

The last week was dominated by logistic tasks. On Monday, we finished the last ANDEEP station in the Powell Basin and steamed towards King George Island. During part of the way, we had to go against westerly winds of force 8 and the corresponding waves. However, the wind calmed down until we reached the Maxwell Bay on Tuesday at noontime.

The Argentine Jubany Station, to which the German Dallmann Laboratory is connected, is located at the shore of the adjacent Potter Cove. In spite of being earlier than originally planned, the preparations were sufficiently advanced that we were able to use the good weather and start immediately with the helicopter flights to bring material from the station to Polarstern. Additionally, material was brought from the Uruguayan station Artigas and the Russian Bellingshausen station to Polarstern. Finally scientists who had spent the summer at the Dallmann Laboratory were taken to Bellingshausen, where they have to wait for their flights home. Two further cruise participants came on board Polarstern to join us for the rest of the cruise.

During the time of the transport operations scientists and crewmembers from Polarstern had the occasion to get on shore to enjoy the Argentine hospitality, and some of us were able to visit other stations. Everywhere we were received in a very friendly manner. We invited the crews of the Jubany and the Artigas stations to a visit of Polarstern which enforced our friendly relations.

During the night and a further phase of bad weather, we began a further ANDEEP station in Bransfield Strait. It was finalized after the end of the supply operations. In the night to Thursday we left towards the British Rothera station. On Thursday morning we passed by Deception Island but it remained hidden in the fog. The acoustic group used the long steaming routes to tow their streamer in order to record the noises of marine mammals. The weather conditions on the way to Rothera were not very promising and we expected a longer waiting period.

On Friday afternoon we reached Marguerite Bay and lay off Rothera Point. Surprisingly, the weather had improved. During the day a group of British cruise participants were flown ahead to Rothera to bring there living mussels from Jubany. The first meeting with our British partners occurred on Friday evening when we invited the captain of the RSS Ernest Shackleton, which lay at the Rothera wharf, and the Rothera base commander to a visit on board Polarstern. Fast a friendly relationship was established and the operations of the coming day could be planned in all detail until the helicopter had to bring back our guests at nightfall.

Finally, on Saturday the long expected day for which we had to reschedule our entire cruise was there. We had to load the German plane Polar4. It had had a hard landing in Rothera on 25 January on its way back to Germany and

was no more able to start gain. Consequently it had to be loaded on to Polarstern to be carried back. Because near the Rothera wharf the water depth is not sufficient that Polarstern could approach close enough, this was not a straightforward task. The loading had to occur with the help of the Shackleton. Once again, we were spoiled by the weather. No wind and sunshine were optimal conditions not only for the loading but also for the visiting programme. The Shackleton loaded the wing and the cabin of the plane at the wharf and displaced to Polarstern which was waiting at a distance of 0.85 nm. Both ships went alongside and within 22 minutes the parts of the plane were picked up by Polarstern's 15-ton crane and set on the helideck.

During this operation the cruise participants and the free crewmembers had started the visit to the station and the adjacent magnificent landscape and enjoyed the British hospitality. During the afternoon, we received the crewmembers of the Shackleton and the Rothera station on board and could spend a pleasant afternoon together in the friendly and relaxed mood. At 19.00 we left Rothera with a further participant on board and steamed well protected against uncomfortable weather conditions through Gerlache Strait towards the last scientific stations during this cruise. On the way we celebrated the polar baptism and spent Easter in front of a well-known picturesque landscape almost completely hidden by snow showers and clouds.

With the best wishes from all on board

Eberhard Fahrback