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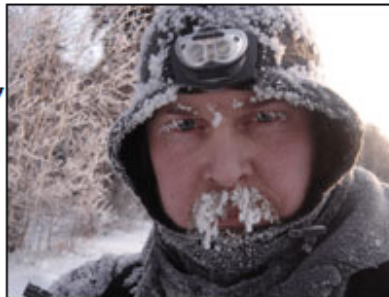
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Epic explorer crosses frozen sea

An ex-paratrooper has become the first Briton to walk across the Bering Strait, the treacherous 58-mile frozen sea between North America and Russia.



Karl Bushby and Frenchman Dimitri Kieffer faced temperatures of -30C

Karl Bushby reached land after 14 days walking across shifting plates of ice in temperatures reaching -30C.

The explorer, from Hull, is 18,000 miles into an epic 36,000-mile round-the-world trip.

The 37-year-old began his mission in Chile in 1998 and is hoping to return to England by 2010.

The trip will take him across four continents, 25 countries, six deserts and seven mountain ranges.

Chances 'slim'

The former Parachute Regiment corporal has now conquered the most formidable natural obstacle of his world record attempt, and was said to be "elated" by his achievement.

His father Keith, director of the home-based team at Goliath Earth Trek UK, said: "He always said right from the word go the chances of getting across were slim, and to do it on the first attempt is momentous.

"The ice was breaking up behind him as he walked across."

The British explorer, formerly of Sutton Park in Hull, conquered the strait with temporary companion, Dimitri Kieffer, a French adventurer and specialist endurance racer.

The pair had to take a roundabout 150-mile route to cross the 58-mile wide strait from Alaska to Siberia, crossing sheets of ice which were drifting with the current.



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The pair had to take a roundabout 150-mile route to cross the 58-mile wide strait from Alaska to Siberia, crossing sheets of ice which were drifting with the current.

Andrew Cooper, of Goliath Earth Trek UK, said: "The last 14 days have been the equivalent of running a marathon every day, so Karl will take a few days to get some energy back before he sets off again."

The next stage of the explorer's journey will take him through Russia towards the Chinese border.

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