>	M <sub>3</sub> N <sub>3</sub>
<b>Svalbard</b>															
1.	Bjørnøya, Austervåg . . . . .	74 29'N	19°12'E	34.2	50	13.0	83	6.7	35	5.4	230	4.4	66	33°	15°
2.	Hopen, Husdalen . . . . .	76 30.1	25 04.1	25.3	265	11.7	336	4.4	228	11.8	11	3.2	51	71	37
3.	Kvalvågen, Boltodden . . . . .	77 30	18 12	26.0	355	20.4	25	7.3	307	6.8	352	1.4	47	30	48
4.	Sveagrava . . . . .	77 53	16 43	48.4	46	21.6	101	13.0	30	7.3	233	1.2	144	55	16
5.	Kapp Linné . . . . .	78 03.4	13 38.3	50.2	26	15.5	70	8.4	359	6.8	208	3.4	128	44	27
6.	Grøn fjorden . . . . .	78 04	14 15	50.7	21	18.3	63	9.8	356	6.7	232	3.3	96	42	25
7.	Adventfjorden . . . . .	78 15	15 42	48.1	34	18.1	72	9.6	36	7.5	161	3.5	132	38	358
8.	Kongsfjorden, Ny-Ålesund	78 55.7	11 57.3	42.5	32	16.8	78	8.7	2	6.7	295	2.1	128	46	30
9. a	Kongsfjorden, London . . . . .	78 57.8	12 03	44.4	26	15.0	68	7.5	5	5.4	255	2.1	92	42	21
9. b	— . . . . .	78 57.8	12 03	44.9	26	14.9	74	7.2	5	5.4	253	2.0	92	48	21
10.	Virgohamn . . . . .	79 43	10 44	41.4	38	14.3	70	7.6	13	2.7	225	1.2	12	32	25
11.	Mosselbukta . . . . .	79 53	16 04	35.0	87	13.1	121	6.7	61	7.0	245	2.7	72	34	26
12.	Sorgfjorden . . . . .	80 00	16 52	28.0	99	10.7	150	7.0	71	7.3	270	2.1	70	51	28
13.	Hinlopen, Sveanor . . . . .	79 56	18 18	25.1	92	11.1	138	4.9	57	8.7	271	1.8	78	46	35
14.	Brennevinsfjorden . . . . .	80 23	19 29	28.0	83	10.0	135	8.0	44	4.0	273	—	—	52	39
<b>Jan Mayen</b>															
15.	Mary Mussbukta . . . . .	71 00	8 28 W	40.2	328	13.1	18	8.5	300	3.4	97	6.1	49	50	28
16.	Kvalrossbukta . . . . .	70 58.3	8 41.2	41.1	327	14.9	10	7.6	293	6.0	107	6.4	60	43	34
<b>Øst Grønland</b>															
17.	Vesle Finschøya . . . . .	73 59	21 08	44.9	315	19.5	0	11.9	289	11.8	75	7.6	25	45	26
18.	Danmarkøya . . . . .	70 27	26 12	35.0	337	16.1	28	7.6	312	8.7	65	9.3	35	51	25
19.	Finnsbu . . . . .	63 24	41 17	85.1	127	36.6	158	15.0	126	13.2	93	4.4	46	31	1

Notes to the table.

The harmonic constants have been derived from the following sources:

- No. 1, 17, and 19 from Kjær, Rolf, and Fjeldstad, J. E.: Tidal Observations in the Arctic. Skrifter om Svalbard og Ishavet. Nr. 14. Oslo 1934.
- » 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, and 16 from the present paper.
- » 6 from Davydov, L. K.: Tides in Green Harbor Bay on Spitsbergen Island. Problemy Arktiki 1938, no. 5—6. Leningrad 1938. Pp. 33—37.
- » 7 from Dmitriev, S.: Zapiski po Hydrographi No. 4. Leningrad 1932. Cit. from International Hydrographic Bureau's Special Publication No. 26. Sheet No. 2094.
- » 9 a from Tenani, M.: Contributo alla conoscenza delle maree dell'Oceano artico. Atti Acad. Naz. d. Lincei Ser. 6, Vol. XIII, Roma 1931. Pp. 879—81.
- » 9 b from International Hydrographic Bureau's Special Publication No. 26. Sheet No. 161.

Constants, etc.

K <sub>1</sub> -O <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>2</sub>	N <sub>2</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	Tidal hours			Duration in days	Year	Expedition
	M <sub>2</sub>	M <sub>2</sub>	K <sub>1</sub>	M <sub>2</sub>	K <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>			
164°	0.38	0.20	0.82	0.40	14.05	3.12	29*	1930	Norges Svalbard- og Ishavs-undersøkelser
320	0.46	0.17	0.27	7.16	23.06	1.73	29*	1947	— —
305	0.78	0.28	0.21	10.63	22.24	1.94	29*	1952	Norsk Polarinstitut
89	0.45	0.27	0.16	0.42	14.42	8.49	15	1946	Norges Svalbard- og Ishavs-undersøkelser
80	0.31	0.17	0.50	11.96	12.96	7.62	14*	1946	— —
136	0.36	0.19	0.49	11.75	14.52	5.45	360*	1934—35	Barentsburg Polar Station
29	0.33	0.20	0.47	0.09	9.69	7.75	15	1931	Store Norske Spitsbergen Kulkompani A S
167	0.40	0.20	0.31	0.27	18.87	7.74	29*	1949	Norsk Polarinstitut
163	0.34	0.17	0.39	0.06	16.20	5.33	58*	1928	Italian Exp. in the »Citta di Milano«
161	0.33	0.16	0.37	0.06	16.06	5.33	58*	1928	— —
213	0.35	0.18	0.44	0.55	13.62	0.08	29	1897	Andrée Exp.
173	0.37	0.18	0.39	1.82	15.26	3.73	104	1872—73	Nordenskiöld
200	0.38	0.25	0.29	2.16	16.88	3.54	104.5	1900	Swedish-Russian Arc-of Meridian Measurement. Swedish (sec)
193	0.44	0.19	0.20	1.85	16.85	3.98	—	1931	Swedish-Norwegian Spitsbergen Exp.
—	0.36	0.29	—	1.47	16.90	—	14*	1936	Oxford University Arctic Exp. 1936
48	0.33	0.21	1.86	11.51	7.00	3.85	104.5	1883	Austrian Exp. 1882—83
47	0.36	0.18	1.07	11.48	7.71	4.06	29*	1950	Norsk Polarinstitut
50	0.44	0.27	0.65	11.92	6.41	3.08	29*	1933	Norges Svalbard- og Ishavs-undersøkelser
30	0.46	0.22	1.07	12.98	6.08	4.08	120	1906—07	»Danmark« Eksp. 06—08
47	0.43	0.18	0.33	6.98	8.95	5.82	29	1932	Norges Svalbard- og Ishavs-undersøkelser

\* Automatic tide-gauge

- No. 10, 11, 12, 15, and 18. from Harris, R. A.: Arctic Tides. Cit. from Fjeldstad, J. E.: Results of Tidal Observations. Bergen 1936. Norw. North Polar Exp. with the "Maud" 1918—25. Scient. res. Vol. 4, no. 4.
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