

OBITUARY

Captain WILFRED MONTAGU BRUCE, R.N.R., was born on 26 October 1874 and died on 21 September 1953. He was educated at Edinburgh Academy and in H.M.S. *Worcester*, and later joined the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company. Bruce, whose sister Kathleen had married Captain R. F. Scott, R.N. in 1908, served as a lieutenant R.N.R. in the *Terra Nova* on her two southern voyages during the British National Antarctic Expedition of 1910–13. During the First World War he was in charge of minesweepers at Lowestoft, and was promoted to the rank of captain in 1917.

STEPHEN REID CAPPS was born on 15 October 1881 and died on 19 January 1949. He joined the United States Geological Survey in 1906, and spent most of his working life in Alaska. Capps made a special study of the glacial geology of this part of North America and became one of the foremost authorities upon the subject.

EDMUND GILBERT DYMOND died in Edinburgh on 26 January 1953. He was born at Hairwain in south Wales in 1901. As a child he suffered from persistent ill-health, which disrupted his schooling. Nevertheless he read natural sciences at Cambridge with considerable success. He later made a special study of electron collisions in gases, and in 1925 became a fellow of St John's College. Seven years later he went to Edinburgh University as a teaching fellow, and soon became a lecturer there. In 1937 he took part in J. M. Wordie's expedition to Baffin Bay and the Canadian Arctic. Together with H. Carmichael, he obtained records of cosmic ray intensity and concentration up to a height of about 12 miles (19 km.) by means of a balloon-borne apparatus which he had perfected himself. During the Second World War Dymond studied the physics of the upper atmosphere at Kew Observatory, where he developed and perfected the British radiosonde. He returned to Edinburgh in 1946 and became reader in natural philosophy there in 1948.

JOHN GREGERS ROSENSTAND ELBO died on 11 March 1954 at Carlton, near Cambridge, after a long and painful illness. He was born in London on 7 May 1922 and was educated at Mill Hill School. He served with the Royal Air Force throughout the Second World War and was demobilized in 1946. Elbo first came to Cambridge at that time and in December 1946 was appointed part-time Assistant in Scandinavian Studies at the Scott Polar Research Institute, where he began to specialize in the problems of northern Scandinavia, Svalbard and Greenland. In 1947 he became an undergraduate of Trinity Hall and read modern languages, taking his degree in 1950. He then decided to study for a research degree in problems of Eskimo philology, a subject to which his training and highly developed critical sense could be turned to good purpose. Elbo was, unfortunately, never able to complete his thesis, which would undoubtedly have been an important contribution to the subject. The first sign of serious illness became apparent as early as 1948, after he had spent two months in Spitsbergen with a party from the Scottish Spitsbergen Syndicate. Soon afterwards he underwent an operation in Sweden. Subsequently, however, despite apparently successful treatment in Cambridge, his health deteriorated and in September 1953 the last and ultimately fatal illness began.

FRITZ KLUTE was born on 29 November 1885 and died on 7 February 1952. He studied geography at Freiburg im Breisgau and became interested in problems connected with Pleistocene climate. During the following years Klute travelled widely

in Africa, the Balkans, Scandinavia and South America. In 1925 he accompanied H. K. E. Krueger to West Greenland, where he worked on the peninsula of Nugssuaq near Disko. Afterwards he published a study of surface forms entitled "Die Oberflächenformen der Arktis" in *Düsseldorfer geographische Vorträge und Erörterungen*, September 1926 (Teil 3, 1927, p. 91–100). Klute taught for many years at the university of Giessen, and edited an important series of twelve geographical text-books known as the *Handbuch der Geographischen Wissenschaft* (Potsdam, 1930–50).

CHARLIE MCGONAGLE, a well-known Alaskan sourdough, died at Eugene, Oregon, on 3 July 1953 at the age of eighty-three. He won fame in 1910 as one of the four miners—the others were Tom Lloyd, Bill Taylor and Pete Anderson—who were dared in Bill McPhee's saloon in Fairbanks to scale Mount McKinley, after they had thrown doubt upon Frederick A. Cook's claim to have done so in 1906. They accepted the challenge and, according to Lloyd's account published in the *Daily Telegraph* of 6 June 1910, used a dog-sledge to establish a series of depots on the north side of the mountain until within reach of the summit. Their claim to have planted a 14 ft. flagstaff on the northern peak of the mountain in April 1910 was nevertheless treated with scepticism. Three years later, however, Archdeacon Hudson Stuck's party, which made the first ascent of the southern, slightly higher, peak, reported that they had seen the flagstaff at the summit of the northern peak.

Captain K. N. MACKENZIE was born at Oban on 26 November 1897 and died in London on 29 September 1951. In 1929 he was chosen by Captain J. K. Davis to accompany the British Australian New Zealand Antarctic Research Expedition as first officer of the *Discovery*, and he served in this capacity during the southern cruise of 1929–30. In the following year, when the *Discovery* again went south, Mackenzie succeeded Davis as master. During this second cruise the vessel skirted the antarctic continent between King George V Land and Kemp Land (longs. 140° to 60° E.). Many new geographical features were discovered, including the Mackenzie Sea, which was roughly charted from the air. During this important voyage Mackenzie gave proof of his outstanding seamanship on more than one occasion, but particularly when the *Discovery* was in great danger after being struck by a hurricane on the weather edge of a belt of pack ice.

PETR PETROVICH SHIRSHOV, the distinguished marine biologist, died in the U.S.S.R. on 17 February 1953, aged forty-seven. He first went to the Soviet Arctic in 1930 and later accompanied the *Sibiryakov* in 1932 and the *Chelyuskin* in 1933–34. After the *Chelyuskin* sank in the Chukchi Sea in February 1934, Shirshov and the rest of the ship's company spent two months on the pack ice awaiting rescue. He later joined I. D. Papanin's North Polar Drift of 1937–38 and did pioneer work in the study of marine biology from a drifting platform of sea ice.

Soon after his return to the U.S.S.R. Shirshov was appointed director of the Arctic Institute [Arkticheskiy Institut] and at the same time became senior Deputy Head, under Papanin, of the Chief Administration of the Northern Sea Route [Glavsevmorput']. He was elected an active member of the Academy of Sciences [Akademiya Nauk SSSR] in 1939, and founded and directed the Academy's oceanographical laboratory, later known as the Institute of Oceanology [Institut Okeanologii]. He held this post until his death. Shirshov possessed considerable administrative ability and from 1942 to 1948 was Minister of the Merchant Fleet of the U.S.S.R.

RALPH JAMES SUMMERS was born at Brixham in England in 1892 and died at Vancouver, British Columbia, on 2 December 1950. He went to sea at an early age

with the shipping firm of Currie and Company. In 1916 he joined the Bay Steamship Company and, five years later, emigrated to Canada. During the following years he served aboard various Hudson's Bay Company vessels and in 1934 was appointed captain of the *Fort James*. He became master of the *Fort Ross* when she was launched in 1935 and remained with her until 1949, when he was transferred to the command of the *Fort Hearne*. During these years Summers acquired an exceptional skill in the navigation of arctic waters. In August 1951, in fulfilment of his last will and testament, his ashes were taken to Coppermine and scattered over the waters of Coronation Gulf from the deck of the *Fort Hearne*.

ALEKSANDR NIKOLAYEVICH ZAVARITSKIY, who died on 19 July 1952 aged sixty-eight, was the leading Soviet vulcanologist. While much of his geological work was not concerned with the Arctic, he led a geological expedition to the far northern Ural in 1925. He was elected an academician in 1939, and in 1944 founded the Vulcanological Laboratory of the Academy of Sciences [Vulkanologicheskaya Laboratoriya Akademii Nauk SSSR]. In 1946 he visited the Kamchatka Vulcanological Station [Kamchatskaya Vulkanologicheskaya Stantsiya], of which he was in charge, and made an air reconnaissance of the volcanoes of that region.