

OBITUARY

EDWARD G. BIRD died at Hawick, Scotland, in June 1959, aged 44. He made several important contributions to knowledge of Arctic ornithology. In 1933 he visited northern Iceland in search of breeding geese. In 1934 he spent two months on Jan Mayen with his brother, Charles Bird, and R. B. Connell; they were able to make a fairly complete survey of the birds of the island. In 1936–37 they spent a year at Myggbukta in east Greenland, using the Norwegian meteorological station as their headquarters. They made a thorough collection of the local birds. During the winter they travelled by dog team and were subsequently able to contribute many useful ideas on sledge dog management at a time when this was a subject of endless discussion and argument among British explorers. During the war he joined the Royal Marines and was mentioned in Despatches for services in Norway. He also took part in the Normandy landings in June 1944. After the war he farmed in Scotland.

CHARLES FRANCIS LASERON was born in the United States in 1886 and died in Sydney, Australia, on 27 June 1959. He accompanied Sir Douglas Mawson's Australasian Antarctic Expedition, 1911–14, as assistant biologist, and took part in the journey to the Magnetic Pole as well as in several geological surveys along the coast. *South with Mawson*, London, 1947, is his account of the expedition.

Kaptajn PEDER MARCUS PEDERSEN, the Danish Greenland navigator, was born on 30 October 1886 and died on 12 August 1959. He obtained his mate's certificate in 1909. Soon afterwards he met Knud Rasmussen and began his long connexion with Greenland and Arctic waters. He was master of *Kap York* and *Sekongen*, and other expedition ships, and took part in the Fifth Thule Expedition, 1921–24. After Rasmussen's death, in 1933, Pedersen held a post in Grønlands Styrelse as ice pilot for a number of years.

ALAN REECE was born in London in 1921 and killed in an aircraft accident near Resolute, Cornwallis Island, on 28 May 1960. After service as a naval meteorological officer he joined the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey in 1944 and, between then and 1947, served at Deception Island, Hope Bay, and at Admiralty Bay. Mount Reece was named after him. In 1949 he obtained his B.Sc. in Geology and soon after joined the Norwegian–British–Swedish Antarctic Expedition, 1949–52, as geologist; his work on the organization of field equipment was of great service to the expedition.

From 1953 to 1956 he worked with the Geological Survey of Uganda, and was awarded his Ph.D. at Imperial College in 1958. During the summers of 1956 and 1957 he worked as field geologist in east Greenland for Nordisk-Minselskab A/S. In 1959 he joined the prospecting firm of J. C. Sproule and Associates in Canada. At the first International Symposium of Arctic Geology, held at Calgary in 1960, he undertook to compile a general geological map of the Arctic regions on behalf of the symposium. Whilst working at Ellesmere Island, his plane crashed during white-out conditions shortly after helping another plane which had force landed on the sea ice.

Reece was a very hard worker and, although forthright in his opinions, these were so genuine that he soon developed lasting friendships with his companions.

His many friends will recall him as one whose outlook was of the stamp of those who took part in the "heroic age" of Antarctic exploration at the beginning of this century.

G. DE Q. R.

RUDOLF SAND, the Danish barrister, died on 29 March 1960 at the age of 80. As Knud Rasmussen's solicitor, he administered the station at Thule in north-west Greenland from 1924 until it was taken over by the Danish state in 1937. His duties included the sale of the station's products, and the drawing up of a code of laws for the settlement.

HUGH R. THOMPSON died on 6 June 1959 in Toronto at the age of 33. He was born in New Zealand, went to school in Scotland, and joined the staff of McMaster University after having received his Ph.D. at McGill University in 1954. He was a Carnegie scholar at the Arctic Institute of North America, and served as geomorphologist on both the Oxford University Expedition to Nordaustlandet, 1949, and the Canadian Baffin Island Expedition, 1953.

WILLIAM HENRY TRIPP, former Curator of the Old Dartmouth Historical Society and Whaling Museum at New Bedford, U.S.A., died on 29 November 1959. He was born on 16 March 1880. Few men of modern times can have possessed such a detailed knowledge of the New Bedford whaling industry. He worked indefatigably for the restoration and preservation of the last whaling ship, the *Charles W. Morgan*, and acted as master for her final voyage in the 1940's, when she sailed from New Bedford to Mystic, Conn.