

OBITUARY

Dr RUSSELL G. FRAZIER, chief medical officer of the United States Antarctic Service Expedition, 1939-41, was born on 5 July 1893 and died on 11 January 1968. His study *Acclimatization and the effects of cold on the human body as observed at Little America III on the United States Antarctic Science Expedition, 1939-41*, was published in the *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society*, Vol 89, No 1, 1945, p 249-55.

He was physician to the Utah Copper Mines at Bingham Canyon from 1919 until his retirement in 1951 and, in addition to his Antarctic exploit, led expeditions to the Yampa River in 1937 and the Salmon River in 1938.

MIKAEL GAM, who played a notable part in the development of Greenland radio and journalism, died in København on 19 September 1967.

Born at Godthåb on 26 November 1894, he trained there as a printer and followed Lars Møller as editor of *Atuagagdliutit* from 1922 to 1952, founding Grønlands Radio in 1942 and directing its activities for ten years, also serving as Greenland correspondent of Denmark's Radio from 1952 to 1964. He was a member of Sydgrønlands landsråd [Provincial Council of South Greenland] in 1922-26 and again in 1932-45 and took a leading part in local and national government affairs.

He published three volumes of *Kalâtdlit okalugtuait okalualâvilo* [Greenland myths and legends] in 1938 and 1939 and did a great deal of translating, including a Greenlandic version of the New Testament. He was on the editorial board of the *Dansk-grønlandsk ordbog* [Danish-Greenlandic dictionary] published in 1960.

CARL M. HANSEN, one of the two surviving members of Roald Amundsen's abortive Arctic basin drift in *Maud*, 1918-21, died in Seattle on 15 January 1968 in his seventy-sixth year. Norwegian-born, he went to sea at fifteen and was skipper of his first ship two years later. After the *Maud* expedition, which he and three others left at Nome two years after setting out from Tromsø and before beginning the real business of the venture, he settled in Seattle and was Master of a number of sealing vessels working in Arctic waters.

Dr ALEXANDER HEPBURN MACKLIN, OBE, MC, who served as surgeon during Shackleton's British Imperial Trans-Antarctic (*Endurance*) Expedition, 1914-16, and the Shackleton-Rowett (*Quest*) Antarctic Expedition, 1921-22, died in Aberdeen on 21 March 1967 in his seventy-seventh year.

He saw service in both World Wars, being awarded the Military Cross while on the Italian front in the First World War. Until his retirement in 1960, he held appointments on the staffs of the Dundee Royal Infirmary and the

Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, in addition to being physician-in-charge of student health and lecturer in social medicine at Aberdeen University.

He wrote the appendix on the medical work of the *Quest* expedition in Frank Wild's *Shackleton's last voyage* (London, 1923), a practical guide to the recognition, prevention and cure of ailments likely to be met with in polar regions—with a section on the care of sledge dogs.

JAMES ARCHIBALD McILROY, who served as surgeon during Shackleton's British Imperial Trans-Antarctic (*Endurance*) Expedition, 1914-16 and the Shackleton-Rowett (*Quest*) Antarctic Expedition, 1921-22, died in Surrey on 30 July 1968.

He was born in Northern Ireland on 3 November 1897 and educated at Camp Hill Grammar School in Birmingham where his parents moved soon after his birth. After an unhappy spell on an office stool he took up medicine, qualifying at Birmingham University in 1904 and then taking up a post as House Surgeon at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham. He later became Medical Officer in the Straits Settlements. After the *Endurance* expedition he saw service in France and was badly wounded at Ypres. However, with seven other "old hands", he joined the *Quest* expedition. He then took permanently to sea as a ship's surgeon, first with the Pacific and Orient Steamship Line and, after retiring on pension as chief surgeon to that company, beginning again with the Clan Line. During the Second World War he was a prisoner for some time after being torpedoed in SS *Oronsay* off West Africa.

With L. D. A. Hussey, he wrote the appendix on the meteorological work of the *Quest* expedition in Frank Wild's *Shackleton's last voyage* (London, 1923).

JOHN RIDDOCH RYMILL was born on 13 March 1905 and died in Adelaide, South Australia, on 7 September 1968 following a motor accident in May from which he never fully recovered consciousness. He was educated at Melbourne then visited Europe where, in Cambridge, he formed a lifelong friendship with Louis Clarke, then curator of the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology of Cambridge University and a great traveller. Dr Clarke arranged for him to join an ethnological expedition to Canada organized by the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology from which he returned eager for further exploratory travel.

He was studying surveying with E. A. Reeves, Map Curator and Instructor in Surveying to the Royal Geographical Society, when Gino Watkins invited him to join his British Arctic Air Route Expedition to Greenland, 1930-31. In May 1931, Rymill navigated the relief party—Watkins, F. Spencer Chapman and himself—for some 130 miles inland to reach the Ice Cap Station, by then only marked by 3 ft of flagpole and a tattered flag flying over the buried tent in which Augustine Courtauld had spent five months alone. Later the same year, he and W. E. Hampton crossed Greenland by dog sledge and kayak to Holsteinsborg.



John Riddoch Rymill

In 1932 he returned to Greenland with Watkins, F. S. Chapman and Quintin Riley—"the tempered core of the first expedition" as Courtauld wrote of them—at the invitation of Vilhjalmur Stefansson to continue the survey and meteorological work of the British Arctic Air Route Expedition, 1930-31, on behalf of Pan-American Airways. Twelve days after the party arrived at Tugtilik (Lake Fjord) Watkins was drowned, and Rymill replaced him as Leader until the return of the expedition at the end of 1933.

Rymill himself, then, encouraged by Sir James Wordie and Professor Frank Debenham, of the Geography Department, planned and led the British Graham Land Expedition, 1934-37, sailing to bases he set up in the Argentine Islands and Debenham Islands in the 250 ton top'sle schooner *Penola*. A full scientific programme was carried out and a number of considerable sledge journeys made during which George VI Sound was discovered and traced as far as lat 72°S, and the peninsula crossed from west to east. Rymill's account of the expedition, *Southern Lights*, was published in 1938 and he was awarded the Founders Medal of the Royal Geographical Society, and the Livingstone Centenary Medal of the American Geographical Society of New York; he also held the Polar Medal with Arctic and Antarctic clasps.

In 1938 he married Dr Eleanor Francis, librarian of the Cambridge University Geography Department, by whom he had two sons.

He spent the rest of his life, except for a brief spell in the RANVR during the Second World War, on his station, "Penola", in South Australia.

Rymill was a giant of a man, 6 ft 4 in in height and enormously broad-shouldered. Like Watkins, whose disciple he was, he never gave a direct order that I can remember. He was slow and methodical as befitted his huge build and utterly reliable. He never became fussed or appeared unduly worried, though like every leader he had his troubles and anxieties. That four of his Arctic companions of 1930-31, one of these of 1932-33 also, should be ready to accompany him to the Antarctic for three years is a fair measure of his character.

Quintin Riley

Dr ZDENEK (FRANK) SOUCEK, Medical Officer at the Head Office of the Antarctic Division, Melbourne, died suddenly during relief operations at Macquarie Island on 24 December 1967.

He was born in Brno, Czechoslovakia, on 9 September 1917. His medical studies, commenced at Brno, were interrupted by the German occupation, 1939-45, but he graduated from Karlova Universita, Prague, as Doctor of Medicine in 1947.

He migrated to Australia in 1950 and settled first in Western Australia, then Melbourne, where he joined the Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions (ANARE) as Medical Officer with the 1952 Macquarie Island party. In 1953, he went to New Guinea, where he spent six years, much of the time as District Medical Officer at Kavieng, New Ireland. In 1959, he re-joined ANARE and spent 1960 and 1962 as Medical Officer and second-in-charge at Wilkes station. He remained with the Antarctic Division and participated

in a further nine ANARE relief voyages, five of them as second-in-charge. He was also a member of the joint New Zealand and United States Expedition to the Ross Sea, the Balleny Islands and the Macquarie Ridge in 1965.

His special interest was bacteriology, and he made studies of gastrointestinal fauna and flora of Antarctic birds and animals.

His wide knowledge of Antarctic and expedition matters was of inestimable value to all with whom he was associated, while his incisive thinking, his cheerfulness and his physical strength were attributes which made him loved and admired by all who knew him.

G. W. McKinnon

ERRATA

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Plate facing page 230. This photograph was taken by C. M. Clapperton

Plate facing page 231. This photograph was taken by D. J. Borthwick

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Page 327, line 4 *For* Sockova *read* Sochava

Page 344, line 45 *For* Now *read* Snow

Page 345, line 46 *For* ledotekbnika *read* ledotekhnika

Page 349, line 40 *For* 1967 *read* 1957

Page 360, line 15 *For* L UTZOW *read* LÜTZOW