

Obituary

Prof RALPH N. H. BULMER, one of the world's leading ethnobiologists, died in Auckland, New Zealand, on 18 July 1988, aged 60. He received his first anthropological training in Cambridge, where he graduated BA in 1952. He had undertaken fieldwork among the Saami (Lapps) in the summers of 1950 and 1951 and he also worked as an assistant in the Institute library. After leaving Cambridge he devoted his professional career to the South Pacific, where he pioneered the study of ethnobiology. In 1967 he took up the foundation chair in social anthropology at the University of Papua New Guinea, and in 1974 he moved to Auckland, where he remained until his recent death.

Ian Whitaker

R. B. FREEMAN ('Reg') died at his home near Oxford in early January 1989. After pre-war and World War II service in the Royal Engineers, which took him to North Africa and Italy, Reg joined the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey and in 1946-48 spent two years as a field surveyor at Base E, Stonington Island. Active in sledging, he completed surveys of the Neny Island and Northeast Glacier areas; in 1947 he had a narrow escape when the Auster aircraft in which he was travelling made a forced landing and crashed in southern Marguerite Bay. He was awarded the Polar Medal. Reg returned to survey in east Africa (he was a surveyor in the Kariba dam project) and in Britain.

E. W. K. Walton writes:

I vividly recall an early-morning ride with 24 companions in October 1945 on the back of an RAF lorry, en route to Northolt for a journey to Lisbon, Montevideo, the Falkland Islands and ultimately Antarctica. We were the first post-war group for Operation Tabarin, soon to become the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey. I most vividly remember a cheerful, encouraging laugh, which I tracked down as coming from a certain Lt Reg Freeman, RE. Those of us who were privileged to live with Reg at a base remember this infectious laugh, and his sense of humour coupled with unflinching courtesy.

At Base E, Stonington Island, we were a happy bunch — happier I suspect than many other bases before and since. Having survived the chances of war, we intended to make the best of the strange life we had stumbled into. From the start, Reg stood out as a person who never complained or took the view that something was not his job; he was a real second-miler, who could always be relied on to complete whatever he set his hand to. Nothing ever got him down, and he epitomized the supposed Chinese proverb 'It is amazing how much a person can do if he doesn't mind who gets the credit'. As a field surveyor Reg was typical of the pre-war generation of Royal Ordnance Survey trainees, meticulous, unhurried and completely reliable. To say he was not a leader in no way belittles him;

he did not seek leadership, but achieved it when called to do so — for example, leading a party across the Plateau to meet and guide incoming sledgers from Hope Bay. The January 1989 issue of BAS Newsletter contains the second half of his account of the 'long winter walk' which he, Bernard Stonehouse and 'Tommy' Thomson made after the August 1947 air crash in southern Marguerite Bay. It is abundantly clear how, without formal appointment, his companions accepted the leadership and judgement of 'Grandpa' Reg.

We kept in touch over the years. He worked for a time as a surveyor with the Worcester City Council, and then with Fairey Surveys at home and abroad, finally retiring with his wife Elisabeth to live in the heart of the Cotswolds. It was typical of him that, even when very sick with cancer, he rang me to borrow a prismatic compass as he wanted to teach field survey to local Scouts. My life has been enriched by knowing Reg; I know many others who feel the same about him — and in his modest way he will be laughing at me for saying so.

Dr GEORGE W. MARSH died on 6 June 1988. Born in 1925, George trained in medicine at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, where he became a house physician. Appointed to the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey in October 1951, he served for two years as base leader and medical officer at Base D, Hope Bay. His first task, in February 1952, was to build a new base to replace an earlier one lost by fire. While bringing stores ashore he and his party were fired on by Argentinians, and the base was eventually re-established under the protection of the Royal Navy. Later in an adventurous summer he had the rare distinction of being bitten by a leopard seal, and the even rarer one of having to stitch up his own arm. He spent many months sledging with dog teams from Hope Bay, exploring and mapping the northern end of Antarctic Peninsula and James Ross, Snow Hill and Seymour islands.

This proved excellent training for his next adventure; in 1957-8 he became medical officer and dog expert with the New Zealand party of the Trans-Antarctic Expedition. With the late Bob Miller he completed a 2500 km (1600 mile) sledge journey from McMurdo Sound, exploring the mountains east of Beardmore Glacier, one of the longest Antarctic sledging traverses on record. George was awarded the Polar Medal in 1955, adding a clasp for the TAE. After Antarctica he returned to more orthodox medicine, becoming a consultant at Hertford Hospital. A regular and genial attendee of Antarctic Club dinners, he will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Bernard Stonehouse and others.

Amendment to obituary in *Polar Record* 25(152): 70 (1989); for James Edward Cameron read James Edmund Cameron.