

"Our driver was seriously busy spitting on the inside of the windscreen and drying it off again to make a tiny little peephole so he could see at least some of the road," relates Keld Rasmussen.

Safely back at their "hotel", Keld Rasmussen found that he had an excruciating pain in one of his feet as soon as he stepped out of the jeep. He could barely walk, and had to stand on tip-toes to handle the pain.

A frostbitten toe

Inside the "hotel", there were flasks filled with hot water, and the two service technicians soon agreed that, rather than make tea with it, they would pour it into a basin to thaw their feet out.

When Keld Rasmussen took off his boots and socks, he immediately noticed that there was something very wrong with one of his little toes.

"It was completely white, and I had no feeling in it at all. The hot water soon had my other nine toes throbbing and stinging, but my little toe was and remained utterly numb. A couple of days later, the nail fell off, but I did get some feeling back. Today, it is still a little bit blue and looks rather strange," explains Keld Rasmussen who has no doubt that his jaunt in Inner Mongolia resulted in a touch of frostbite.

"I hate to give up"

To the question of whatever possessed him to go to work in temperatures of 30-35 degrees below freezing wearing thin ankle boots, China Keld – typically – replies:

"I hate to give up. Even if it hurts a bit."

A quote like that is well worth writing down and bearing in mind when the battle to be the best in the wind power industry heats up!



This picture shows the inside of the window in the room. Hardly surprising that a bottle of cola exploded in the cold.

Lars Kofoed lost 14 kilos in 42 days

While the trip was one of several made by Keld Rasmussen, it was Lars Kofoed's first encounter with Inner Mongolia. An encounter he will never forget.

"Even though we were out in a place where we had to improvise and make up different solutions all the time, it was one of the best trips I have ever been on in my time as a service technician. It was a real adventure," says Lars Kofoed about his first encounter with a very poor people and, in particular, a climate that was very different to what he was used to.

"The temperature was 30-35 degrees below freezing. I have vivid memories of sub-zero temperatures inside our rooms. One time, I left a bottle of cola on the window sill. Mistake! The following morning I found that the cola had frozen and smashed the bottle."

Some colleagues were a little sceptical about the stories Lars and Keld told about their time in Inner Mongolia, but fortunately Lars had taken his

camera with him. As soon as he brought out the pictures, any remaining doubts were swept away. It had been a tour like no other.

"Food was in short supply. Even though the local people gave us whatever they could spare, I lost 14 kilos in my first 42 days on site," recalls Lars Kofoed.

The first 42 days were spent on site even though Keld Rasmussen had promised that they would take a trip to the nearest town.

"The weather was not the best for setting out on a 4½ hour drive. Besides, we felt bad about leaving the site when the crane and all the other equipment we needed had already been paid for," says Lars Kofoed to wind up the story about his meeting with the frost and ice of Inner Mongolia.



Lars Kofoed describes his trip to Inner Mongolia as the best he has ever experienced in his time as a service technician.