

The dogs of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition 1911–1914

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ABSTRACT. Fifty dogs were ordered from Greenland for use on Douglas Mawson's Australasian Antarctic Expedition (1911–1914). Twenty-one more were later donated to the expedition by Roald Amundsen, when he reached Hobart after his successful attainment of the South Pole. Numerous pups were born during the expedition. This note gives the details of the individual dogs during the expedition, including their names (and why they were so named), descriptions (when known), and fates.

Introduction

The role, fate, and impact of the dogs on the Far Eastern Party of Douglas Mawson's Australasian Antarctic Expedition (AAE) (1911–1914) are well known. However, although that was the only major sledging journey made with dogs from the Main Base at Cape Denison, it was not the only part of the expedition during which the animals were a focal point of its human members. The diaries of many of the expedition's participants show that the dogs were an integral and popular part of the community at both Antarctic bases, sometimes considered more pets than working animals. In fact, from the moment of sailing from London, it is impossible to give an adequate history of the AAE without including observations about its dogs.

The most complete chronicle of the dogs as part of the AAE is given in *Aurora* (Riffenburgh 2011). In contrast, using the published accounts of the expedition, extant diaries and journals of its members, and the reports, correspondence, and papers of the expedition, this note concentrates on the individual dogs, for which its tables give details including names (and from whence those names derived), descriptions (when known), and fates.

The journey to the Antarctic

From the early stages of his planning, Mawson intended to include dogs as part of the AAE (Mawson 1909–1912). He believed they could be bred and trained in the Antarctic to provide an efficient mode of transport in the regions in which he intended to conduct his research (Mawson 1910). When the expedition became a reality, Mawson ordered 50 Greenland dogs, which were brought to Copenhagen in July 1911. Expedition secretary Alfred Reid hoped that Mr C. Bang, an employee of Mawson's publisher, William Heinemann, would collect them, but Heinemann insisted that Bang be accompanied by an expedition representative (Reid 1911a). Therefore, to accompany Bang, Reid hired Ernest Joyce, a former Royal Navy petty officer who had served with Mawson on Ernest Shackleton's British Antarctic Expedition (1907–1909), during which he had done exemplary work in training the expedition's few dogs (Riffenburgh 2004: 216–218).

Joyce's participation proved very helpful, because in Copenhagen he and Bang discovered that the dogs had been sent in one large consignment, which also included those for a German Antarctic expedition under Wilhelm Filchner. The Germans had arrived first and claimed the best animals, but Joyce created such a fuss that a more equitable distribution took place (Reid 1911b). One dog died en route to England, but on 17 July 1911, 49 dogs and three pups arrived at Spratt's Dog Home, a quarantine station in Beddington, Surrey.

After several delays to the scheduled departure, the dogs were loaded onto the expedition ship *Aurora* on the evening of Thursday, 27 July, one dog and one pup having died at Spratt's. Also aboard were two members of the Antarctic shore party – Lieutenant Belgrave Edward Sutton Ninnis of the Royal Fusiliers and Swiss ski expert Xavier Mertz – who had been placed jointly in charge of the dogs. Shortly after midnight on 28 July, *Aurora* sailed, the dogs, according to the ship's master, John King Davis, 'celebrating our departure with such a deafening chorus of barking, yelping, and howling that the pilot had considerable difficulty in making his orders heard' (Davis 1962: 158). The next day, two dogs became the first to receive names: Basilisk and Pavlova (Mertz 1911–1913: 29 July 1911) (see Table 1 for the origins of the dogs' names).

On the evening of 31 July, *Aurora* arrived in Cardiff, where part of the crew was replaced, repairs were carried out, and the ship received some 500 tons of coal. While there, Mertz decided to take Pavlova for a walk. He was stopped before he reached the pier – just in time, as, according to Ninnis, the 'penalty for landing dogs which have not been in quarantine is I believe £500, so the little jaunt, if accomplished, would have cost about as much as the coal' (Ninnis 1908–1912: 4 August 1911).

The next day they set sail with 47 adult dogs, because, according to Ninnis (1908–1912: 4 August 1911): 'we had the misfortune to-day to lose a bitch ... We were particularly unfortunate in losing this one, as we were daily expecting a litter. However, we have our two pups in a sound & healthy state.'

The voyage to South Africa and thence on to Australia took about 14 weeks, and as *Aurora* made her slow way south, the bitches – which had been crowded together

Table 1. Names of the dogs of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition. Although most of the adult dogs on the AAE received names, some did not, because they died too early or were too ‘non-descript’ to suggest names. Numerous pups were born but quickly killed by the adults or died from other causes, so only the pups that lived for an extended period received names. (b) = bitch; (p) = pup born during the expedition; (WB) = dogs that were sent to the Western Base; (A) = dogs that were donated to the expedition by Roald Amundsen. Sources: Blake 1911–1914; Davis 1911, 1919; Dovers 1911–1914; Gray 1911–1914; Harrisson 1911–1913; Hunter 1911–1913; Jones 1911–1914; Kennedy 1911–1912; Laseron 1911–1913; Madigan, C. 1913; Madigan, D.C. 2000; Mawson 1911–1914, 1915, 1942; McLean 1911–1914, 1913; Mertz 1911–1913; Moyes 1911–1913; Ninnis 1908–1912, 1911–1912; Riffenburgh 2011; Sandell 1912–1914; Watson 1911–1912, 1912–1913; Wild 1911–1913, 1912–1913.

Name	Named For
Adèle (b)	Adelie Land, where the Main Base was located.
Alexandra (b)	Queen Alexandra, the Queen Mother (1844–1925). The dog was usually known as ‘Ginger Bitch.’
Amundsen (WB)	Roald Amundsen (1872–1928), Norwegian polar explorer who was in the Antarctic at the same time as the AAE. Known as ‘Chucklehead’ – not a complimentary nickname – by Charles Harrisson.
Amundsen (A)	Roald Amundsen (1872–1928), Norwegian polar explorer who was in the Antarctic at the same time as the AAE and contributed 21 dogs for the expedition’s second year.
Basilisk	The mythical king of the serpents, described variously, but often with the head and forebody of a cockerel and the tail of a snake. It had the power to cause death with a single glance, and the naming was perhaps in honour of the fact that this dog was – from the start – unmatched in the swiftness and power of his attack. Sometimes shortened to ‘Basle’ in honour of Mertz’s home. He was one of the first two expedition dogs to be named (on 29 July 1911).
Betli (b)	Named by Mertz; reason unknown.
Blizzard (b, p)	The principle weather conditions at Cape Denison.
Caruso	Italian tenor Enrico Caruso (1873–1921), because, after the departure from Cape Town, he ‘never ceased howling day or night.’
Castor	Twin brother of Pollux in Greek mythology; among other legends, they were regarded as the patron deities of sailors.
Charcot	Jean-Baptiste Charcot (1867–1936), French Antarctic explorer, from whom Mawson had attempted to purchase the ship <i>Pourquoi Pas?</i>
Cocquotte (b)	Ninnis recorded the name this way, but Mertz as Cocotte; reason for the name is unclear.
Colonel (A)	The dog of the same name, which was Oscar Wisting’s lead dog on the South Pole journey.
Crippen (WB)	Dr Hawley Crippen (1862–1910), who was hanged for murder the month after Ninnis was seconded to what was at the time Ernest Shackleton’s expedition.
Cyclops	Having only one eye; soon renamed Nelson.
D’Urville (p)	Jules Sébastien César Dumont d’Urville (1790–1842), French Antarctic explorer whose expedition charted land in the region of Commonwealth Bay.
Fix (A)	Named by Amundsen’s party; reason unknown.
Fram (A)	The great polar ship commissioned by Fridtjof Nansen and used by him on his Arctic drift, then used by Otto Sverdrup in his exploration of the Canadian archipelago, and finally by Amundsen on his South Pole expedition. Translated to English, <i>Fram</i> means ‘Forward.’
Franklin	Sir John Franklin (1786–1847), famed British explorer of the Arctic.
Fusilier	Ninnis’ regiment, the Royal Fusiliers.
Gadget (b)	A popular new term that the members of the AAE loved to use. Prior to being renamed thusly, she was called Peggy, after the first bitch with that name, which had died.
George	King George V (1865–1936), King at the time of the AAE.
George (A)	King George V (1865–1936), King at the time of the AAE.
Ginger (b)	Her colour.
Grandmother	A ‘grandmotherly appearance.’ Despite the name, he was a male.
Haldane	Richard Burdon Haldane (1856–1928), Secretary of State for War when Ninnis was in the Royal Fusiliers, and whom Ninnis blamed for him not being allowed by the Army to pursue his dream of being a member of Scott’s <i>Terra Nova</i> Expedition. The dog was so named, according to Ninnis, because he was ‘the cur of the pack.’
Hilda (b)	Hilda Bewicke, a British ballerina and the ‘companion’ of Anna Pavlova, who later performed in Sergei Diaghilev’s Russian ballet company. At one point, Ninnis called the bitch ‘Bedells,’ for Phyllis Bedells (1893–1985), British ballet dancer whom Ninnis met and who reputedly claimed she was in love with Shackleton, but he then settled on Hilda.
Hooker (p)	Joseph Dalton Hooker (1817–1911), member of the scientific staff on James Clark Ross’ Antarctic expedition (1839–43); later director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew.
Hoyle (p)	Nickname given to Frank Hurley (1885–1962), as a take-off on Sir Edmund Hoyle’s classic book on rules relating to games of chance, and brought about by Hurley and John Hunter inventing a game similar to roulette. Hoyle was the sole surviving pup from Mary, the only bitch among the 10 dogs contributed by Amundsen that were not put down.
Jack	Anna Pavlova’s famed and beloved pet swan of the same name.

Table 1. Continued.

Name	Named For
Jack (A)	'His homely appearance,' which seemed to warrant what was considered a dull name.
Jack Johnson	Jack Johnson (1878–1946), then the reigning heavyweight boxing champion; the dog was so named because he was 'a pugilist as his name implies.'
Jack's Brother	Looked and behaved just like the first Jack, in whose company he could always be found.
Jappy (b)	Originally Jap, the common abbreviation for J.A. Prestwich Industries, a Tottenham engineering company that produced the engine for A.V. Roe's triplane – considered the first all-British aircraft – for which Ninnis had an interest because at one time he thought that he might be the pilot for the expedition aeroplane.
Jeffries	James J. Jeffries (1875–1953), former heavyweight boxing champion who fought Jack Johnson in 1910 in what was known as the 'Fight of the Century.'
John Bull	The patriotic journal <i>John Bull</i> , established by Horatio Bottomley, because the dog snapped and snarled at all of his fellows, just as the journal did.
Jumbo	His size; he was originally considered the 'king dog.'
King Lear	Shakespearean character from play of the same name. Ninnis occasionally referred to the King Lear trio or the King Lear-type, as two of the other dogs that never received separate names were similar looking.
Lady Hamilton (b)	Emma, Lady Hamilton (1765–1815), mistress of Lord Nelson.
Lassenen (A)	The dog of the same name – Amundsen's favourite – which reached the South Pole but died on the return journey.
Mary (b)	Queen Mary (1867–1953), the Queen Consort of George V and Queen at the time of the AAE.
Mary (b, A)	Queen Mary (1867–1953), the Queen Consort of George V and Queen at the time of the AAE.
Mikkel (A)	Ejnar Mikkelsen (1880–1971), Danish explorer of the Arctic.
Mordkin	Michael Mordkin (1880–1944), Russian dancer and dancing partner of Anna Pavlova.
Mrs Bruce (b)	William Speirs Bruce (1867–1921), Antarctic explorer whom Mawson consulted prior to the AAE. The dog was originally named Bruce, but then it was discovered she was a female.
Nansen (WB)	Fridtjof Nansen (1861–1930), Norwegian explorer of the Arctic who was the guru for subsequent polar exploration.
Nelson	Admiral Horatio Nelson (1758–1805); named because, like Nelson, he had only one eye.
Nigger	His black colouring; originally named 'Pavlova,' he was renamed when a bitch was given that name.
Pavlova (b)	Anna Pavlova (1881–1931), famed Russian dancer who befriended Ninnis and was greatly interested in the AAE. She was the first of the expedition bitches to be named (29 July 1911).
Peary (A)	Named by Amundsen's party for Robert E. Peary (1856–1920), American explorer of the Arctic, who falsely claimed to have attained the North Pole in 1909.
Peggy (b)	Unknown.
Pollux	Twin brother of Castor in Greek mythology; among other legends, they were regarded as the patron deities of sailors.
Ross	Sir James Clark Ross (1800–62), British explorer of the Antarctic, whose expedition investigated the region explored by the AAE.
Ross (p)	Sir James Clark Ross (1800–62), British explorer of the Antarctic, whose expedition investigated the region explored by the AAE.
Sandow (WB)	Eugen Sandow (1867–1925), known as 'the world's strongest man'; he contributed 1000 guineas to the AAE.
Scott	Robert Falcon Scott (1868–1912), Antarctic explorer whose <i>Terra Nova</i> Expedition Ninnis had hoped to join.
Shackleton	Sir Ernest Shackleton (1874–1922), Antarctic explorer who first gave Ninnis a place on the expedition.
Sweep (WB)	The popular expedition practice of having 'sweeps' – betting by the purchase of pre-marked tickets – on the timing, speed, or volume of different events or natural forces.
Switzerland (WB)	Mertz's home country.
Teddy Bear (p)	The puppy's likeness to a teddy bear.
The Devil (b)	'Her savage intractable disposition.'
Tich (b, WB)	Originally Little Tich, for Harry Relph (1867–1928), an English music-hall comedian.
Tiger (b, WB)	Black and white striping that brought to mind a tiger.
Togo (p)	Marshal-Admiral of the Japanese Navy Togo Heihachiro (1848–1934), known as the 'Nelson of the East.' An honorary GCVO, he was one of Japan's representatives at the Coronation of King George V, for which Ninnis was actively involved with the St John Ambulance Brigade.
Wilkes (p)	Charles Wilkes (1798–1877), commander of the United States Exploring Expedition (1838–42), which sailed in the region explored by the AAE. More frequently, known as 'Monkey,' on account of 'his peculiar capers and funny expression.'
Zip (WP)	Nickname of Lieutenant H.E. Meade, one of Ninnis' closest friends.

with the dogs since they had been collected in Greenland – had numerous litters, some three dozen pups being born in one week about a fortnight after the departure from Cardiff, 13 on 16 August alone. However, most of the pups soon died, at least 19 of them on 18 August, from the terrible heat, being washed overboard, or being eaten by the adults. By 23 August there were only five pups left (see Table 2 for the dates and causes of death for the dogs).

A hut was built to protect the dogs, but by mid-September, many had become very weak, and during the stay at Cape Town (23–27 September), the two most successful mothers – Peggy and Hilda – suffered from ‘fits’ and were diagnosed by a local veterinarian as having ‘distemper, accompanied by chorea, and have but an infinitesimal chance of recovery’ (Ninnis 1908–1912: 27 September 1911). The day that the party sailed from Cape Town, Peggy died during a severe fit; Hilda died the following morning.

The fits began to occur with devastating regularity, with Ninnis dividing them into two kinds. ‘Only the day before yesterday, one of these dogs was eating quite peacefully,’ he wrote. ‘Suddenly he collapsed, kicked about and foamed at the mouth. This lasted for about a minute and a half. Then he ceased to struggle, got up, shook himself, and continued his feed. The distemper fits are different, for they seem only more violent spasms of the incessant twitching that goes on unceasingly’ (Ninnis 1908–1912: 16 October 1911). In the following weeks many of the dogs also suffered severely from swollen pads on their feet, and five more dogs either died or were shot during violent fits.

It has since been hypothesised that the dogs suffered from piblokto, a little-understood hysterical disease that affects the seemingly unrelated trio of Greenland dogs, Arctic foxes, and Inuit women (Landy 1985; Feeney 1997: 237–239). However, at the time, a wide variety of diagnoses were handed down by vets and stock inspectors (for example, Shillingford 1911). Unfortunately, the fits continued in some of the dogs during the time they were held at the Nubeena Quarantine Station outside Hobart, which they reached on 4 November. By the time *Aurora* sailed south on 2 December, there were only 36 dogs and two pups left. One dog was left at the sub-Antarctic base at Macquarie Island due to its extreme aggressiveness (Fig. 1). Then, before reaching Cape Denison, where Mawson’s Main Base would be located, another seven dogs died after suffering fits.

The first year in the Antarctic

Shortly before reaching Commonwealth Bay, Mawson made the decision to reduce his three Antarctic shore parties to two, with 18 men staying at the Main Base – which would eventually be located at Cape Denison – and the other eight, under the command of Frank Wild, to continue to an undetermined location farther west. After some re-organisation, 19 dogs were kept at Cape Denison

under the charge of Ninnis and Mertz, and the other nine were sent on with Wild’s party.

Daily life at Main Base agreed with the dogs more than being at sea, and most flourished despite living through an Antarctic winter. The unquestioned leaders among the dogs were Basilisk and his mate Alexandra, the latter usually known as Ginger Bitch. Four pups born in the Antarctic were successfully raised, including the oldest, largest, and most popular – Blizzard.

In preparation for what became known as the Far Eastern Party, Ninnis and Mertz trained the dogs to pull sledges. On 10 November 1912, Mawson, Ninnis, and Mertz headed east with two sledge teams consisting of the remaining 16 of the original dogs plus Blizzard. In the following weeks, four of those dogs wore out and were shot, and one more disappeared, leaving two six-dog teams. On 14 December, on the Antarctic Plateau about 310 miles from Main Base, Ninnis and the sledge drawn by the six best dogs broke through the covering of a crevasse that Mertz, skiing ahead as the trailbreaker, and Mawson with the first sledge had already passed over. Ninnis and the dogs were killed and the supplies that had been carried on the second sledge – including most of the food, the tent, and many valuable parts of the kit – were lost.

Mawson and Mertz turned back toward Cape Denison, racing for their lives, as they had left no depots on the way out and they were extremely short of supplies. As each dog flagged, it was killed for food. Both men eventually suffered from hypervitaminosis A, a medical disorder caused by excessive intake of vitamin A, which is held in the livers of Greenland dogs in amounts toxic to humans (Cleland and Southcott 1969; Southcott and others 1971; Shearman 1978; Riffenburgh 2011: 276–278). On 7 January 1913, Mertz died, leaving Mawson to return to Cape Denison alone, not only deathly ill, but weak from lack of food and exposure, and struggling to overcome the extremely difficult terrain. Nevertheless, he reached Main Base on 8 February. There, he was forced to winter again when the small party that had waited behind for him could not be picked up by *Aurora* due to the high winds.

The reason that Davis could not hold *Aurora* at Cape Denison for better weather was that he urgently needed to collect Wild’s Western Party from the Shackleton Ice Shelf, far to the west, where they had been left the year before. The eight men built a base, known as The Grottoes, directly on the ice shelf and made major journeys east and west. Geologist Andy Watson was officially in charge of the dogs, but Alexander Kennedy also helped train them.

These dogs did not play as major a role as those at the Main Base, because two of the nine died early on, and the two bitches were shot in order to preserve the limited food for the stronger males. Two more disappeared, never to be found, one in early winter, and the other, Sandow, the ‘king dog,’ in the late winter. Thus, when the major sledging programme to the eastern part of the Shackleton

Table 2. The dogs of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition. This list includes all dogs for which a death date (or approximate one) is known during the expedition, as well as those that lived beyond the end of the expedition. It does not include all of the pups, particularly those that were born early in the expedition and died soon thereafter. (b) = bitch; (p) = pup born during the expedition; (A) = dogs that were donated to the expedition by Roald Amundsen. Sources: Blake 1911–1914; Davis 1911, 1919; Dovers 1911–1914; Gray 1911–1914; Harrisson 1911–1913; Hunter 1911–1913; Jones 1911–1914; Kennedy 1911–1912; Laseron 1911–1913; Madigan, C. 1913; Madigan, D.C. 2000; Mawson 1911–1914, 1915, 1942; McLean 1911–1914, 1913; Mertz 1911–1913; Moyes 1911–1913; Ninnis 1908–1912, 1911–1912; Riffenburgh 2011; Sandell 1912–1914; Watson 1911–1912, 1912–1913; Wild 1911–1913, 1912–1913.

Name	Date of death	Notes
Unnamed dog	12–16 July 1911	Died while being transported from Copenhagen to England.
Unnamed dog	17–26 July 1911	Died in quarantine at Spratt's Dog Home, Beddington, Surrey.
Unnamed pup	17–26 July 1911	Died in quarantine at Spratt's Dog Home, Beddington, Surrey.
Unnamed pregnant bitch	3/4 August 1911	Died at Cardiff; described as beautiful by Mertz.
Unnamed pup	7 August 1911	Died when bitten by male dog.
Unnamed pup	10 August 1911	Died when bitten by mother, which gave birth to eight pups that day.
Nineteen unnamed pups	18 August 1911	Died, according to Mertz, due to the intolerable heat.
Two unnamed pups	18 August 1911	Disappeared: most likely eaten by mother.
Unnamed pup	26 August 1911	Peggy's pup. Killed by Mordkin.
Three unnamed pups	12 September 1911	Drowned after being born in a storm.
Peggy (b)	27 September 1911	Died during a severe fit, shortly after leaving Cape Town.
Hilda (b)	28 September 1911	Died after fits, not long after leaving Cape Town.
Teddy Bear (p)	9 October 1911	Hilda's oldest pup, described as 'the most popular dog on board,' who waddled about on bandy little legs. Died after fits and bit Second Engineer Harry Corner in his death agony.
Unnamed male pup	12 October 1911	Another of Hilda's pups.
Jack's Brother	15 October 1911	Killed when a powerful wave threw him into a wall aboard ship.
Togo (p)	15 October 1911	Peggy's pup. Died after fit.
Unnamed male pup	16 October 1911	Killed by a male dog.
Mordkin	17 October 1911	Shot by Ninnis on Davis' orders because so ill. He was, according to Ninnis, 'a big quite wolfish coloured dog, who seldom barks, fights quite nicely although generally peaceful' and was as 'ugly as sin and slow as a tortoise.'
Unnamed 'non-descript dog'	17 October 1911	Shot by Ninnis after biting fit.
Nelson	26 October 1911	Died suddenly and for no apparent reason.
Unnamed 'non-descript dog'	27 October 1911	Died after a quick succession of violent fits.
Unnamed 'non-descript dog'	6 November 1911	Died after fits at Nubeena Quarantine Station.
Unnamed piebald dog	6 November 1911	Killed by Ninnis with a stick in midst of a violent fit at Nubeena Quarantine Station.
Hooker (p)	9 November 1911	One of the expedition's early pups. Died at Nubeena Quarantine Station.
Nigger	11 November 1911	Black colouring; originally named Pavlova, before a bitch was given that name. Died during the night at Nubeena Quarantine Station.
Jumbo	19 November 1911	Black colouring; original 'king dog.' Died during the night at Nubeena Quarantine Station.
Jack	29 December 1911	Black colouring. Died after fits while ship was in the pack ice off the Antarctic coast; Jones and McLean assigned cause to gastritis and appendicitis.
Ross	5 January 1912	Died after fits while ship off Mertz Glacier Tongue; Jones and McLean assigned cause of death to gastro-enteritis.
King Lear	5 January 1912	Died after fits while ship off Mertz Glacier Tongue; Jones and McLean assigned cause of death to gastro-enteritis.
Jeffries	5 January 1912	Died after fits while ship off Mertz Glacier Tongue; Jones and McLean assigned cause of death to gastro-enteritis.
Pollux	5 January 1912	Died after fits while ship off Mertz Glacier Tongue; Jones and McLean assigned cause of death to gastro-enteritis.
Lady Hamilton (b)	5 January 1912	Died after fits while ship off Mertz Glacier Tongue; Jones and McLean assigned cause of death to appendicitis and gastritis.

Table 2. Continued.

Name	Date of death	Notes
Charcot	7 January 1912	Inclined to be 'snarly & shrinking' (Kennedy 1911–12: 6 January 1912). Died after fits while ship off Antarctic coast.
Unnamed pup	11 January 1912	Mrs Bruce's pup; ginger colouring; died at age three days when drowned after being washed off the deck by sailors washing down the ship.
Mrs Bruce (b)	12–17 January 1912	Ginger colouring; originally named Bruce. Died while unloading of ship at Cape Denison taking place.
Two unnamed pups	24 February 1912	Mary's pups (litter of two). Died day of their birth.
Unnamed pup	7 March 1912	Gadget's pup (litter of two); black with white feet. Died day after birth.
Three unnamed pups	12 March 1912	Pavlova's pups (litter of seven). Died the day or night of their birth.
Unnamed pup	13 March 1912	Pavlova's pup. Died day after birth.
Two unnamed pups	14 March 1912	Pavlova's pups. Died two days after their birth.
Unnamed pup	22 March 1912	Pavlova's last pup. Disappeared: suspected that Pavlova ate it.
Caruso	29 March 1912	Dark brown, lank and lean, with a sharp, foxy face. Mangy and disreputable in appearance, and only brisk and lively in company of Fusilier, his particular friend. Had a 'gaping wound' around his neck for which he was operated on 7 March 1912 by McLean and Whetter. Health declined thereafter.
Two unnamed pups	29 April 1912	Ginger's pups (litter of eight). Died on day of birth.
Two unnamed pups	4 May 1912	Ginger's pups, which had been given to Gadget to rear, so that Ginger would have only four. The experiment was unsuccessful and the two were 'destroyed.'
Unnamed pup	5 May 1912	Betli's pup (litter of one). Died on day of birth.
Adèle (b, p)	19 May 1912	Ginger's last remaining bitch pup; black colouring. Died from causes unknown after appearing well previously.
Grandmother	21 August 1912	Dark brown with short coat; very strong and an excellent puller. Boisterous, affectionate, and very popular with the men. Despite his name, a male. Particular friend of John Bull. Died from lack of food after part of the pack failed to return with Mawson, Madigan, and Ninnis from Aladdin's Cave and could not be rescued for six days.
Scott	2 September 1912	White with a black face; tame and friendly. Particular friend of Franklin. Disappeared: assumed fallen down a crevasse.
Eight unnamed pups	2/4 October 1912	Mary's pups (litter of eight). All were very small and none lived for more than a few hours.
Unnamed pups	15 November 1912	Pavlova's pups; eaten shortly after their birth while on Far Eastern Journey.
Gadget (b)	17 November 1912	Small, mouse-coloured, and unattractive. Shot because she was about to pup, which had tired her out and made her useless for journey, including having been carried on the sledge. Cut up along with seven pups to feed other dogs.
Jappy (b)	20 November 1912	Considered the 'most useless' of the adult dogs. Very small, shy, constantly shivering and miserable looking. Her size precluded her from being a decent puller, and she was universally disliked because she was prone to howl at nothing at all. Shot to provide food for the other dogs.
Fourteen unnamed pups	20/21 November 1912	Ginger Bitch's pups (litter of 14). All live ones killed for future dog food.
Fusilier	26 November 1912	Dark brown with short coat; very broad chest and remarkably muscular legs; strongest dog after Basilisk; shy, timid, but friendly to the men. Particular friend of Caruso. Shot when wore down on Far Eastern Journey.
Betli (b)	27 November 1912	White body and multi-coloured face with a curiously smiling, whimsical look due to a black spot on the side of her mouth. Medium-sized, but with a skimpy tail; very affectionate. A great favourite of Mertz, who named her. Disappeared on the Far Eastern Journey when the dogs were let loose during the descent to the Ninnis Glacier; when the party reached the bottom, she was gone.

Table 2. Continued.

Name	Date of death	Notes
Blizzard (b, p)	28 November 1912	White with black feet; Gadget's pup – born 6 March 1912 – and only one born at the base that was taken on the Far Eastern Journey. Universally popular with the men, and particularly close to Madigan. Shot after wearing out on the Far Eastern Journey.
Basilisk	14 December 1912	Black coat except for a white chest; big, strong, solemn. 'King dog' at Main Base, and Mertz's 'special dog.' Inseparable from Ginger Bitch. 'In peace he appears slow and sedate, but in war, he is swift and terrible, delivering his bite with lightning speed' (Ninnis 1908–12: 12 March 1912). Died down crevasse with Ninnis.
Shackleton	14 December 1912	Black except for a patch of white on his chest; boisterous, affectionate, and the handsomest dog in the pack. Best puller among the dogs at Main Base. Died down crevasse with Ninnis.
Alexandra (b)	14 December 1912	Ginger coloured, by far the largest of the bitches, and mate of Basilisk, with whom she was inseparable. Usually known as Ginger Bitch. Died down crevasse with Ninnis.
Franklin	14 December 1912	Black except for a patch of white on his chest; gloomy in aspect; lazy and a poor puller. Particular friend of Scott. Died down crevasse with Ninnis.
Castor	14 December 1912	White with light brown eyes and muzzle; big, with a sharp face. Affectionate and friendly. Particular friend of Haldane. Died down crevasse with Ninnis.
John Bull	14 December 1912	Black coat with white chest; middle-sized, strong, and thickset. Friendly towards the men but ill disposed to the other dogs. Particular friend of Grandmother. Died down crevasse with Ninnis.
George	15 December 1912	Small white dog with black face, brown eyes, and a black spot on his rump. Friendly but a plucky fighter, his quickness helping offset his lower weight. Particular friend of Mary. Shot for food at the beginning of Mawson's and Mertz's return journey.
Jack Johnson	16 December 1912	Small white dog that had a propensity to fighting but never won a battle, leaving his face scarred all over and his body without much hair, giving him a woebegone appearance. Shot for food when he wore out on Mawson's and Mertz's return journey.
Mary (b)	17 December 1912	Small white dog with black face and brown eyes; attractive and friendly. Particular friend of George. Shot for food when she wore out on Mawson's and Mertz's return journey.
Haldane	21 December 1912	Wolfish in colour and appearance; a big, strong dog, who though excessively shy and timid at first, became much more friendly. Particular friend of Castor. Shot for food when he wore out on Mawson's and Mertz's return journey.
Pavlova (b)	23 December 1912	Black with a white chest; considered the handsomest of the bitches. Lively, affectionate and playful; one of the most popular of the pack. Killed for food when she wore out on Mawson's and Mertz's return journey.
Ginger (b)	28 December 1912	Ginger colouring; big, lively, greedy, and affectionate. Lived the longest of any of the dogs on Mawson's and Mertz's return journey, but killed when she wore out.
The Devil (b)	February 1913	Black colouring. Left at Macquarie Island on initial journey south due to her biting and other vicious behaviour. She turned wild and was eventually shot.
Western Base Crippen	28 March 1912	Most wolfish of the Western Base pack, with a face constantly wrinkled due to snarling. 'Useless for sledging, impossible as an ornament, and had too healthy an appetite for our very limited supply of biscuits' (Kennedy 1911–12: 29 March 1912). Died after being unwell for several days.
Nansen	14 April 1912	Deep brown and white; outcast among the dogs; fine puller. Found dead after failing for a number of days.

Table 2. Continued.

Name	Date of death	Notes
Tiger (b)	18 April 1912	Black and white, short, and stout. Shot by Moyes to preserve food for the stronger males.
Tich (b)	27 April 1912	All black, small, and pretty, but face marked by Tiger regularly biting her. Worthless for sledging due to lack of size and strength. Shot by Wild to preserve food for the stronger males.
Sweep	19 May 1912	All white, but unclean looking, small, hairy. Considered useless: 'today he had courage enough to growl at his biscuit' (Kennedy 1911–12: 27 April 1912). Disappeared and assumed dead.
Sadow	18 July 1912	Black and white with a slim body but a powerful chest and shoulders. Highly intelligent; original 'king dog' at Western base. Disappeared and assumed dead.
Switzerland	6 December 1912	White with one black spot between the shoulders, well-built, exceedingly pretty. An early favourite because when approached he would 'scamper around giving forth low, loving growls of welcome' (Watson 1911–12: 22 March 1912). Killed by Wild for food for the remaining two dogs during the Eastern Journey.
Amundsen	8 April 1913	Light brown and white, big and hairy, short and unattractive face. 'King dog' after disappearance of Sadow, but stupid and lazy, so ruled by size alone rather than intelligence or strength. Returned to Nubeena Quarantine Station at the end of the expedition, where he died during a heat wave from overeating and 'heat apoplexy.'
Zip	unknown	Black and white, with a chubby face; small, stoutly built, thick-haired. Hard worker who never needed the whip and became a favourite due to his unflagging efforts. Returned to Nubeena Quarantine Station, from where he was sent to Sydney and thence taken to the park at Mount Kosciuszko, where he lived happily, pulling visitors on a sledge.
Cape Denison – second year		
Lassenen (A)	23 April 1913	Shot by Madigan after being severely injured by other dogs.
Mary (b, A)	29 October 1913	Red and white colouring; gentle and friendly. Died during operation by McLean.
Hoyle (p)	1916	Pup of Mary; born 8 April 1913; four siblings all died early. Red and white colouring, like his mother. Given by Madigan to his wife.
Amundsen (A)	1920	Slim, yellow-gray, wolfish-looking; perhaps the prettiest of the second-year dogs. Very friendly and of good temper, inseparable from Jack. Given by Madigan to his sister Mollie.
Colonel (A)	unknown	White, woolly-haired, and biggest of Amundsen dogs.
D'Urville (p)	unknown	Pup of Ginger; born 29 April 1912, so too young for first summer sledging. Ginger coloured, long-haired, and very friendly. Kept by Mawson.
Fix (A)	unknown	White, with characteristics of a Samoyed, except heavier and stronger. One of the two best pullers, along with Peary.
Fram (A)	unknown	Yellow-brown colouring; probably heaviest in the pack. Least friendly of all the dogs and never responded to any petting.
George (A)	unknown	White, below average size. Very friendly, and only dog never to receive a thrashing for fighting or bad behaviour.
Jack (A)	unknown	Homely appearance.
Mikkel (A)	unknown	Mouse coloured; strong and best fighter and second-year dogs, but quiet and unassuming.
Peary (A)	unknown	Black and white, heavy and strong. One of the two best pullers, along with Fix.
Ross (p)	unknown	Pup of Ginger; born 29 April 1912, so too young for first summer sledging. Black with black eyes; only a bit of a tail, as most was lost in an accident early in his life. Cheery and bright but the bottom of the pack and abused by all the others.
Wilkes (p)	unknown	Pup of Ginger; born 29 April 1912, so too young for first summer sledging. Soon became known as 'Monkey,' and his seemingly constantly grinning face made him popular.



Fig. 1. Ninnis with the dogs while they were at Macquarie Island. The dogs' wide variation of colouring is evident from this photo. (Photo courtesy of the Mawson Centre, South Australian Museum, Adelaide, South Australia.)

Ice Shelf was launched, it was primarily a man-hauling effort, aided by the three remaining dogs. One was put down late in the journey, but two returned to base and thence to Australia, the only two of the expedition's original pack to survive the Antarctic. Amundsen, who had been 'king dog' at Western Base after Sandow, died while still in quarantine outside Hobart, but Zip, a favourite of all the men at Western Base, was sent to live out his days at the park at Mount Kosciuszko, hauling tourists on a sledge.

The second year

In late 1912, shortly before *Aurora* returned for the first time to relieve the Antarctic bases, Roald Amundsen, then in Hobart following his triumphant return from the South Pole, donated 21 of his sledge dogs to the AAE, in case a second year should be required. These dogs were left at Cape Denison when *Aurora* sailed to relieve the Western Base. On 15 February 1913, Mawson had Cecil Madigan and Frank Bickerton shoot 11 of the dogs to reduce them to a manageable number, as there was not only no need for so many dogs, but insufficient food.

Amundsen's 10 remaining dogs joined three that were already at Cape Denison. In April 1912, Ginger, one of the original bitches, had produced a litter of eight pups, three of which, D'Urville, Ross, and Wilkes, survived but were too young to be used by the Far Eastern Party. By the time Amundsen's dogs arrived, these three were as large as any of the new adults, and formed their own clique, one of three cohorts that developed in the second year, as there was no recognised leader among the dogs that year (Madigan 1913). In April 1913, Mary, the only bitch at Main Base, had a litter of five. One pup survived, giving the base a total of 14 dogs, although one was killed by the others and Mary died during a medical operation.

The next spring, this second set of dogs participated in its only sledging venture, as Mawson, Madigan, and Alfred Hodgeman tried to find equipment depoted the

previous year when several parties had been forced to make hurried returns to Main Base. The 12 dogs were then put aboard *Aurora* for the return to Australia. Although no one seems to have recorded it, it is likely that one of the dogs died on the return voyage, because only 11 were transferred to the Adelaide Zoological Gardens for quarantine. After their period in quarantine, these were allowed to spend the rest of their days in relative comfort, with a number of them being given to the members of the second year's shore party.

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