

## OBITUARY

**DAVID IRWIN**, an adventurer in the classical tradition, died on 18 June 1970; he was 60 years old. He ran away from home at 15 and worked his way round the world until 1933 when he earned his place in Arctic history by making a dog-sledge journey of spectacular difficulty and danger from Canning River, Alaska, right across the Canadian Arctic to Baker Lake. For a short time he joined Andrew Bahr's reindeer drive from Alaska to the Mackenzie River, at other times he lived and travelled with Eskimos, but for the greater part of the 3 000 km journey he was on his own. He wrote two books about his experiences: *Alone across the top of the world* (London, 1936) and *One man against the North* (London, 1942). During the Second World War he was made responsible for the establishment of a military weather station in Baffin Island and in later years raised huskie dogs with considerable success.

**GORDON MACKIE**, a 23 year old motor mechanic serving with the Tenth South African National Antarctic Expedition, 1969-70, was killed in a crevasse accident in Dronning Maud Land on 3 December 1969. The accident occurred at Slettjellnutane, near Borgmassivet, as he was travelling from "Sanac" station to "Borga".

**Colonel ASHLEY C. MCKINLEY** who, as photographer, accompanied Rear-Admiral Richard Byrd on his pioneer flight to the South Pole in November 1929, died on 11 February 1970 in his 73rd year. McKinley also invented a pneumatic aircraft float and was concerned with the testing and development of cold weather equipment during the Second World War.

**FRANK PLUMLEY**, one of the Royal Navy stokers who served in *Discovery* during Scott's British National Antarctic Expedition, 1901-04, died on 8 February 1971, a few months before his 96th birthday. He was born in Clevedon, Somerset, on 5 May 1875 and, after attending the local school, served his apprenticeship as a blacksmith and wheelwright—skills which were to be recorded with appreciation by Scott when Plumley worked on the expedition's sledges. He was a member of three major sledging parties, including the first main journey in 1902 during which George Vince lost his life, and the so-called Western Journey in 1903, at the beginning of which he cut off the top of his thumb while chopping frozen pemmican—but he continued the journey. After the return of *Discovery*, he served in the Royal Navy until his retirement.

**JAMES SIMSARIAN**, who was the officer responsible for Antarctic affairs in the State Department of the United States from 1963 to 1970, died on 24 July 1970 in his 63rd year. During his 25 years of service in the State Department he helped to form United States policy on the exploration and exploitation of

sea bed resources and was concerned in United States participation in the World Meteorological Organization and the World Weather Watch. Prior to his retirement in April 1970 he was chief of the Division of International Scientific and Technical Affairs.

**LEV ALEXANDROVICH ZENKEVICH**, the Russian marine biologist, died in Moscow in June 1970, aged 81. In the 1920's he took part in many expeditions to the White and Barents seas. From 1930 he was a professor at Moscow University, and was awarded the Stalin prize in 1951 for his work in Soviet Far Eastern seas. Amongst his many publications were such standard works as *Morya SSSR, ikh fauna i flora* [*The seas of the USSR, their fauna and flora*] (Moscow, 2nd edition, 1956), and *Biology of the seas of the USSR* (London, 1963). He was Chairman of the National Oceanographical Committee of the USSR, and Vice-President of the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR).