Discovery of Kiri Nunatak, Enderby Land,
East Antarctica, in 1970

Hiromu SHIMIZU* and Aiichiro YOSHIMURA**

On December 19, 1970, the oversnow traverse party of the 11th Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition sighted 10 nunataks from W19 of the traverse survey line, Sandercock Nunataks-W55 (SHIMIZU et al., 1972 a; NARUSE et al., 1972), as shown in Figs. 1, 2 and 3. On December 20, triangulation surveys were conducted to estimate their positions. The location and length of the base line provided for the survey were:

Base line: W19-W20 (5,830.65 m in distance).
Location: W19 (68°58'42.6"S, 50°51'20.8"E).
W20 (68°59'37.8"S, 50°42'59.6"E).

The length of the base line was measured by Electrotape DM-2, and the positions of W19 and W20 were calculated through the traverse survey line from astronomic control point W00 (68°36'41.0"S, 52°06'02.0"E), a south peak of Sandercock Nunataks.

Only 4 nunataks, A, C, D and H of Fig. 2, could be sighted from W20, due to the topographic feature of the ice sheet around there. The results of the survey showed that nunataks A, C and D belonged to the Nye Mountains, but H was
Hiromu Shimizu and Aiichiro Yoshimura

Fig. 1. A map of Kiri Nunatak and its vicinity. W19-W20 was selected as the base line for triangulation surveys to estimate the location of nunataks A, C, D and H.

Fig. 2. A sketch of the nunataks from Station W19: H is Kiri Nunatak, and A, C, D, the Nye Mountains. The sketch was made by considerably shortening the distance between the nunataks.

Fig. 3. Nunatak H, Kiri Nunatak, and Nunatak J (taken from W19 December 19, 1970).
located far away from them. The position and elevation of nunatak H were 68°42' S, 50°36'E and 1,659 m above sea level. The elevation of the nunatak was determined through the traverse survey line referring to the elevation of W00, 2,101 m which was estimated by barometric altimetry from S16 (SHIMIZU et al., 1972 b). We have not been able to find any previous record or information of nunatak H.

In the map of “Antarctica” prepared by the American Geographical Society in 1965, a symbol of nunataks with the name of Sandercock Nunataks is found at the approximate location of (68.5°S, 50.2°E), while there is no indication at all in the area of (68.5°S, 52.1°E). This is, however, a misdescription of the location of Sandercock Nunataks, as evidenced by all other information and JARE 11's astronomic surveys concerning the position of Sandercock Nunataks; the correct location of Sandercock Nunataks should be (68.5°S, 52.1°E). (See references: Sandercock Nunataks)

Therefore, nunatak H is a newly found one in all likelihood. In the previous reports (SHIMIZU et al., 1972a; SHIMIZU et al., 1972b) this nunatak was described as a "newly found nunatak" or "new nunatak", but it has been named “Kiri Nunatak” by Headquarters of the Japanese Antarctic Research Expedition, Ministry of Education through the Antarctic Place-Names Committee of Japan of National Institute of Polar Research.

References


Sandercock Nunataks:


THE AMERICAN GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY (1965): Antarctica (map). Scale in latitude 71°=1 : 5,000,000.


(Received December 25, 1973)