

## Obituary

**JOHN MARION HARTOG** died at his home in Cheshire on 3 July 1986, aged 64. A former exhibitor of Westminster School and scholar of Christ Church, Oxford, he was a chemist by profession and a mountaineer by pursuit. During wartime service in the Royal Corps of Signals he reached the rank of Major and was mentioned in despatches. In his final year at Oxford he organized the Oxford University Expedition to Nordaustlandet, 1949. The five-man party, led by Hartog and in the field from 14 July to 7 September, man-hauled extensively, making geomorphological studies, geological and plant collections, and a reconnaissance of the ice cap and its principal outlet Brásvellbreen (*Polar Record* 5(40): 613–14, 1950). The more ambitious Oxford and Cambridge Spitsbergen Expedition of 1951, organized jointly by Hartog as leader and Brian Harland as senior scientist, was in the field from 4 July to 30 August. A five-man Oxford party worked in Nordaustlandet, using boats manned by a party of five Royal Marines; they extended the 1949 geomorphological and geological surveys to cover most of the ice-free area of southern Nordaustlandet, and also made thermal drillings and a coastal survey of Brásvellbreen. A Cambridge party of seven worked in Ny Friesland, sledging and carrying out a programme of detailed geological mapping (*Polar Record* 6(46): 800–03, 1953).

From 1951 Hartog worked as a senior chemist with the National Research and Development Corporation until 1955. From 1957 he was with the Atomic Energy Authority until his retirement in 1982. The break in his career marked his great mountaineering triumph, the conquest of the Muztagh Tower (7,270 m) in the Karakoram Range, once regarded as 'Nature's last stronghold'. He mustered a very strong party for his expedition, with the result that two two-man parties reached the top of this formidable peak. The first (Joe Brown and Ian McNaught-Davis) gained the west summit on 6 July 1956; the second (Hartog and Tom Patey) repeated the ascent the following day, also reaching the slightly higher east summit. Both parties were benighted on the way down. 'Lost toes, so am limping rather, but it was well worth it', John reported laconically on a postcard: typically, there was no word about the agony of the trail out from the mountain on a porter's back. There was nothing showy about John; unless you knew him well, you would not suspect the reserves of strength and stubborn determination that lay behind the mild and rather self-effacing exterior. He was withal a loyal and generous-hearted friend.

Geoffrey Hattersley-Smith

**Prof CHRISTOPHER LLOYD**, the maritime historian, died on 31 March 1986, aged 79. Readers of *Polar Record* may remember him as the author of *Mr Barrow of the Admiralty* (1970), and as co-author with J. L. S. Coulter of the third and fourth volumes of *Medicine and the Navy: 1200–1900* (1961–63), which dealt in some detail with the 19th-century Arctic voyages. Educated at Marlborough and Lincoln College, Oxford, he lectured in history at Bishop's University, Quebec, from 1930 to 1934. From 1934 to 1945 he was on the staff of the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, moving to Greenwich where he retired as Professor of History in 1966. He was an active member of the Navy Records Society and of the Society for Nautical Research, editing the *Mariner's Mirror* from 1971 to 1979. He wore his learning lightly and would remark with wry humour on the many outbreaks of 'foot and note' disease to be found in modern writers. His own works read well, losing nothing of their scholarship thereby. Invited to the re-opening of the Arctic

Gallery at the National Maritime Museum in January this year, Professor Lloyd turned up a day too early. 'Oh dear, I must be getting old,' he said. He will be much missed. As Peter Kemp has written, 'the world of ships and the sea, of the many whose lives were, or still are, devoted to it, will be the poorer now that he is no longer with us'.

Ann Savours

**DOUGLAS P. MASON** died suddenly from a heart attack on 29 October 1986. Born in 1920, 'Dougie' Mason read mathematics at Oxford University and was commissioned for war service in the Royal Engineers, serving with survey units in Iceland, the Middle East and Italy. In 1946 he joined the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey, serving for two years at Base E, Marguerite Bay. As surveyor and dog driver he took part in several major sledging operations, including a 1300 mile journey along the east coast of Antarctic Peninsula, and was awarded the Polar Medal. In 1948 he returned to Oxford to complete a degree in engineering science, working subsequently with the Sudan Survey Department and Shell International. In 1962 he was appointed to a lectureship in the Department of Surveying and Photogrammetry, University College, London, from which he retired in 1985. A keen shot, he was awarded a half-blue by Oxford, represented England in 1950 and was Captain of Berkshire 1969-72; in the Territorial Army he commanded 135 Survey Engineer Regiment 1965-67 with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel.

Kevin Walton writes:

As a field traveller Dougie was very, very competent. His long 1300 mile sledge journey along the east coast of the Peninsula was never really given the credit it deserved. It was a joint effort, shared between the the Ronne expedition and the FIDS base. He was the most experienced traveller of the party, and the only one who completed the whole journey, for his companions were changed by air. Such was his skill, and the quality and training of his dog team, that there were only four occasions when anyone had to walk in front of and lead his dogs. It is amazing how much a person can achieve if they do not mind who gets the credit for it. Dougie was a person who achieved a great deal and never asked to be recognized. I once asked him what he would have liked to have achieved and never did. His reply was immediate and clear: to have won the Queen's Prize at Bisley.

**IDA McMAHON**, former librarian of the Australian Antarctic Division and one of its longest-serving members, died on 17 July 1986. Her service of over 25 years spanned the decades of consolidation and expansion of the ANARE programme; Ida was instrumental in developing the Antarctic Division's library from a collection of a few dozen essential texts to its present status as one of the major polar collections of the southern hemisphere. Her responsibilities included the development of information services to the scientific staff of the Division, disseminating information to other research organizations around Australia and in other countries, and establishing the libraries at four Antarctic stations. The Division's reputation as a reliable source of Antarctic information is attributable directly to her professionalism and energy. She retired in 1976, ten years after the death of her husband Frank, who was also a senior member of the Division's staff.

Andrew Jackson

**Dr L. HARRISON MATTHEWS FRS** died on 27 November 1986, aged 85. Born at Bristol in 1901, he took natural sciences at Cambridge and in 1924 joined the recently-formed *Discovery* expedition to work on whale biology at South Georgia. His many research papers on whales, seals and birds, and his book *South Georgia, the Empire's Sub-Antarctic Outpost*, are a lasting testament to five profitable years' work. Later he held an academic post at Bristol University, and during World War II worked on radio communications and radar. From 1951 to 1966 was Scientific Director of the Zoological Society of London, writing popular books (notably *Wandering albatross* in 1951 and *Sea elephant* in 1952), and stimulating research on British seals and other mammals.

**Capt JOHN VALENTINE WILKINSON DSC GM RN (Ret)**, died on 13 September 1986, aged 72. From 1955 to 1957 he commanded HMS *Protector* during its first commission as guard ship in the Falkland Islands Dependencies. In World War II Wilkinson served mainly in destroyers and was twice decorated. During his Antarctic duties he ran lines of soundings along the north and west coast of Graham Land for the improvement of Admiralty charts. In January 1956 he provided valuable assistance to the Trans-Antarctic Expedition by bringing his helicopters to guide the expedition ship *Theron* to open water, when she was beset in the Weddell Sea. His helicopters were used also to reconnoitre a site for a new Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey station on Danco Coast, Graham Land, and in both seasons his ship assisted with the relief of stations. In November 1956 he arranged the recovery by helicopter of two members of FIDS stranded on Roux Island and their return to the station on Detaille Island, Loubet Coast. His name is fittingly commemorated in the nearby Wilkinson Glacier. In January 1957 *Protector* escorted HMY *Britannia* during HRH Prince Philip's Antarctic tour. In the South Sandwich Islands, which were visited in both seasons, the helicopters were used for air photography, effecting landings on Saunders Island and, for the first time, on Vindication Island and Visokoi Island. Wilkinson had a long-standing interest in ornithology and published two articles on bird life in the South Sandwich Islands.

G. Hattersley-Smith