

Record

ON 31 January, Michael Majendie, suddenly and peacefully, died.

A. M. A. Majendie, M.A., F.R.AC.S., F. INST.NAV., F.R.G.S., was born on 2 June 1920. He served in the Royal Air Force during World War II, and then joined B.O.A.C. In 1951, he became Flight Captain of the Comet Fleet, and commanded the world's first jet service, being awarded the Queen's Commendation in 1953. In 1954, he received the Gold Medal of the Institute for his pioneer work in jet aircraft navigation, which included constant incidence climb and simplifications to flight planning. He was President of the Institute from 1955 to 1957, and Chairman of the Technical Committee from 1957 to 1959. He was Master of the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators from 1962 to 1964, and Chairman of the Civil Air Transport Industry Training Board from August 1967. He made eleven contributions to the Institute *Journal*.

The record is impressive but gives no insight into Michael Majendie's true contributions. In the technical field, he was pre-eminently a great philosopher who appreciated that all developments depend on understanding basic principles. His ideas had the translucence of clear water, making it difficult to appreciate the depth that lay below the surface. His views on automation, like his plans for jet operations, are now part of the fabric of navigation. His philosophies spread out from the technical into the administrative field, and during his term as President his efforts did much to put the Institute on a firm financial basis.

Nor do the records give any insight into Michael Majendie as a navigator. He was a brilliant airman who, even when he could not fly regularly, would perform as if he were flying every day. He understood the nature of the basic problems and, if he had a weakness, it was his inability to appreciate that other people could not achieve the standards that came so effortlessly to him.

Finally, the Institute will remember Michael as an individual with a genius for communicating. He had the gift of listening with great intensity and, in his turn, he would put forward his views with power and precision. In his logical brain, there was little room for flippancy. Nevertheless, he was able to communicate not only his ideas, but also the essential warmth and kindness of his nature. He will be sorely missed.

E.W.A.