



Knife stories

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PRESS RELEASE

Pocket knife in use as a scalpel

In 1976, passengers on the domestic flight, Indian Airlines 524, witnessed several minutes of terror when a young mother desperately screamed for help because her child was chok-ing on a hard sweet. Initially, people tried to save the child using an oxygen cylinder - with-out success. Fortunately, a doctor was on board, and, as the child had already slipped into an extremely critical state, he decided to carry out an emergency operation. However, the first-aid box provided did not contain a scalpel. When the stewardess frantically asked for a pocket knife over the loudspeaker, a pas-senger handed the doctor a new, clean and sharp Swiss Army Knife. The doctor quickly performed a tracheotomy and the child sur-vided. When, shortly after, the plane landed in Bangalore, the child was immediately rushed to hospital. The child did not even suffer any infection.

Extract from the leaflet "knife-stories" by VICTORINOX.

On the way to the North Pole

Besides the daring expeditions to explore great heights, rocky mountains and unknown wilder-ness, advances into the icy polar deserts are certainly among man's greatest challenges. Even here, the Swiss Army Knife from Ibach is always present. This was also true of the diffi-cult North Pole expedition in the winter of 1976/77. One dark arctic night, Charles Bur-ton's team was on its way to the most northerly point on the globe. Despite having to give up just before reaching their goal as a result of bad weather conditions, the story is long enough to narrate a few heroic incidents in which the Swiss Army Knife played a significant role. Bur-ton reported to Ibach: "The Swiss Army Knives which you provided for us proved invaluable to the whole team as well as to our base. Among other applications, they were used to de-ice the sleigh runners and open tins. When one of our team broke through the ice, we were able to cut off his clothes with the knife and thus rid him of his wet clothing which had immediately started to freeze. When he broke through the ice, the temperature was below 37° C, which meant that he had to be carried into the tent and dried off quickly. Without this fast reaction, which would not have been possible without your knife, this man's life would have been in acute danger.

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