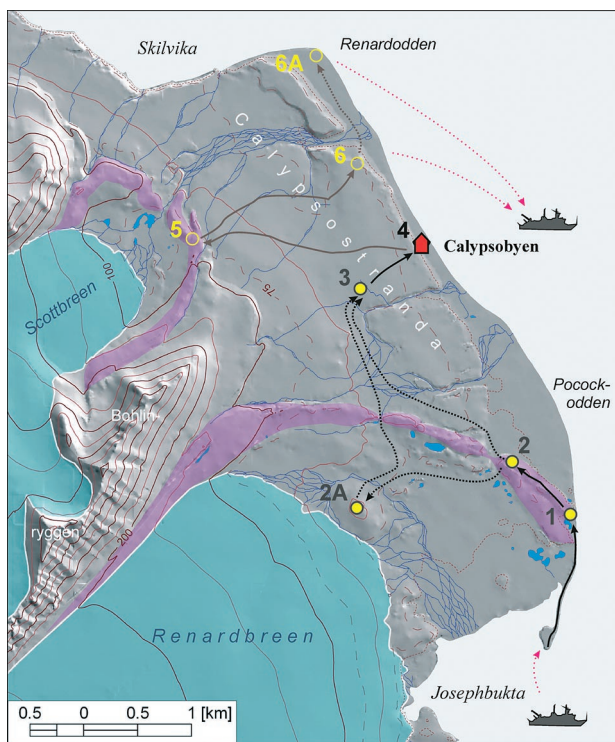


Calypsobyen – history and the present day

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A mining settlement Calypsobyen is situated opposite the mouth of Van Keulen Fiord to Bellsund (Krawczyk, Reder 1989, Roll 1993). It consists of wooden buildings preserved in different conditions (Fig. 1, 7, 15). The oldest buildings reach date back to first years of XX century. They are not big but covered with a ridge roof. That generation of buildings is represented by house on the slope near the mouth of Wydrzyca Stream (E). It was once covered with birch bark and some buildings in the “centre” of the vil-

lage. Only one of those with two rooms (C) is suitable to live in. The rest (D) were used as the farm buildings.

A bit latter, after 1911 the London company: “*The Northern Exploration Company*” began the economic activity. It planned to exploit out coal and marble in the Bellsund region. Up till now it is possible to find the signs with ‘NEC’ on. They were used do mark the area that belonged to the company. At the end of First World War, some big buildings were built for mine needs. Quite quickly the mine activity was stopped and trappers used existing buildings. Their presence is still noticeable by equipment and traces they had left behind.

Till present only one building on the beach has been preserved. The longer axis is perpendicular to the shore and now it is usable to live in (A) and two-part building that is a bit higher on the slope (B), which has been turned into a store (Fig. 15). At the near surroundings of the buildings there are still some traces to the entrance to the mining shaft, track, coal truck and some mine tools. The relict from that epoch is a big wooden transport boat called “*Maria Teresa*”. There is also a partly ruined building on the raised marine terrace (F). There is a very good view over the fiords, so during the Second World War Germans built a broadcasting station. Its fallen aerial mast has been here near the entrance (Fig. 16).

The buildings in Calypsobyen have been left untouched because according to law all traces of human activity, from before 1946 year, are under legal protection (Roll 1993). They are the heritage park of industrial buildings from the beginning of XX century. The Calypsobyen and the whole NW part of Wedel Jarlsberg Land are within the border of the National

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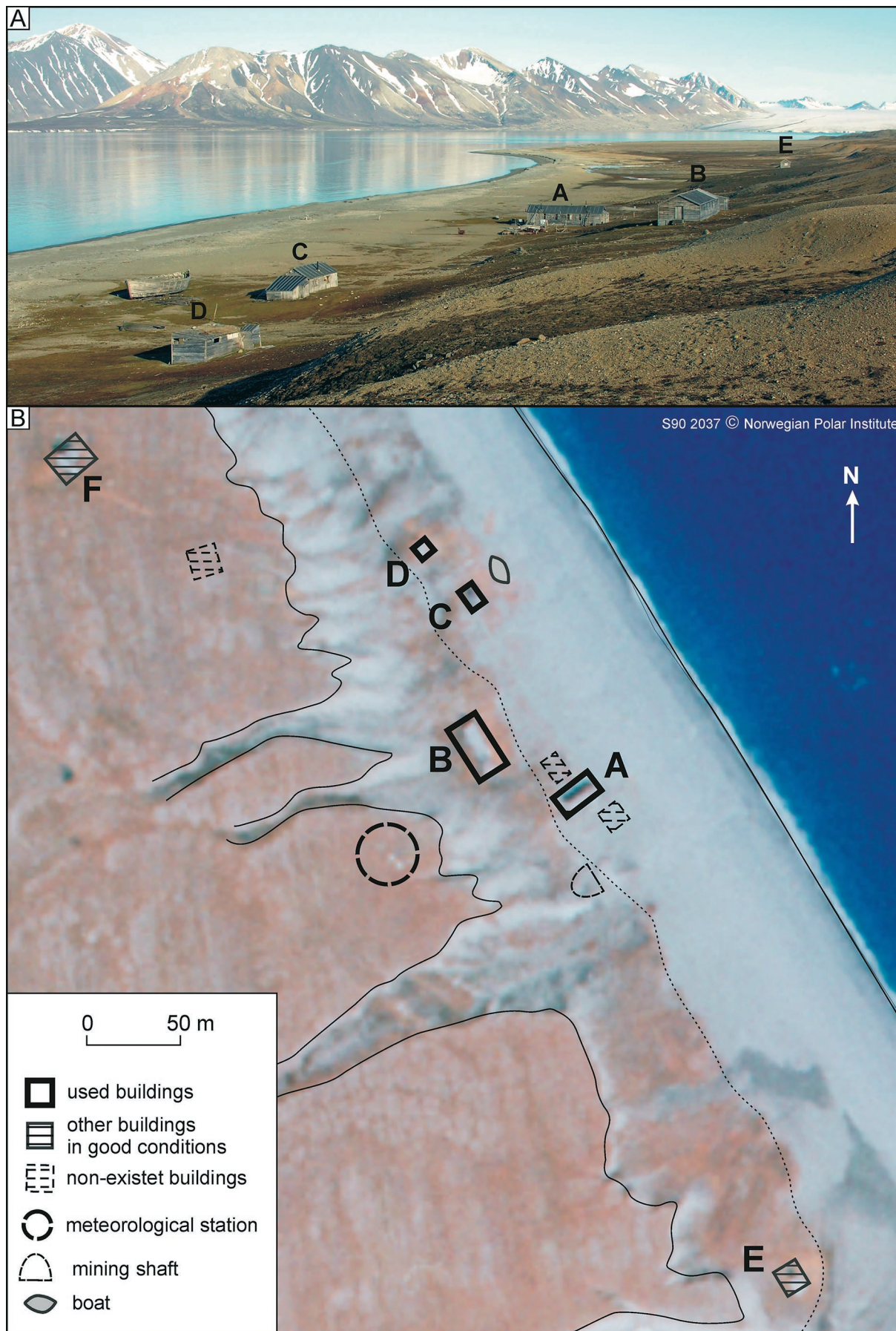


Fig. 15. Calypsobyen. A – general view (photo Piotr Zagórski 2005), B – localisation of buildings (Orthophotomap, Zagórski 2005)



Fig. 16. The building of broadcast station (F) from the Second World War (photo Piotr Zagórski 2006)

Park formed in 1973. Because of it there are some important limits for staying and working there.

Under the permit of Governor of Svalbard, since 1986 the buildings in Calypsobyen have been the main bases for Polar Expeditions of M. C. Skłodowska University. The participants of 16 expeditions



Fig. 17. The repair works on the building C (photo Janina Repelewska-Pękalowa 1986)

who have worked here did a lot of necessary repair work to live and work here (Fig. 17). All work was done with a great care to preserve the original look. For a few years the Norwegian administration is responsible for all renovation.