

OBITUARY

APSLEY CHERRY-GARRARD was born in 1886 and educated at Winchester and Oxford. His polar interests began when he was introduced to Captain Scott by Dr E. A. Wilson in 1909, with probably a strong recommendation that he would be a very useful member of the expedition that Scott was then organizing. And that is precisely what he became in spite of the fact that he was not a scientist.

Very quiet and unassuming, "Cherry" took part in every major journey and shared every duty, from out on the yard arms furling sail on the ship to the hardest of sledge journeys, and that in spite of the fact that his eyesight was poor and he had to wear glasses for nearly all his activities.

He was, next to Wilson, the most unselfish sledging companion the present writer ever met, always the first to volunteer for the most unpleasant chores. Fate willed it that he should be in all the close shaves that must occur on such an expedition—drifting out to sea on broken up ice, narrowly escaping the hazards of the famous Winter Journey and going two-thirds of the way to the South Pole.

In the winter at the base hut he helped Wilson at taxidermy, and was appointed as editor of the *South Polar Times*, where he began to show the literary ability which later blossomed into what is probably the best polar book ever written, *The Worst Journey in the World* (London, 1922), a classic to all polar historians. He was a close friend of both Wilson and Bowers, with whom he accomplished that worst journey.

It was he who, by a series of mischances, was the only officer available to try to meet the returning Pole Party, the ill luck being that his only companion was a rather frightened Russian dog-boy, and that he himself was not a navigator. The Pole Party, being delayed by accidents, was, as we now know, never within relief distance of those two men, but the fact that he did not risk all and, in fact, disobeyed orders, weighed on his mind to some extent for the rest of his life.

Nevertheless he wrote his narrative of the expedition on his return, and became an unusually good water colour painter in the manner of Dr Wilson himself. F.D.

FRITS JOHANSEN, the naturalist, was born in København in 1882 and died in 1957. After leaving school he took part in several marine biological expeditions to the Faroes, Iceland and east Greenland before going to Ottawa in 1912. He took part in Stefansson's Canadian Arctic Expedition, 1913–16, and collected biological specimens in Alaska and the western Canadian Arctic. He later worked for the Canadian Department of Marine and Fisheries before returning to Denmark.

CHARLES FRANCIS LASERON, who died in Concord, Australia, on 27 June 1959, aged 72, had been assistant biologist on Sir Douglas Mawson's Australian Antarctic Expedition, 1911–14. Educated at the Sydney Technical College, he became collector to the Technological Museum and made many contributions to the knowledge of Australian flora, fauna, geology and conchology. He wrote an account of his experiences in Antarctica, *South with Mawson* (London, 1947), and a number of works on Australian geology.

THOROLF VOGT, the Norwegian geologist, was born in Hedemark on 7 June 1888 and died on 8 December 1958. He led expeditions to Spitsbergen in 1925 and 1928, and to south-east Greenland in 1931. In 1939 he became professor of mineralogy and geology at Norges Tekniske Høgskole.

KEITH WARBURTON, together with four companions, lost his life during a climbing expedition which he was leading to the Batura Mustugh range in the Karakoram mountains in July 1959. He was 31 years of age and a widely experienced mountaineer. He had previously climbed in the Himalayas, in 1957, and had accompanied the South Georgia Survey as medical officer and mountaineer during the seasons 1953–54 and 1955–56.

COLIN BLAIR WILSON met a fatal accident at his home in Cambridge about 19 May 1959 in the midst of active preparations for the summer's field work with the Cambridge Svalbard Expedition, 1959.

Born on 24 June 1928, orphaned while still a child, he came up to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, in 1949 and read for the Natural Sciences Tripos, taking Part II in Geology in 1952. The same year he joined his first Spitsbergen Expedition and was introduced to the Hecla Hoek rocks on which he worked till his death. He returned with the Cambridge Spitsbergen Expedition 1953. In 1955, in company with D. Masson Smith, he made long sledge journeys (often solo) throughout Ny Friesland, based on Billefjorden. In 1956, after beginning work with Masson Smith in Ny Friesland going across by boat from the north, Wilson continued alone, undertaking solo sledge journeys and finally a solo boat journey from Wijdefjorden to Longyearbyen. In 1957 Wilson journeyed alone by sea to north-west Ny Friesland, and having completed his immediate observations by sledge journey there, in 1958 worked alone by boat and sledge in Oscar II Land.

These journeys reveal exceptional stamina and he was no mean athlete. His planning was careful, and although he seemed fearless he calculated the risks against the scientific gain and was not foolhardy. His absorbing interest in the Hecla Hoek rocks of Spitsbergen was not linked with any ordinary ambition. It was only latterly that he was persuaded of the value of publishing his results, and happily they are carefully preserved in various stages of preparation, for he was a remarkably keen observer.

Wilson had sufficient private means to be independent of the ordinary routine and conventional opinion. He was generous, lived simply, enjoyed music, read widely, but was first and foremost an investigator and lover of the Arctic scene.