

## OBITUARIES

Captain ALBERT BORLASE ARMITAGE, second in command of the Jackson-Harmsworth Expedition to Franz Josef Land in 1894–97, and of the British National Antarctic Expedition, 1901–4, died on 2 November 1943 at the age of seventy-nine. [A fuller notice will appear in the next issue of *The Polar Record*.]

Commander MALCOLM P. HANSON was killed in an airplane crash near Unalaska on 10 August 1942, aged forty-eight. All his life he had taken a deep interest in the development and testing of aviation radio, a subject in which he made considerable contributions. He built the radio equipment used during the Byrd-McMillan Expedition to Greenland in 1925, Sir Hubert Wilkins's Arctic Expeditions in 1926 and 1927, Admiral Byrd's North Pole flight in 1926 and trans-Atlantic flight in 1927. Subsequently he was chief radio engineer of Admiral Byrd's Antarctic Expedition of 1928–30. During this expedition he made measurements of the Kenelly-Heaviside layer, which affects propagation of radio waves by reflection. He was responsible for a world's record in aviation radio established in January 1929, when Admiral Byrd's plane, the *Stars and Stripes*, in flight above the Bay of Whales in the Antarctic, conducted two-way communication with the *New York Times* Radio Station in Times Square. From 1930 until 1937 he was in charge of the radio test laboratory at the Anacosta Naval Air Station; in 1939 he was associated with the Washington Institute of Technology in the study of instrument-landing. At the time of his death he was working on radio communication in Alaska for the bureau of Aeronautics.

Dr ALEŠ HRDLIČKA died in Washington, D.C., on 5 September 1943, aged seventy-four. BORN the son of a cabinet-maker in Humpoletz, Bohemia, he was mainly self-educated in the United States to which his parents emigrated with their young family. He practised medicine for a time, and then, as an interne in the New York Hospital for the Insane, where he was permitted to engage in research, began to interest himself in anthropology. His early publications brought him to the attention of the head of the State Commission on Lunacy, Dr Carlos MacDonald, who was then organising the Pathological Institute of the New York State Hospitals. Dr Hrdlička was invited to join the Institute as an associate in anthropology, but before doing so he visited Europe and spent a year at the medical school and school of anthropology at the Sorbonne in Paris. In 1903 he was appointed Vice-Curator of the Division of Physical Anthropology of the Smithsonian Institution, and in 1910 he became Curator, a post which he held until 1942.

An unusually prolific writer for scientific publications, he founded and edited the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*. His writings were responsible for the establishment of the Division which he headed for so many years. An article stating the need of American anthropologists for an institution where material might be officially deposited, a research laboratory and reference library, led Smithsonian officials to enlist his services in setting up such facilities.

Dr Hrdlička made ten expeditions to the mainland of Alaska, and he also worked on the Aleutian Islands, Kodiak, St Lawrence, and the Diomedes. This whole undertaking in Alaska was a planned and systematic endeavour to clarify the prehistory of North America. His work was largely original, being directed on the one hand towards the search for and study of the living remnants in Alaska of the aboriginal populations, and on the other hand towards the securing of all obtainable skeletal collections, which are essential for the study of the surviving human groups and of those of the past. These tasks led Dr Hrdlička to many remote regions of which he

has left an interesting record in his *Alaska Diary, 1926-1931* (Jacques Cattell Press, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 1943). He was a leading exponent of the theory that no human life existed on the North American continent in palaeolithic times and that the first inhabitants came across Bering Strait from Asia.

B. B. R.

Herra TRYGGVI MAGNÚSSON died at Reykjavik on 1 November 1943, aged forty-seven. He made many visits to the glaciers and ice-caps of central Iceland and did much to assist travellers to reach the more inaccessible parts of his country.

Dr JACKSON M. MILLS died on 18 March 1943 at the age of eighty. He was surgeon of Professor Heilprin's Peary Relief Expedition in the *Kite* in 1892.

Major ALTON N. PARKER died at Miami on 30 November 1942, aged forty-seven. In 1926 he accompanied Rear-Admiral Byrd as a member of the North Pole Expedition, and he was also a member of Byrd's first Antarctic Expedition of 1928-30. During this expedition he acted as pilot for Byrd in the flight which led to the discovery of the Edsel Ford Mountains and the eastern boundary of the Ross Sea. For this exploit he was later awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Major Parker did not, however, fly over either the North or South Pole, although he piloted every flight during the Antarctic Expedition except that to the Pole. He enlisted in the Navy in 1917 and had been an air pilot for 24 years. He had been employed by Transcontinental and Western Airlines since the company began air mail operations in 1930.

Capt. WILLIAM JOHN PETERS, formerly chief magnetic observer at the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism of the Carnegie Institution and Commander of the vessels *Galilee* and *Carnegie*, died at Washington on 10 June 1942 at the age of seventy-nine. He entered the United States Geological Survey in 1884 as assistant topographer and was rapidly promoted. From 1903 to 1905 he was second in command, under Anthony Fiala, of the Ziegler Polar Expedition to Franz Josef Land and was in charge of the scientific work.

HUGH FRANCIS ARTHUR LEYBOURNE-POPHAM died on 24 May 1943 at the age of seventy-nine. He was a brother of F. W. Leybourne-Popham who, with Capt. Joseph Wiggins, did so much to open up the Kara Sea trade route to the River Yenesei. In 1894 he accompanied Capt. Wiggins to the Yenesei in the *Stjernen*, which was wrecked in Yugor Strait during the voyage home. The ship's party returned overland to Archangel, a distance of about 2000 miles, covered in 111 days with 87 sledges drawn first by reindeer and then by horses. He also made three adventurous journeys down the River Yenesei in 1895, 1897 and 1900. These resulted in important ornithological discoveries of which he wrote brief accounts in the *Ibis*; for many years he had been the only living Englishman to have had the opportunity of studying the breeding habits of a large number of Siberian birds. His collections of skins and eggs have now passed into the care of the British Museum (Natural History).

A separate appreciation of Capt. WILLIAM ADAMS and Dr R. W. GRAY appears on pp. 119-22.