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## Stranded on Polar Cap as ice melts

**Derek Blyth**

An unexpected bout of warm weather has foiled an attempt by Belgian explorers Dixie Dansercoer and Alain Hubert to make the longest unassisted journey across the North Pole. The two were scheduled to complete their 2,400-kilometre slog across the icy wastes by mid-May, but a spokesman for Compaq, which is sponsoring the trip, said they had been warned by Canadian airline First Air that it would not be able to land at the agreed spot because of melting ice.

Dansercoer and Hubert set off from Siberia on February 23, intending to complete the trek in 100 days. But they have had to abandon their adventure on the 53rd day. It is still not clear how the two explorers will be rescued. "It's going to take a whole lot of planning to get a plane with enough fuel to reach them," a spokeswoman said.

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**Stranded: Dansercoer (left) and Hubert**