South Georgia 1990–91

JOHN R MOSS

John Moss reports that his South African expedition sailed from Cape Town in December 1990 in the 19m yacht *Deil*, which was specially fitted with a lifting keel and other equipment for polar travel. The team comprised four climbers – John Moss (leader), Paul Fatti, Doug Jamieson and Hilton Davies – Bernhard Diebold (skipper), Nigel Jarman and Tako Palthe and a film-maker Fanie van der Merwe.

After 31 days of sailing, the expedition reached the Antarctic Island of South Georgia. Members of the expedition spent one month climbing on the island, making the first ascents of **Mt Normann** (1317m) and **Mt Senderens** (1415m), the first South African ascent of **Admiralty Peak** (1017m) and several other minor peaks.

Moss and Jamieson also explored the **Kohl-Larsen Plateau** (937m) on skis, reaching this from a camp on the edge of the Konig glacier. A determined attempt was made to climb **Mt Paget** by a new route on the E face, but the climbers were driven back by high winds, bad snow conditions and unpredictable weather.

The return voyage across the Southern Ocean back to Cape Town was completed in 16 days. The total distance sailed Cape Town–South Georgia–Cape Town was 15,000km.

This expedition was the first combined sailing/mountaineering expedition from South Africa to a polar region.