

OBITUARY

ALBERT BALSOM died on 18 December 1950 after a short illness. In 1910 he joined the *Terra Nova* as a leading seaman from the Australian Squadron, and was a member of the ship's party. He was later promoted chief petty officer and specialized in diving. He was the senior diver on the difficult operation of recovering the gold from the sunken *Laurentic* off the northern Irish coast, for which work he was awarded the Order of the British Empire.

ROBERT SELBIE CLARK died on 29 September 1950, after a brief illness, at the age of sixty-eight. He was educated at Aberdeen University and after two years spent in teaching was appointed zoological assistant in the Scottish Oceanographical Laboratory, Edinburgh, where he helped Dr W. S. Bruce to work up material brought by the *Scotia* from the Antarctic in 1904. In 1912 he was awarded a Carnegie Research Fellowship in zoology and in the same year went to the Marine Biological Laboratory, Plymouth, as naturalist in charge of fishery investigations.

In 1914 Shackleton asked Clark to accompany the Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition as biologist. Clark, after first refusing, acted on a sudden impulse, and decided to accept the offer. He made a "pier head jump", joining the ship and putting his gear aboard in the half-hour before the *Endurance* made her departure from Plymouth. He wrote in his diary shortly after leaving, "I cannot think what I am doing here and shall certainly return from Buenos Aires". Whilst at Madeira he changed his mind and decided definitely to go forward. He made a series of careful collections and observations throughout the whole course of the voyage. Whilst the ship refitted at Grytviken he made trips in the whale catchers in order to investigate whaling methods, a subject in which he was particularly interested. Clark was fascinated by the ice and particularly by the Adélie Penguins, which, as the ship worked through the pack, kept calling to him, "Cla-a-k, cla-a-k". At this stage he was able to examine a number of young Emperor Penguins whose intermediate phase of plumage and movements had not before been recorded. During the time when the ship was beset he continued dredging through holes cut in the ice, and it must have been a very bitter blow when, with the loss of the *Endurance*, the whole of his collection and records went to the bottom.

To many of his companions Clark remained a somewhat baffling personality. A natural reserve, austere expression and an inclination to blunt criticism did not invite over-ready intimacy, although his qualities of solidity, staunchness and complete reliability made him a valuable shipmate. He was a useful man to be paired with when told off for the inevitable chores, particularly the more unpleasant jobs such as pumping ship, flensing frozen seals and penguins, pick and shovel work, or man haulage. On the floe he was a member of No. 5 tent. When Shackleton with his usual skill had arranged the groupings of the smaller tents there still remained eight oddly assorted personalities, crammed into a tent designed for four. Clark was one of them. This mixture of characters which he described himself as "having all the ingredients of gun powder" together with the cramped and over-crowded conditions of the tent provided the elements of trouble, but as things turned out No. 5 proved to be the happiest of the tent groups. This was largely due to the fact that in Clark there was a neutral element, for he never quarrelled with anyone, never took sides in a quarrel and was always ready with a cold douche of common sense when arguments became too hot. He was one of the party left behind when Shackleton set off on his boat journey to South Georgia, and when the remaining boats were turned upside down to make a hut he was allotted a berth in the "attic" between the thwarts and

the boat bottom which required him to stow his long body horizontally, and where he was compelled to sleep, read and eat in the same position. He liked to join in the sing-songs with which Commander Wild sustained morale, his "lum hat wanting a croon" being one of the greater successes. During his turn as cook he earned the appreciation of his hut mates by managing to introduce variety into the monotonous seal, penguin, limpet and seaweed concoctions which formed the island fare.

After the rescue of the party in August 1916, Clark returned home to take a commission in the R.N.V.R. and took part in minesweeping the Tyne and Humber areas. On demobilization he returned to the Marine Biological Laboratory at Plymouth and remained there until 1923, when he was appointed senior naturalist to the Marine Research Laboratory at Torry, Aberdeen. In October 1934 he was promoted to the post of scientific superintendent (and later director) of the Laboratory until he retired in 1948. In 1946 he was elected chairman of the consultative committee of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea. He became a recognized authority on the scientific aspects of fishing and his advice was sought by workers of many nations.

A.H.M.

Superintendent HOWARD HOOPER CRONKHITE was born on 21 January 1898 and died in Ottawa on 28 December 1949. After serving five years with the Canadian Expeditionary Force he joined the Royal North West Mounted Police in 1920. He spent twelve years in the north, from 1923 to 1935, and was promoted sergeant in 1928 and sub-inspector in 1940. From 1942 to 1947 he was inspector in charge of Whitehorse sub-division. In 1948 Cronkhite was appointed to the command of "G" Division, which is responsible for policing the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. He was promoted Superintendent shortly before his death.

Father PRIME LUDGER GIRARD was born in 1883 at St Tite des Caps in Quebec and died in 1949 at Lowell, Massachusetts. He joined the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate in 1906 and became a lay brother two years later. He first worked among the Cree Indians in eastern Saskatchewan, but in 1916 he joined Father Turquetil at Chesterfield Inlet. He helped to found the Roman Catholic missions at Eskimo Point in 1924 and Southampton Island in 1926. Accompanied by Father Bazin, he established a mission in 1929 at Pond Inlet, Baffin Island, where he remained for six years. In 1935 he returned to Quebec and later visited Europe to lecture on the arctic missions.

Colonel CHARLES J. HUBBARD was killed in an aircraft accident near Cape Sheridan, north Ellesmere Island, on 31 July 1950. Hubbard first went to Labrador in 1919 as a voluntary worker at the Grenfell Cottage Hospital at Battle Harbour. He later took part in survey work in northern Labrador in 1931, 1932 and 1935; in 1933 he prospected for gold south-west of Grand Falls. When circumstances prevented Alexander Forbes from going north in 1932, Hubbard took charge of the survey expedition as surveyor and skipper of the schooner *Zavorah*, which he had purchased from the Grenfell Association. During the Second World War he held a commission in the U.S. Navy and took part in the development of aviation facilities in the Hudson Bay region. He was later transferred to the U.S. Army Air Force and commanded an air rescue group operating in the Canadian Eastern Arctic. At the end of the war Hubbard proposed to the U.S. Weather Bureau the establishment of an arctic weather service on an international basis, and when the United States, Canada and Denmark approved a joint programme in 1946 he became Chief of the Arctic Section of the U.S. Weather Bureau.

Colonel JOHN E. LECKIE died at Port Hope, Ontario, on 7 August 1950, aged seventy-eight. He was educated at the Royal Military College in Kingston and qualified as a mining engineer at King's College, Windsor, Nova Scotia. He first worked under his father's supervision as manager of the Torhook iron mine in Nova Scotia, but in 1897 he went to Rossland in British Columbia to work in the mines there. He served as a volunteer in South Africa during the Boer War and was awarded the Distinguished Service Order. Afterwards he worked for a time in Nova Scotia and Ontario, but in 1910 made his permanent home in Vancouver. Leckie served in France during the First World War, rising to the rank of colonel, and organized and commanded the mixed military force known as the "Malamutes", which served at Murmansk during the Bolshevik Revolution. He later visited Mexico and Venezuela for geological exploration, and in 1928 led a mineral survey party to Hudson Bay in the schooner *Patrick and Michael*. During the survey considerable areas of north-eastern Canada were visited for the first time. Leckie later visited Cocos Island to search for treasure, but he finally returned to British Columbia, and played an important part in the exploitation of the mineral resources of the province.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. D. H. MACALPINE died at Toronto on 26 January 1951, after a long illness, at the age of sixty-five. He was educated at Toronto University and Manitoba Law School, and for some years was active in business ventures of many kinds in Winnipeg and Port Arthur. During the First World War he was Director of Supply and Transport with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. After the war he became interested in mining and raised large sums of money for the exploration and development of arctic and sub-arctic Canada by the Dominion Explorers Company. In 1928 and 1929 over 100 prospectors were sent by the company to examine the country west of Hudson Bay, round the Mackenzie River and on the islands of the arctic archipelago. In the autumn of 1929 MacAlpine himself led a party of seven in two aircraft to inspect copper showings on the north coast of the mainland. The aircraft were stranded at Dease Point on Queen Maud Gulf because of lack of fuel, and the party spent six weeks at a near-by Eskimo settlement. A widespread air search failed to discover them, but when the sea ice froze they were able to cross to the trading post at Cambridge Bay on Victoria Island.

EDWARD AVERY MCILHENNY died on Avery Island in the Gulf of Mexico on 8 August 1949, at the age of seventy-seven. He studied at Lehigh University and in 1894 visited Alaska. In 1897 he led an ornithological expedition to Point Barrow, Alaska. During this expedition he helped to rescue 105 seamen wrecked on Sea Horse Shoal; one of them was Jack Edwards, who received the nick-name "London" from McIlhenny because of his cockney accent. Edwards later made his name as an author under the *nom de plume* of Jack London.

NIKOLAY NIKOLAYEVICH MATUSEVICH died in the U.S.S.R. on 27 May 1950, at the age of seventy-one. Between 1911 and 1930 he studied the hydrography of the White Sea and the Barents Sea, and led a series of expeditions to these waters. In 1923 he was responsible for establishing the radio station at Matochkin Shar, then the most northerly station in the Soviet Arctic. He rose to the rank of engineer vice-admiral in the Soviet Navy. In 1947 Matusevich was elected honorary vice-president of the Leningrad Geographical Society [Vsesoyuznoye Geograficheskoye Obschestvo].

BORIS ANFIROVICH POPOV died at Uppsala, Sweden, on 11 May 1950. He was born near Riga in 1871 and was for many years Professor of Mineralogy and Geology at Riga University. He organized and led summer expeditions to Kol'skiy Poluoströv (Kola Peninsula) in 1901, 1906, 1910 and 1914.

PETR YUL'YEVICH SHMIDT died on 25 November 1949 in Leningrad, at the age of seventy-six. He made a special study of the fish of the north Pacific Ocean in general and of the Okhotsk Sea in particular. At the time of his death he was the leading Soviet ichthyologist.

BERNARD WILLIAM TUCKER died on 19 December 1950, aged fifty. In 1922, while an undergraduate at Oxford, he accompanied F. C. R. Jourdain and W. M. Congreve on a summer ornithological expedition to Spitsbergen to photograph the nesting of the Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*). Tucker later became one of the foremost authorities on vertebrate comparative anatomy and the central figure of British ornithology.

FRANK S. WRIGHT was born at St Albans, England, in 1878 and died in Edmonton on 16 November 1950. He went to Canada in 1899 and joined the Royal North West Mounted Police. He served in the Yukon for five years, and after 1902 travelled widely in British Columbia. He went to Edmonton in 1921 and for a time edited the *Good Roads Magazine*. He later became for seventeen years editor and publisher of the *Nor' West Miner*, dealing with mining development in the north. In 1938 he went to Yellowknife *via* Waterways by canoe, and in the following year made the trip from Peace River to Yellowknife in an 18-ft. canoe. In recent years he devoted much time to oil development.