

OBITUARY

ALFRED LOUIS BACHARACH, British “food chemist”, author and authority on music, died on 17 July 1966. He was born in 1891. He played a notable part in the early steps which were taken in the 1920s to isolate vitamins. His influence on medicine and pharmacy was considerable and will be recorded in the journals relating to his special subjects. This brief note can only describe his contribution to polar exploration during the period when he was associated with Glaxo Laboratories Ltd., 1920–56, and after his retirement. Most of the British polar expeditions organized after 1929 sought his advice on their nutrition problems. He always gave this willingly, with a keen appreciation of the special problems which should be expected. Present-day British sledging rations are still designed largely on the basis of his research. During the period between the two World Wars the main problem was to cut down the weight of rations and at the same time to assure a properly balanced diet which provided enough calories. His mastery of the scientific basis of nutrition enabled him to give sound advice to the organizers of these expeditions. The basic problem with which Bacharach was always faced was “Somehow we must cut down on the weight of food carried”. He gave advice on how this could be achieved with conspicuous success.

He lived to see the period when American traverse parties in the Antarctic could eat fresh frozen beef steaks and salads carried with them or dropped from the air. But the basic principles of nutrition must continue to operate despite any new techniques for the more advanced delivery of food to isolated parties engaged in pioneer exploration. These basic principles cannot be ignored. Bacharach’s latest contribution was his co-editorship, with O. G. Edholm, of *Exploration Medicine** (Bristol, 1965), the record of a Symposium held under the auspices of the Royal Geographical Society and the Medical Directorates of the three Services at the Royal Army Medical College, Millbank, in 1962.

B.B.R.

ROBERT OLIVER DERRICK, of the US Weather Bureau, died on 11 April 1966 at the age of 45. Between 1948 and 1952, when a member of the Arctic Operations Project of the US Weather Bureau, he served at Thule, Eureka and Resolute and later, from 1960 to 1966, was concerned with the US Antarctic Research Program while stationed in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Major RICHARD WILLIAM GEORGE HINGSTON, British author and naturalist, died on 5 August 1966. He was born in 1887 and was educated at University College, Cork, where he qualified in medicine. Hingston served in the Indian Medical Service from 1910 to 1927. He was medical officer and naturalist of the Third Mount Everest Expedition, 1924, and made investigations into the physiological effects of high altitudes on the human body. After retiring from the Indian Medical Service, he organized and took part in expeditions to many parts of the world. He was second-in-command of T. G. Longstaff’s Oxford University Greenland Expedition, 1928, and led the Oxford University British Guiana Expedition, 1929, the first expedition of the Oxford University Exploration Club to break the Arctic habit. This was an idea which arose quite naturally in Greenland, but it was due to the strong advice of the then President—Colonel John Buchan (later Lord Tweedsmuir)—that the Club decided against an uninterrupted succession of northern undertakings. Hingston’s long experience of tropical medicine

* See p 489–90.

led the Club to invite him to lead this expedition. Hingston was the author of *A naturalist in Himalaya* (London, 1920), *A Naturalist in Hindustan* (London, 1923), *Nature at the desert's edge* (London, 1925), and several works on the problems of animal instinct, intelligence, colour and adornment.

G. NOEL HUMPHREYS, the British explorer and surveyor, was born in 1883 and died on 11 March 1966. He was educated at Epsom College and the University of Cambridge, where he gained his BSc in 1910, followed by the Royal Geographical Society's diploma in surveying and cartography. His first exploratory journey was to Mexico, in 1910–12, where he climbed the highest peak of Popocatepetl and collected plants. He then took up flying, joining the Royal Flying Corps in 1913 and serving in France where he was shot down and remained a prisoner until the end of the war. After a time with the Geographical Section of the General Staff at the War Office, he joined the Land and Survey Department of the Uganda Protectorate and, between 1926 and 1932, carried out a comprehensive survey, by air and on foot, of Ruwenzori, climbing all the major peaks. During these years he also qualified as a doctor at Cambridge and St Mary's Hospital, London, and, after leaving Uganda, went into private practice in London.

In 1934–35, however, he returned to travel, leading the Oxford University Ellesmere Land Expedition which wintered at Etah, in north Greenland, and worked in the Lake Hazen area, in western Ellesmere Land and to the north of Bache Peninsula the following summer. In 1936 he was medical officer of Hugh Ruttledge's expedition to Mount Everest.

ANDREW KEITH JACK, a member of the Ross Sea Party of Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition, 1916–17, died in Melbourne on 26 September 1966 at the age of 81. Jack was an Australian physicist and was recruited in Australia as meteorologist to the party; he also took part in the early depot-laying journeys. After the rescue of the party in January 1917 he volunteered for service with the AIF and was seconded to the munitions establishment at Maribyrnong of which he later became head.

OTTO PAVIA JØRGEN ROSING, the Greenland pastor, artist and author, was born in Anngnagssalik on 6 April 1896 and died on 24 December 1965. He was a figure of considerable importance in the development of Greenland culture, and exerted great influence over the younger generation of artists. After training at Godthåb and in Denmark, he spent his working life serving in various churches on the west coast of Greenland, finally retiring to Egedesminde, where his house became a centre of Greenland culture. His published works included school-books, novels, biographies and a history of Egedesminde.

MIKHAIL ALEKSEYEVICH SERGEYEV, the Soviet specialist in northern studies and administration, died on 11 May 1965, aged 77. He was active in many fields, as economist, lawyer, publisher, administrator, and academic. In 1929 he went to Kamchatka as head of the research department of the newly created Kamchatka Company [Kamchat-skoye Aktsionerskoye Obshchestvo, or AKO]. He was one of the senior members of the Institute of the Peoples of the North [Institut Narodov Severa] from its creation at Leningrad in 1930, and was associated with the Institute of Reindeer Husbandry [Institut Olenevodstva], the Institute of Economics of the North [Institut Ekonomiki Severa], and the Institute of Ethnography [Institut Etnografii]. During the war (1941–44) he was Deputy Director of the Institute of Polar Agriculture [Institut Polyarnogo Zemledeliya]. After retirement in 1950, he continued to be a very active writer. His output of some 300 papers includes about 100 on ethnographic subjects and 100 on geographical and historical subjects, all concerned with Siberia and the Soviet Far East.

Many of his works are lengthy and scholarly contributions. His *Nekapitalisticheskiy put' razvitiya malykh narodov severa* [*Non-capitalist path of development of the small peoples of the north*] (1955) may perhaps be singled out as a particularly impressive example. He also edited many works, and was active in bibliographical compilations relating to the north.

DIMITRIY IVANOVICH SHCHERBAKOV, the Soviet geologist and Academician, died on 25 May 1966 aged 73. He achieved his position of eminence by his success in discovering important mineral resources, chiefly in the Caucasus and Central Asia. From 1953 to 1963 he was the Academician-Secretary of the Division of Geological and Geographical Sciences of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR [Otdeleniye geologo-geograficheskikh nauk Akademii Nauk SSSR], and possibly for this reason was Chairman of the successive committees responsible for Soviet scientific work in the Antarctic [Sovet po Antarkticheskim Issledovaniyam, later Sovetskiy Komitet po Izucheniyu Antarktiki]. He held this important position in the Soviet Antarctic effort from its inception in 1955 until his death.

ALEXANDER STEVENS, Emeritus Professor of Geography at Glasgow University, died on 20 December 1965. Born on 11 January 1886, he graduated in Arts at Glasgow University in 1907 and taught in Stornoway for a time before returning to Glasgow to read science; he finally graduated as BSc, with distinction in Geology, in 1913. He worked as an assistant in the Department of Geography there, then joined Shackleton's Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition, 1914–17, as a geologist and chief of the scientific staff of the marooned Ross Sea party. On the return of the expedition in 1917, he saw war service in the Royal Engineers then went back to Glasgow University, remaining there until his retirement in 1953. He was in charge of the Department of Geography throughout this time and became the first Professor of Geography when the chair was founded in 1947. After his retirement he lectured for periods at St Andrew's University and the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. Stevens once visited the Arctic, as geologist with the Scottish Spitsbergen Syndicate's expedition in 1919.

HUMBERTO FUENZALIDA VILLEGAS, who played a notable part in the development of Chilean Antarctic activities, was born on 27 March 1904 and died on 24 February 1965. He lectured on geography and geology at Universidad de Chile, where he was founder and director of the school of geology, and was director of the Museo Nacional de Historia Natural. He took part in several Chilean Antarctic expeditions, was a member of the council of Instituto Antártico Chileno and Chilean representative to the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR).