

OBITUARY

Major **TRYGGVE GRAN**, who died at his home at Grimstad, Norway, on 8 January 1980 aged 90, was the only surviving member of staff of Scott's last expedition. He took part in both the search for the remains of Scott and his companions, and in the search for Roald Amundsen some 16 years later.

Born in Bergen on 20 January 1889, the son of a well-to-do shipyard owner, Gran entered the Norwegian naval cadet college straight from school, but left before completing his training. A chance encounter with Shackleton in 1909 led him to plan an expedition to the Antarctic using his own ship. In 1910 Gran was introduced by Fridtjof Nansen to Captain Scott, then visiting Norway to test equipment for his forthcoming Antarctic expedition. Gran promptly volunteered both his services and his ship. The ship proved too small, but Scott, persuaded by Nansen of the advantages of skis, agreed to take Gran south as ski instructor. As an experienced cross-country skier Gran was well qualified for the post. However, instead of being the sole Norwegian in the assault on the South Pole, as a result of Amundsen's late switch of objective from the North to the South Pole, he found himself in the embarrassing position of a Norwegian 'in the enemy camp'. Despite this conflict of loyalties and a certain youthful brashness, he turned out to be a valuable member of the expedition; he remained staunchly loyal to it and to its leader throughout a long life. It was by an ironic twist of fate that Scott, on the point of leaving Hut Point for the Pole in November 1911 and discovering he had left behind at Cape Evans the Union Jack given him by Queen Alexandra, had perforce to ask Gran, over the field telephone, to bring it to him post haste by ski. Thus, a Norwegian came to carry the British colours on their first stage to the Pole. From November 1911 to February 1912, during the absence of the pole party, Gran accompanied the geological expedition to the western mountains, led by Griffith Taylor. In November 1912 Gran was a member of the search party under Charles Wright which discovered Scott's tent 11 miles from One Ton Depôt. The fearful sight within remained with him for the rest of his life. His final adventure, before leaving Antarctica, was an ascent of Mount Erebus with Raymond Priestley and Frederick Hooper in December 1912, an occasion which nearly ended in disaster when an unexpected eruption caused a shower of huge pumice blocks to fall around him.

On his return to Europe in 1913, Gran took up flying, an activity then only marginally less dangerous than Antarctic exploration. On 30 July 1914 he made the first flight across the North Sea from Cruden Bay, Scotland to Jaeren, Norway in four hours ten minutes. Because of the imminence of World War I this achievement received little recognition at the time. However, the flight remained the longest out of sight of land until Alcock and Brown flew the Atlantic five years later. During World War I Gran joined the Royal Flying Corps, and despite a war wound which left him permanently deaf in one ear, he achieved the rank of lieutenant colonel and commanded RAF units in north Russia during the allied intervention. He was also involved in the attempt to be the first to fly the Atlantic, but crashed soon after take off into the Bay of Fundy, Maine. In 1928 Gran led the search for Amundsen, lost flying while trying to discover the fate of Nobile's North Pole expedition on board the airship *Italia*. He ended his active career as a major in the Norwegian Air Force. His latter years were spent in writing and lecturing on his all-consuming interest—Scott's last expedition. As recently as October 1974 he had visited London and Cambridge, giving virtuoso performances, illustrated by his own lantern slides, before large and enthusiastic audiences. His diary, *Hvor sydlyset flammer* (Copenhagen, Gyldendalske Boghandel, 1915), has recently been translated into English and is expected to be published in due course.

'I envied them' Gran wrote of his dead comrades 'they died having done something great—how hard must death be having done nothing'. He would not have found death hard to face having himself accomplished so much.

Captain **FINN RONNE**, USNR (retired), died at his home in Bethesda, Maryland, on 12 January 1980 aged 80. Born in Horten, Norway in 1899, son of Martin Ronne (who served in Antarctica with Amundsen and Byrd), Ronne trained in mechanical and marine engineering, naval archi-

ture and boiler construction. In 1923 he emigrated to the United States, where he worked as a mechanical engineer for the Westinghouse Electric Corporation. His first Antarctic experience was with Byrd's second expedition (1933–35). In 1946–48 he led a private expedition to Antarctica, wintering at Byrd's old East Base on Stonington Island: his wife, Edith ('Jackie'), was member of the party. Subsequently, he commanded Ellsworth Station, the US International Geophysical Year station in the Weddell Sea (1956–58), and made several later guest visits to Antarctica. Ronne retired from the Navy in 1962, honoured by the US and Norwegian governments for achievements in polar research. His personal qualities are fully revealed in his autobiographical books, *Antarctic conquest*, *Antarctic command*, and *Antarctica, my destiny (a personal history by the last of the great polar explorers)*.

Bernard Stonehouse

Professor **GORDON MANLEY**, a physical geographer who made many notable contributions to meteorology and climatology, died in Cambridge on 29 January 1980 aged 78. Throughout his distinguished career, Manley maintained an intense interest in Arctic and mountain environments, kindled, no doubt, by his early experiences on the Cambridge University expedition to East Greenland in 1926, led by James Wordie. His studies of the climate of the Pennine uplands are unsurpassed, and he made many important contributions to studies of climatic change and its influence in upland Britain. Manley was known particularly for his detailed work on long-term temperature and precipitation records for central England, extending back into the 17th century; many readers will also be familiar with his classic book, *Climate and the British scene*.

Gordon Manley was a northerner, born in Douglas, Isle of Man, and attended Queen Elizabeth's School, Blackburn. His first degree, at Manchester University, was in engineering, but he went on to read Geography at Cambridge under Professor Frank Debenham, later first Director of the Scott Polar Research Institute. After a brief spell at the Meteorological Office in 1925, he taught at Birmingham and Durham universities before returning to Cambridge in 1939. He was President of the Royal Meteorological Society in 1945–46, and two years later was appointed the first Professor of Geography at Bedford College, London. He remained there until 1964 when, at the age of 62, he returned to Lancashire as Professor of Environmental Sciences at the University of Lancaster. Gordon Manley continued to lecture and pursue his research interests until shortly before his death. He will be missed by numerous colleagues and students to whom he was both teacher and friend.

Ray Bradley

Dr **LAWRENCE IRVING**, a leading specialist in Arctic biology and comparative physiology, died on 20 November 1979 aged 84. Born in 1895 in Boston, he studied at Bowdoin and Harvard universities before completing his doctorate at Stanford University in 1934. After a number of scientific Arctic expeditions, Irving was appointed in 1947 first director of the Naval Arctic Research Laboratory, Barrow, and from there in 1949 he moved to the Arctic Health Research Centre, as chief physiologist. He was instrumental in establishing the Institute of Arctic Biology in 1962, and was its first director until 1966. Irving remained active as an advisory director until his recent retirement from the University of Alaska.