

OBITUARY

Bishop PIERRE FALLAIZE, one of the pioneers of missionary work among the Eskimo in the Mackenzie District, Northwest Territories, died at Fort Smith on 10 August 1964. He was born at Gonneville-sur-Harflleur, France, on 25 May 1887 and entered the Little Seminary at Lisieux in 1899, remaining there until 1906 when he entered the Oblate Noviciate of Bestin in Belgium. He was ordained in July 1912 and, a year later, assigned to the Vicariate Apostolic of the Mackenzie. He began his apprenticeship with long winter journeys from Lac la Biche to Fort Smith and on to Fort Resolution, remaining at the latter for seven years work amongst the Montagnais. In 1920 he moved on to Fort Franklin, on Great Bear Lake, to work amongst the Eskimo and Indians in the area until 1926. In 1928 and 1929 he established mission stations at Letty Harbour and Coppermine. In 1931 he was nominated Coadjutor to the Vicar Apostolic of the Mackenzie, being consecrated at Fort Resolution on 13 September. After eight years work in the Vicariate he was obliged to resign owing to rapidly failing eyesight and retired to Lisieux in 1939. After twenty years service there he returned to Fort Smith in 1961, remaining there until his death.

ADOLF HOEL, the Norwegian Arctic scholar, was born on 15 May 1879 and died on 19 February 1964, in his 85th year. After graduating in geology he became assistant in the Norges Geologiske Undersøkelse in 1907 and visited Svalbard for the first time the same year as geologist in an expedition led by Gunnar Isachsen. From 1909 onwards he took part in some thirty government-supported Arctic expeditions to Svalbard and parts of east Greenland, under Isachsen for the first two years and subsequently as leader. His own work included glaciology, botany, zoology and geography, with some archaeology and philology, as well as geology, his main interest. In 1928 Norges Svalbard-og Ishavs-Undersøkelser (now Norsk Polarinstitut) was established, a central organization for the exploration of the Arctic, of which he was director until 1945. He was also concerned in Norges Svalbard-og Ishavsråd, the official Norwegian advisory body on Arctic affairs. He was appointed lecturer in geology at Oslo University in 1919 and became professor and pro-rector of the university in 1940. He was actively concerned in the Norwegian acquisition of polar territory, in Svalbard in 1925 and in Dronning Maud Land, in 1938. He was also closely associated with the preparation of the Norwegian case when Norway and Denmark submitted their dispute over the legal status of eastern Greenland to the Permanent Court of International Justice in 1931-33. The judgement in favour of Denmark was a very bitter disappointment for Hoel. His friends noticed at this time a hardening of his attitude against legal procedures for the settlement of territorial disputes. He came to regard the processes of international law as something altogether too slow and unreliable for his purposes. Critics of his later activities should not forget these underlying reasons.

Hoel's imprisonment after the Second World War for collaborating with the occupying German power was a tragic end to a distinguished career although part of the sentence was remitted on the recognition that his acts were dictated by devotion to the interests of the university.

Hoel's output of published works was considerable and for many years he edited *Skrifter om Svalbard og Ishavet*. Before his death he completed the manuscript of an exhaustive history of Svalbard.

B. B. R.

JOHN GEORGE HUNTER, CMG, was born in Sydney, Australia, in 1888 and died there on 27 December 1964. He studied at the University of Sydney, taking a degree in biology shortly before joining Douglas Mawson's Australasian Antarctic Expedition, 1911–14, as chief biologist. He was a member of the southern supporting party of the south magnetic pole party, returning to Australia with the main Base party in 1913. He then accompanied the relief party on *Aurora* in December of that year, carrying out a full programme of marine biology during the voyage.

On his return to Australia in 1914 he completed his medical training at the University of Sydney and the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and spent the remainder of the First World War serving with the 9th Field Ambulance of the Australian Imperial Force in France. Back in Australia, he went into general practice and for thirty years was local secretary of the British Medical Association in Australia. He lectured for many years on Medical Ethics at Sydney University and during the Second World War served with the Australian Army. In 1963, he was instrumental in founding the Australian Medical Association and later was Australian Delegate to the World Medical Association. He was awarded the British Medical Association's gold medal, and made a CMG for his services to Australian medicine.

HENRY ASBJORN LARSEN was born in Fredrikstad, Norway, on 30 September 1899 and died in Vancouver on 29 October 1964. He graduated from the nautical school in Oslo and, after serving in the Norwegian Navy, went to Canada in 1923. After making two voyages to the Arctic as mate and navigator in the *Maid of Orleans* he became a naturalized Canadian in 1928, and joined the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. He was appointed to the newly commissioned *St Roch* and commanded all her voyages until 1949 when he was appointed Officer Commanding northern "G" Division. He retired in 1961 with the rank of Superintendent. During his command *St Roch* made the first west to east voyage through the Northwest Passage from Vancouver to Halifax, between 23 June 1940 and 11 October 1942. Two years later he made the return voyage in twenty six days, between 26 July and 16 October 1944.

JAN VAN MIRLO died in April 1964, aged 85. He was the last survivor of the Belgian Antarctic Expedition, 1897–99, in which he took part as one of the youngest sailors of the *Belgica*.

SIR GEORGE CLARKE SIMPSON, FRS, physicist and meteorologist of Scott's *Terra Nova* expedition, 1910–13, died on 1 January 1965 at the age of eighty-six. He was born in Derby in 1878 and educated at the Diocesan School there and the Victoria University of Manchester. After studies at Göttingen, and carrying out an investigation into the electrical state of the atmosphere in Lapland, he was appointed to a lectureship in meteorology at Manchester University and, in 1906, awarded a DSc. The same year he joined the India Meteorological Department, serving there until 1920 except for the period between 1910 and 1913 when he was with Scott's expedition. In 1920 he was appointed Director of the Meteorological Office, a post he held until his retirement in 1938. During these years he was instrumental in creating a service to meet the rapidly growing needs of civil and military aviation. On the outbreak of the Second World War he returned to service and was superintendent of Kew Observatory between 1939 and 1946. He was also in charge of the observatories at Eskdalemuir, Lerwick and Aberdeen, and of the Meteorological Office, Edinburgh.

Simpson was a familiar figure in international meteorology but, in spite of the continuous burden of administrative commitments, produced scientific results of a very high order. His papers on the earth's radiation balance and on charge generation in thunder clouds were fundamental contributions in these fields. The results of his



SIR GEORGE SIMPSON

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Terra Nova work appeared in *British Antarctic Expedition, 1910–13. Meteorology*, Vols 1–3, 1919, and he published a large number of papers in scientific journals.

Frank Debenham writes;

George Simpson was a very popular member of the company at Cape Evans. We knew him as 'Sunny Jim', and he was, as meteorologist, probably the hardest worked of all the scientists. He was up before any of us in the hut to take the 8 am observations, often dressed for blizzard weather, and his stumping down the whole length of the hut was to many of us the signal that the steward's cry of "Show a leg! Show a leg!" was just due.

When he was not outside measuring the weather he would be busy in his corner of the hut; a holy of holies fitted with ticking clocks and recording drums. On the rare calm days he would be sending up balloons with the help of Birdie Bowers and tracking a fine black silken thread over the ice to find the precious record dropped from several miles above us.

Though normally tied to the base by his work, he did do one sledging trip in which he proved his mettle by a spring journey of 175 miles in 10 days alongside such stalwarts as Scott, Bowers, and seaman Evans. Captain Scott had a great opinion of him, both as a scientist and man, and gave him command of the base when the naval officers were away sledging. He was a keen debater on most subjects and I shall never forget the cheerful way in which he would break off an argument with "I entirely disagree with you, Deb".

CARL JOHAN FREDRIK SKOTTSBERG was born on 1 December 1880 and died on 14 June 1963. As a young graduate he joined the Swedish South Polar Expedition, 1901–04, led by Otto Nordenskjöld, sailing in October 1901 aboard *Antarctic* for the Falkland Islands, the South Shetland Islands, and the Antarctic Peninsula. At this time very little was known about Antarctic botany, and information on marine algae in which Skottsberg specialized was particularly lacking. As he wrote, he "went to work with great expectations", and his second summer's dredging yielded "the largest collection of marine algae ever made in the Antarctic". Most of this material, no sooner secured, went back to the bottom of the sea when the ship was lost in the ice of Erebus and Terror Gulf, and even in 1962 Skottsberg had in his notebooks drawings of unknown species collected and lost sixty years earlier and never subsequently re-taken. This loss of much of his collection did not prevent Skottsberg from adding greatly to the knowledge of Antarctic and sub-Antarctic botany during the expedition. Visits to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Tierra del Fuego allowed the study of their land vegetation and a collection of mesozoic plant fossils by the expedition confirmed theories advanced by Sir Joseph Hooker as early as 1851 and gave that great pioneer much pleasure when Skottsberg discussed his findings with him in 1906.

Skottsberg returned to Sweden to become Doctor of Philosophy and Lecturer in Uppsala in 1907. Throughout his long life academic work in Sweden was to alternate with expeditions and overseas visits. During 1907–09 he led the Swedish Magellanic Expedition to Tierra del Fuego and southern Chile from which resulted the first detailed accounts of the vegetation of the region, and a popular book translated into English as *The Wilds of Patagonia* (London, 1911). During 1916–17 he led the Swedish Pacific Expedition to Juan Fernandez and Isla Pascua (Easter Island), and this again laid the foundation of a major work, *The natural History of Juan Fernandez and Easter Island* (Uppsala, 1956) and a popular book with the romantic title *To Robinson's island and the world's end* (1918).

Returning to Sweden, Skottsberg was granted professorial status at Uppsala in 1919, but soon afterwards moved to Göteborg, where he played a leading part in the foundation of the botanical garden. He remained director of this garden until 1948, receiving the title of Professor in Göteborg in 1931. During this long period he took a leading part in the writing and editing of botanical books and periodicals in Sweden. At the same time his travels led him over much of the globe, successively to North America, Hawaii, Tunisia, Japan, Ceylon, Java, Morocco, New Zealand, Argentina, Australia, and Nouvelle Caledonie, and late in life once more to South America and Juan Fernandez. He continued to publish work on the Antarctic even while concerned with

these many other places, as the bibliography included in the *Polar Record*, Vol 11, No 74, 1963, p 605–08 demonstrates. In 1959 he took part in a symposium on the biology of the southern cold temperate zone organized by the Royal Society of London, of which he was a Foreign Member. In 1962 he contributed a paper and discussion to the First Symposium on Antarctic Biology organized in Paris by SCAR.

Skottsberg's long working life spanned a whole period of development of Antarctic botany, from a fragmentary assembly of pioneer knowledge into an advanced discipline. Himself only the second professional botanist to visit the region, he was able to discuss its problems with Hooker, friend of Darwin and first Antarctic botanist of all. For sixty years his work, always of the highest standard, remained pertinent and up-to-date. Many of his earlier papers like that on the vegetation of the Falkland Islands have yet to be superseded. The record of his achievements is an impressive one, but those who knew and travelled with him will also remember the courtesy and the enthusiasm of the man. His great knowledge was never deployed to refute and silence those who had advanced an ill-chosen statement too readily: even the most flagrant of errors was corrected with diffidence and with gentle modesty. For his Antarctic work alone he will be remembered as a great figure of science, and many other branches of botany are also the poorer without him.

NIKOLAY IVANOVICH YEVGENOV, the Soviet oceanographer, died on 13 May 1964, aged 75. He got his introduction to Arctic work when, as a young naval officer, he specialized in hydrography. In 1910 he visited the Murman coast and Novaya Zemlya, and in 1913–15 was assistant to the leader of the Hydrographic Expedition of the Arctic Ocean when the expedition's ships *Taymyr* and *Vaygach* completed the first east to west traverse of the Northern Sea Route. After World War I he made hydrographic surveys of the mouths of the Olenek and Lena, and also of Bukhta Tiksi, which later became an important port. From 1925 to 1931 he was in charge of the "Kara Expeditions", the annual movement of shipping to and from the Ob' and Yenisey. In this position he did much to develop weather and ice forecasting services, and also wrote the first Pilot (*Lotsiya*) of the Kara Sea. In 1932 Yevgenov organized the shipping route from the Pacific to the rivers at the eastern end of the Northern Sea Route. With the creation of the Chief Administration of the Northern Sea Route (Glavsevmorput') at the end of that year, he was the obvious choice as head of its hydrographic section, and he remained in that post until 1938. During these years he took part in a number of exploratory and scientific voyages in the seas north of the USSR. During World War II he was in charge of the Arkhangel'sk Hydrological and Meteorological Observatory (Arkhangel'skaya Gidrometeorologicheskaya Observatoriya), and after it he occupied teaching and research posts in Leningrad until his retirement in 1962. His publications include many hydrographic works, among them three sea ice glossaries, and papers on physical oceanography, meteorology, marine biology, and seamanship. Still in the press are two volumes of the scientific results of the *Taymyr* and *Vaygach* expedition—a labour of editing on which he spent many years.