

Obituary

Capt EDWIN ANDERSON MACDONALD (USN Ret.), distinguished polar ice navigator, died in Williamsburg, Virginia, on 19 March 1988. Born in California on 23 November 1907 he received a Presidential appointment to the United States Naval Academy, graduating with the Class of 1931. After battleship and destroyer duty he was trained as a naval aviator, but injuries sustained in an aircraft accident confined him to ground duties. During World War II Captain MacDonal saw service in the Philippines, Aleutians and Okinawa campaigns. After the war he specialized in Antarctic operations. He accompanied the United States Operation Windmill between 1947-48 as commanding officer of USS *Burton Island*, and during the International Geophysical Year, 1956-57 served under Admiral Dufek as commander of the task group supporting Operation Deep Freeze II aboard USS *Glacier*. Subsequently he was appointed Deputy Commander of Operation Deepfreeze III in charge of ships under Admiral Tyree.

On retirement from the Navy in 1962 Capt MacDonal accompanied the cruise of USS *Edisto* in Antarctic waters as consultant on a potential site for the future Palmer Station. Between 1968-72 he held the post of Director of Polar Operations for Lindblad Travel, advising on the design of the purpose-built polar tourist ship *Lindblad Explorer*, and serving as her commanding officer during four

seasons.

Meanwhile his book, *Polar operations*, had been published in 1969 by the US Naval Academy. The recognized textbook in the field of cold regions navigation and logistics, a revised edition is shortly to be issued. He was, in addition, a constant contributor of articles for newspapers and scientific and technical publications. Among the many honours awarded to Capt MacDonal the one of which he was most proud was the Gold Medal of the Royal Geographical Society.

H. G. R. King

Sir CHARLES FLEMING FRS, one of New Zealand's leading biologists and geologists, died in Wellington on 11 September 1987, aged 71. He joined the New Zealand Geological Survey in 1940 and remained with it until his retirement in 1977. During World War II he served on the Auckland Islands as a geologist with the Cape Expedition. Later he was instrumental in encouraging the New Zealand Government to establish Scott Base, in the Ross Dependency, and chaired an advisory committee of the NZ Royal Society that ensured continuing research. His own researches included work on molluscs, insects and biogeography, and many studies of Southern Ocean seabirds. He was appointed FRS in 1967 and knighted in 1977.