

The 1960's Explorers kit bag.

The kitbag contains a typical set of clothing that was issued by the British Antarctic Survey to Antarctic field personnel in 1968. The clothes come out of the kitbag in the reverse order to aid dressing.

The yellow boots were made by the Onitaska Company in Japan. They have a Vibram sole with a fabric upper. There are two felt insoles in each boot to provide insulation underfoot and the upper is also thickly insulated.

There is a quilted fur-fabric bootee that is worn over one or two pairs of socks.

The green anorak and trousers are cotton Ventile to provide an outer windproof layer over several layers of warm clothing. It is the wind that is the chilling / killing factor in Antarctica.

The fur around the anorak hood is wolverine, an Arctic animal of the same family as badgers.

The yellow leather sledging mitts are hard-wearing and warmth is provided by the duffel inner.

The gloves are on a harness so that they cannot be accidentally lost.

The blue woolen balaclava keeps your head warm. It is a traditional style where the band can be pulled down around the neck leaving a space for the face.

The blue silk scarf prevents warm air escaping or cold air entering the open neck of the shirt.

The blue trousers and zipped jacket are very warm and are an early example of modern fleece clothing.

The mountaineering goggles have dark plastic lenses to protect the eyes from ultra-violet radiation and so prevent snow-blindness. They also keep the wind out of your eyes.

The tartan shirt is made of pure wool and is very warm.

Underwear comprises a cotton string vest, where the air trapped in the spaces provides the insulation, and a pair of cotton 'long johns' with a waffle-type weave to trap air for insulation.

The white leather mitts with duffel inners, also on a harness, are hard-wearing. However, they were clumsy and were worn when it was very cold, often with a pair of fingered gloves inside.

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Transcript from Peter Clarkson video clip – 1960' kit bag for 'How do modern day explorers keep themselves warm' activity