



TOUGH SLEDDING (CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT): TAKING A BREAK FROM AN 18-NAUTICAL MILE DAY; CAMPING IN YET ANOTHER BLIZZARD; TRUDGING THROUGH ENDLESS SASTRUGI; FINALLY REACHING 90 DEGREES SOUTH.

a crevasse and starts pulling me back with it. I was braking, I had my crampons on, and I remember thinking, "What the frig have I got myself into?"

WEBER: Not really, no. I have a lot of experience with this kind of expedition and I was pretty sure there was nothing stopping us, apart from an accident of some sort.

VALLELY: No. It was never a question of whether we would make it or not, it was a question of how fast we could do it.

WHAT WAS THE MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT?

ZAHAB: Around two weeks in, we found out from a teacher at one

of the schools that was following our expedition, that three young kids were out in a snow storm in Ottawa pretending to be Richard, Ray and Kevin. That was the greatest expedition day I had.

WEBER: The arrival at Patriot Hills is pretty neat because you fly in on this huge Aleutian aircraft and you land on an airstrip that is called the blue ice runway because it is literally blue ice. It is such a grandiose place. You get out and it's huge, with mountains all around. It's almost like dropping into the Rockies.

VALLELY: At the end of each day I would set up the solar panels so I was the last one into the tent.

It would be absolutely quiet and usually, sunny. I would just stand there and do a 360. It was just this expanse off to infinity and I would think, "I'm actually here, I'm actually doing this, I can't believe it—I am on Antarctica."

WHAT WAS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL THING YOU SAW?

ZAHAB: On a sunny day, crossing these wide open expanses of sastrugi, even though they were a pain in the ass to cross because they are like frozen waves on an ocean, they reminded me so much of the Sahara Desert.

WEBER: The landscape was more beautiful than I was expecting. I had been to quite a few ice caps

and once you are on an ice cap in the High Arctic, it's kind of all the same. So I thought it would be the same here, but it really changes. Mountains would come and go. The scenery was much more interesting than I thought it would be.

VALLELY: Looking out over around 85 degrees and seeing the Tiel Mountains. It's a mountain range you see off in the distance, probably 35 to 40 nautical miles away. Suddenly you see these grey silhouettes in the background and they start building up as you come closer and it's just magical, like ships floating on the Antarctic Sea.

—Kate Barker