

"The Retrieval of a Secret Geodetic Backup Buried in Greenland in 1952"

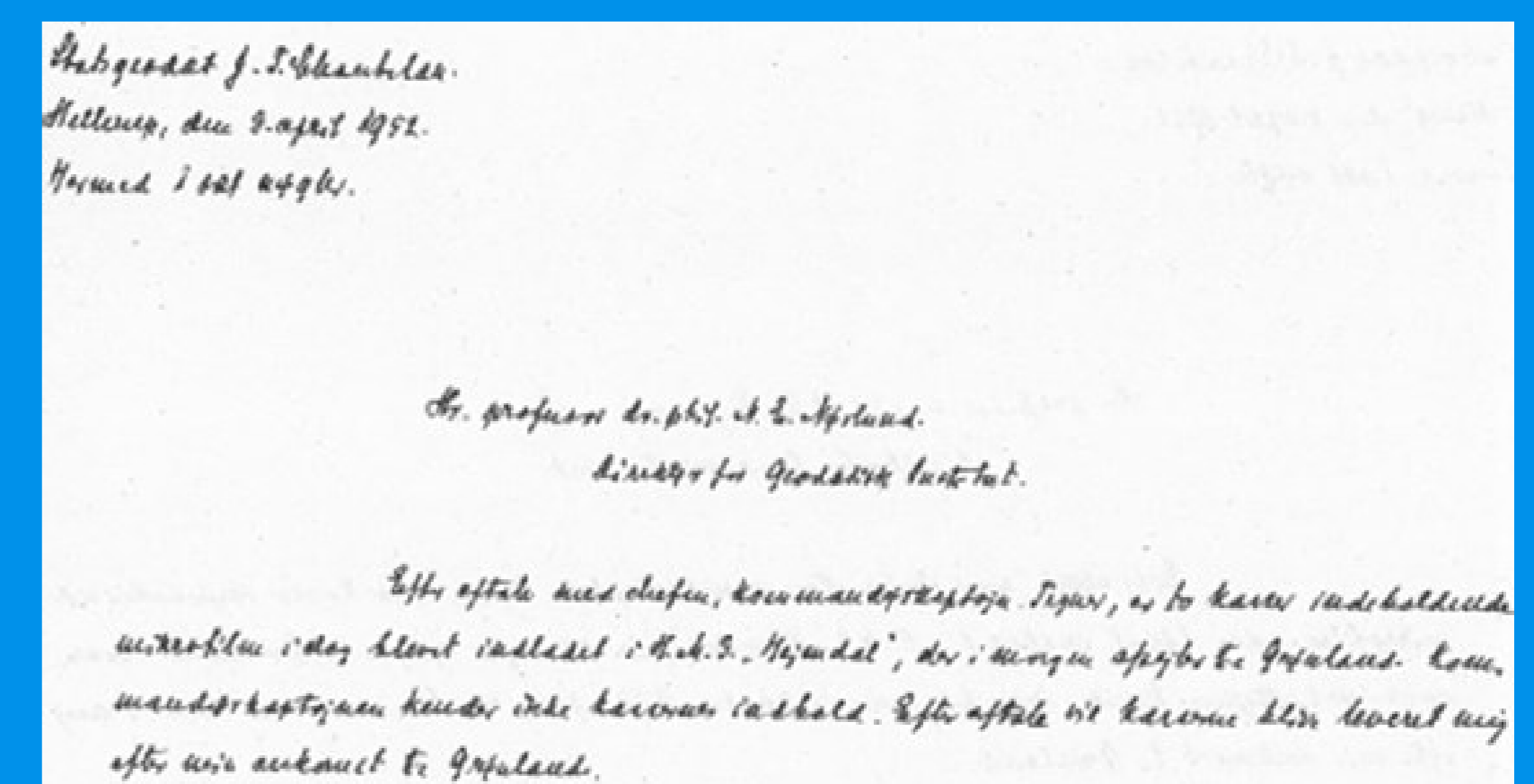
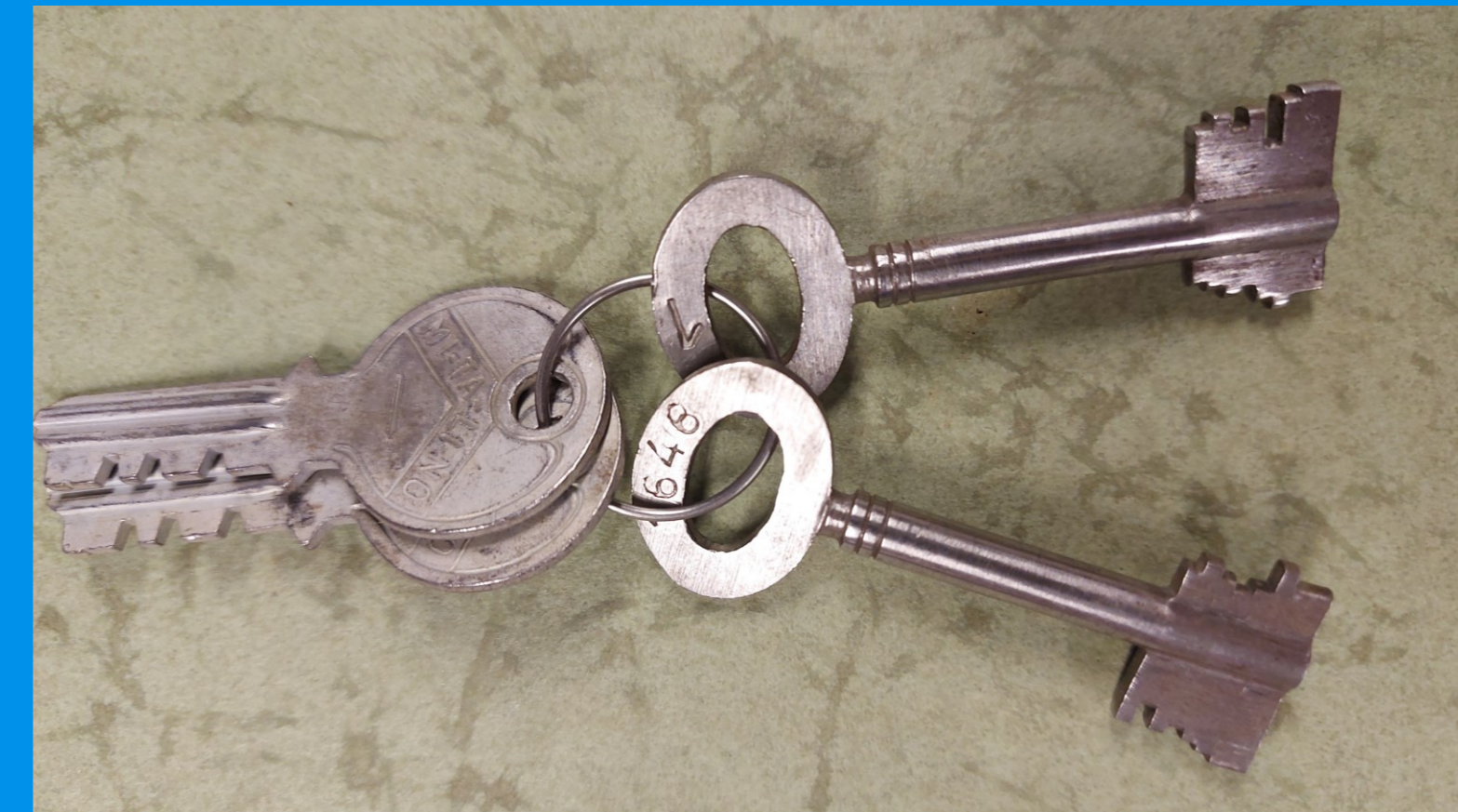
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Micro film - cold war – geodesy – surveying - bench marks – secrecy - 1952

The facts:

- In 1952, state geodesist and colonel J.F. Chantelou of the Geodetic Institute (GI) decided to – secretly – take micro photos of ALL pieces of Danish bench mark information and Greenlandic survey observations.
- The photos were packed thoroughly in several containers and ends up with two boxes, which were shipped to Greenland as "Instruments". On July 7th, he and topographer A. F. Hansen buried the two boxes roughly 60 m apart near the town of Sisimiut in West Greenland. Still all in secret!
- In 2002, Stampe Villadsen (former dept. head at KMS) finds some keys and a strange letter dated April 1952. It was from Chantelou to the former director of the G.I., Prof. Nørlund, and describes Chantelou's intentions.
- Stampe searched for information in all archives possible. He even went to Greenland to search for the boxes.
- In 2019, Kristian Keller finds a notebook: Chantelou's notebook! It contains the locations of the boxes.
- In September 2020, Stampe and Kristian went to Greenland and dug up the two boxes...which contained...just as Chantelou described, micro film with all Danish and Greenlandic geodetic data. In case of a catastrophe (e.g., World War III), he had saved the Danish geodesy.



The keys and the letter which started the treasure hunt, found by Stampe in 2002. The boxes were described and Chantelou wrote that he would hide them in the ground near Sisimiut at the west coast of Greenland... but why?



A schematic view of the content of the 2 boxes containing the micro film in the very inner box.



The first box which was dug up from the ground. 160 kg!



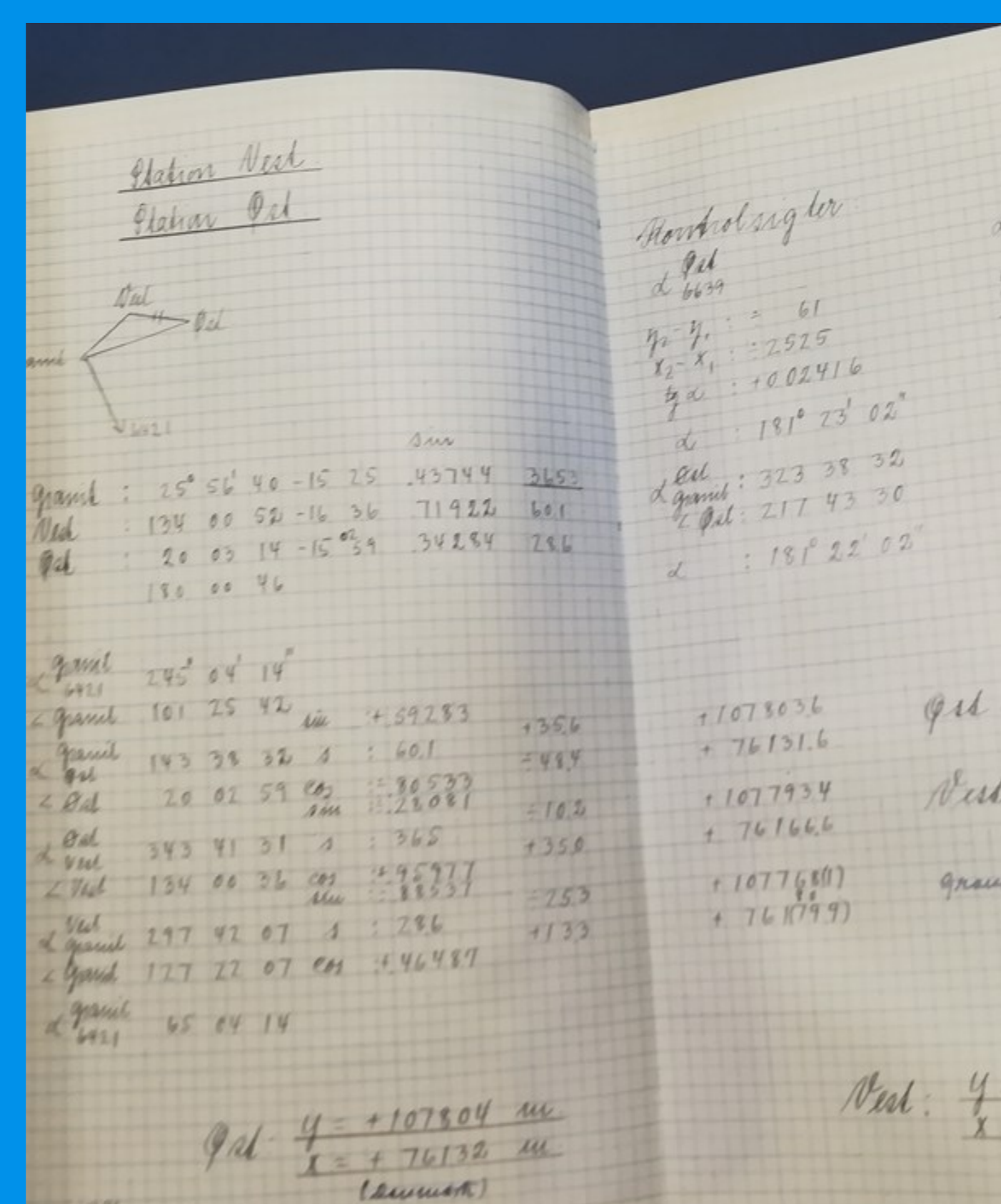
Kristian surveying from the bench mark, Stampe is at the left.



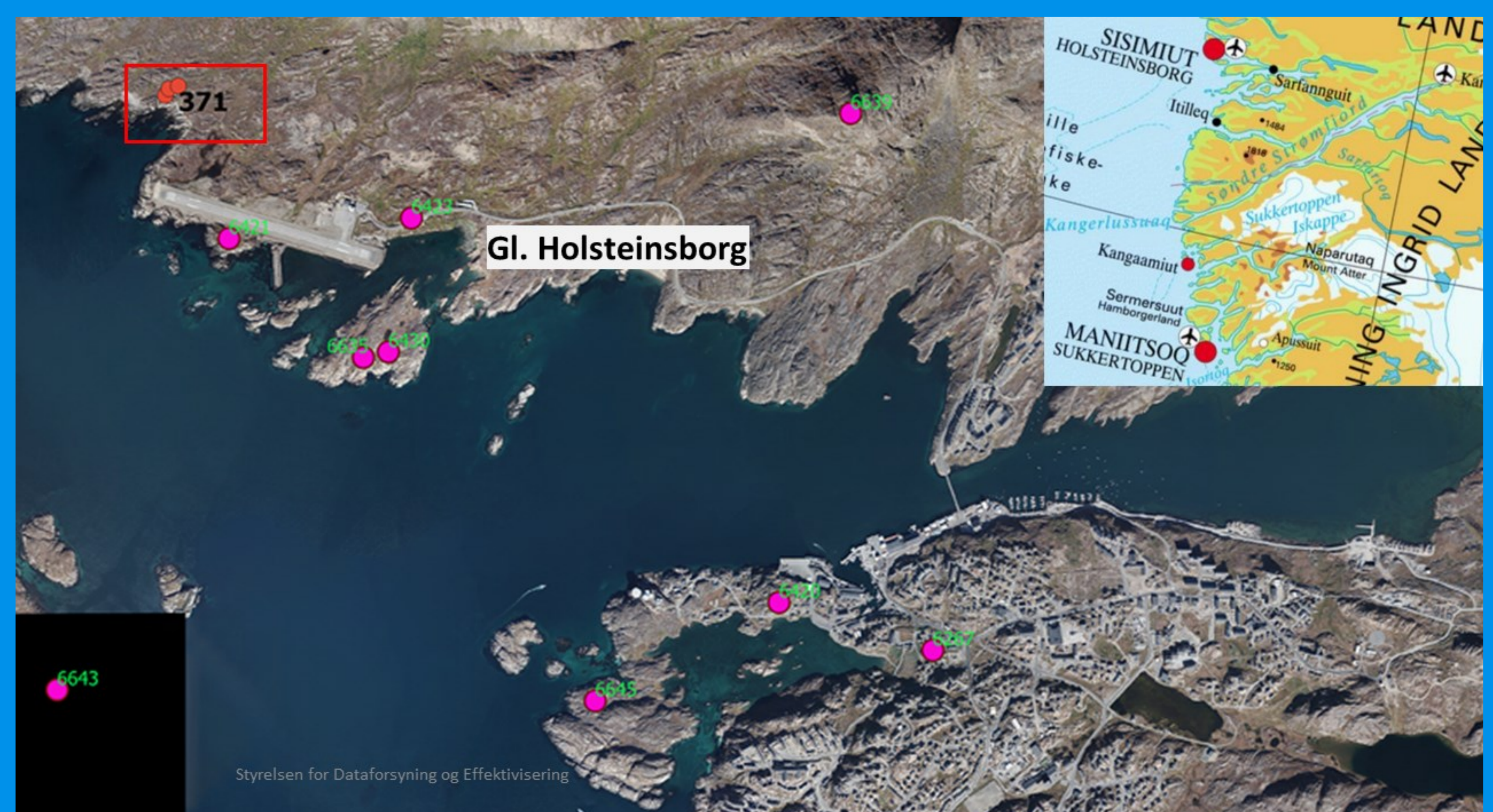
Stampe next to the bench mark.



Chantelou at one of the sites of the secret boxes, Wild T2.



Chantelous secret notebook including observations and coordinates.



The location of the boxes at site 371 near the airport of Sisimiut.

Unanswered questions:

- Who ordered all the geodetic facts to be micro filmed?
- How many of the micro films did the U.S. Army Map Service receive?
- We do know that U.S. got some information, but not how, why and when
- Where has Chantelous notebook been hidden in 68 years?



Chantelou, on a Geodetic Inst. Ship, Kivioq.

Opening of the one box, lots of old newspapers, and inside yet another wooded box containing the micro film, each in a sealed plastic container. They were all in perfect condition.

