

station, Dronning Maud Land, to Scott Base, Ross Island, between 29 October 1980 and 11 January 1981. This journey of 4 200 km [2 600 miles] in 75 days is claimed as the longest and fastest overland crossing of Antarctica to date. The expedition now embarks on a series of trade exhibitions in Australasia and North America before attempting a journey from Ellesmere Island to Spitsbergen by way of the North Pole, which is scheduled for February–July 1982.

## OBITUARY

**QUINTIN RILEY**, who at the age of 75 was killed in a motor accident on Christmas Day 1980, was one of a handful of polar explorers to have been awarded the Polar Medal with both Arctic and Antarctic clasps.

He was the youngest son of an eminent Anglo-Catholic layman, Athelstan Riley, and was educated at Lancing and Pembroke College, Cambridge. Towards the end of his time at Cambridge he became interested in polar exploration and Gino Watkins enlisted him as meteorologist of the British Arctic Air Route Expedition, 1931–32. He spent a further year in Greenland in the course of which Watkins was drowned.



*British Graham Land Expedition,  
Quintin Riley.*

1934–37

Riley then went south with the British Graham Land Expedition, 1934–37 under John Rymill's leadership, as meteorologist and commissariat officer (he used to maintain that he joined the expedition because he enjoyed housekeeping) and to have charge of the shore party's boats.

Short, dapper, with a pointed nose and blue eyes, Riley was a thoroughly competent expedition man—a good sailor and experienced in driving dogs—but he will be specially remembered by his colleagues as a character. No expedition with him as a member could ever be dull. Quintin loved an argument and was prepared to be opinionated on almost any subject, fortified by many assumed prejudices and possessed of an inexhaustible fund of stories. On one occasion, on returning to a tent on the sea ice which I was sharing with Quintin, I heard quite a shindy in the tent and asked what all the noise was about, to which Quintin replied: 'I'm having an argument with a Roman Catholic nun and I'm winning!' Riley had a glacier named after him. Someone suggested that it should have been a volcano.

A year after his return from the Antarctic he joined the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (RNVR) and when war broke out was involved in an eventful range of commando-type and intelligence appointments. These included serving in the Norwegian Campaign for which he was mentioned in Despatches, and in Iceland as instructor in the Winter Warfare School. In the summer of 1943 Riley was promoted to Lieutenant Commander and put in charge of intelligence assault units which took him to Sicily, the Salerno Landings, Yugoslavia, Ceylon and finally France and Germany. These units were small independent groups moving with and sometimes ahead of our advancing troops. Their task was to capture any enemy material which could be of value to Intelligence before it was removed or destroyed. This often hazardous work of nosing into abandoned enemy headquarters or installations, and talking his way into things, was right up his street and his units retrieved much valuable material.

Meanwhile in August 1942 Quintin married Dorothy, sister of a close polar friend Andrew Croft. Their daughter was born 18 months later.

After the war Riley maintained his polar interests. He spent six months as adviser to the makers of the film, *Scott of the Antarctic*, and gave demonstrations on polar work at the Festival of Britain. But much of his time and energies were given to the church, local government and schools.

He will be greatly missed by his many polar, naval and Essex friends, who will treasure recollections of his dogmatic and sometimes maddening utterances, his provocative humour and his imperturbable resilience; but beneath and beyond all this they will affectionately remember him for his staunch faith, his great courage and his dedicated loyalty.

Launcelot Fleming

*David James writes:*

I first met Quintin Riley when we were fellow advisors to Ealing Studios for the shooting of *Scott of the Antarctic*. In any film the script can only serve as a rough blue-print and every scene becomes a compromise worked out on the spot by the director, lighting cameramen and actors, never forgetting the advisors. In this trial-and-error process Quintin's accuracy and insistence on the smallest detail stood us in good stead. With this astringent mind and twinkling humour he certainly had some passages of arms on how things were to be done; but his wish usually prevailed, and Quintin gained the affection of all.

When the Loch Ness Investigation Bureau was founded in 1962, to monitor the loch for an unknown species believed to exist there, Quintin was an early volunteer. His log shows that his party was invariably the most meticulous; every passing vessel, floating log or duck was entered up. Ironically his only sighting was when with his wife on a separate occasion. Despite the lack of photographic evidence his story carries conviction. But it was his, and that of others, persistence that produced surface and underwater photographs and sonar tracks which have convinced zoologists that an unknown species does exist in the loch. It is sad that Quintin did not live to see its identification.

Professor **FRITZ MÜLLER**, the well-known Swiss and Canadian glaciologist, died of a heart attack on the Rhone Glacier on 26 July 1980. His vital spirit and enthusiasm will be sorely missed. Born in Sunikon, near Zürich, on 16 April 1926, Fritz Müller was educated locally and taught for

five years before entering the University of Zürich. There he studied geology and geography, developing interest in glacial geomorphology and glaciology compatible with his love of mountains. The summers of 1952–54 were spent with the Danish expeditions in Greenland under the leadership of Dr Lauge Koch. In 1953, together with a Swiss geologist, he made the first crossing of the mountainous interior of Peary Land and the following year began his study of pingos.

In 1955 Fritz went to Canada as a Carnegie Research Scholar with the Arctic Institute of North America and McGill University. His work in the Mackenzie delta and Greenland culminated in a definitive work on open- and closed-system pingos for which he was awarded a doctorate by the University of Zürich. Mountains and glaciers then drew him to the Himalayas as a member of the successful 1956 Swiss Mount Everest Expedition. In 1957 he was appointed a research scientist in the Hydrology Department of the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH), Zürich. By 1959 Fritz was back at McGill to lead the Jacobsen-McGill University Arctic Research Expedition to Axel Heiberg Island. He led or directed these interdisciplinary expeditions for the next 21 years and edited with much care the resulting research reports. He became an associate professor in 1961 and was promoted to full professor in 1971. That year he returned to Switzerland to become chairman of the Geography Department at ETH where he rapidly built up a glaciology programme; he was also appointed honorary professor of glaciology at McGill. Ironically his research effort in the Canadian Arctic increased shortly after this, with the initiation of the North Water Project, a glaciological and climatological investigation of the polynya lying at the head of Baffin Bay. The many reports and papers arising from that work demonstrated once again Fritz's ability to take on and complete so much without sacrificing his standards. He was much sought-after for committees, becoming chairman of an international working group on perennial ice inventories and the National Research Council of Canada's Subcommittee on Glaciers. Then there was the directorship of the Temporary Secretariat for the World Glacier Inventory and the Permanent Service on the Fluctuation of Glaciers. He also served on the Council of the International Glaciological Society and on many other committees.

Fritz Müller was a leader in the truest sense, driving himself and others unstintingly yet never expecting of others what he could not or would not do himself. His commitment to science was absolute and his enquiring mind was open to all around him. Apart from the contributions he made to glaciology and our knowledge of a major part of the Canadian high Arctic (recognized by the government of the Northwest Territories in the renaming of the main central ice cap on Axel Heiberg Island the Müller Ice Cap) his influence has been felt throughout the world and will continue to be felt through those who fell under his tutelage. His concern was not only with the academic and scientific community. He tried to communicate his own love of the Arctic, of glaciers and of the mountains through expedition films and his book, *Hoher Norden/Le grand nord*. Apart from the intellectual stimulation he always provided, there was a tenderness and humanity in him that expressed itself in those rare moments when he was able to relax. His sudden death has deprived us not only of an eminent glaciologist but also for many a vibrant colleague and friend.

Simon Ommanney

The Reverend **NORMAN GURNEY**, member of the 1934–37 British Graham Land Expedition, died in Winster, Derbyshire, on 14 September 1980. He was 68. Born on 2 March 1912, Gurney was educated at Bedford School. In 1933 he came to Trinity Hall, Cambridge, and at the end of his first year as an undergraduate he applied to join *Penola's* ship's party shortly before the expedition left London in September 1934. Despite seasickness almost every day of the outward voyage, Gurney proved to be a doggedly conscientious and cheerful sailor who never missed a watch. On the expedition's return he resumed his theological studies at Cambridge and when war broke out he volunteered for the Navy. He was ordained deacon in 1946 and priest a year later. Except for seven years teaching, he served as a parish priest for the rest of his life. Greatly loved, he proved himself to be a man of humanity and staunch faith.

Norman Gurney was well-liked and respected by his fellow expedition members and will be remembered as a sincere, good-natured and courageous man.

Launcelot Fleming

**EBEN HOPSON**, first mayor of Alaska's North Slope Borough and founder of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, died in Barrow on 28 June 1980 aged 57. Hopson was born in Barrow on 7 November 1922, and after war service he returned there to begin a political career as a member of the Barrow city council. In 1956 he was elected to the Alaska territorial legislature and later to the state senate, where he served until 1965. That year Hopson became the first director of the Arctic Slope Native Association, launching the aboriginal claim to all the traditional land of the Arctic Slope Inupiat. In 1968, after serving as vice-president of the Alaska Federation of Natives, Hopson moved to Anchorage as its executive director, and lobbied the Nixon administration for the settlement of the land claims issue. As special assistant for native affairs to Governor Egan, he used his position to further the development of local government in Alaska—the organization of the North Slope Borough to provide the 4 000 residents of Alaska's eight most northerly villages with county-type home rule.

One of Hopson's many achievements as mayor of the borough was his US\$150 million capital improvements programme, using the tax revenues and bonding authority resulting from oil development in Prudhoe Bay. It provided civic improvements, health services, education and much needed low-rent housing. He was deeply committed to an international policy for conservation and environmental protection which all Arctic nations would follow. To this end the Inuit Circumpolar Conference met for the first time in Barrow in 1977. Hopson also mounted a detailed zoning plan for the American Arctic coast which he felt provided an environmentally sound basis for industrial development. He was active in many other fields, organizing the North Slope Borough Inupiat Language Commission, the Commission on Culture and History, and the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission. Hopson used these and other organizations in defence of his language, land, culture and of subsistence whaling.