

## Obituaries

**Herbert Eric Sadler**, naval officer and oceanographer, has died at the age of 74. Sadler had an astonishingly varied career spanning the tropics to the Arctic, while serving successively in three Commonwealth navies. He later became a research oceanographer.

Sadler was born in 1924 in Walsall, where he attended the local grammar school. In 1941, before finishing school, he joined the Royal Navy. He was later commissioned and, as a midshipman, serving as an observer in a Walrus aircraft, was forced through engine failure to bail out over Scapa Flow. In 1943 Sadler transferred to the Royal Indian Navy, in which he served afloat in the Indian Ocean and ashore. At one point, he was captured and held prisoner for six weeks in Burma by the Japanese, before escaping. During his time in India, he met his future wife, Isline Hoggan, who was serving as a nurse in Bombay, where they were married in 1946.

At the end of the war, Sadler found himself detailed to escort a senior Japanese officer by air to Singapore, for that officer's trial and subsequent execution. When India gained its independence in 1947, Sadler left the Royal Indian Navy and returned to England with his wife to life in Walsall.

In 1951 the Sadlers emigrated to Canada to settle in London, Ontario, where he served in the local police force before joining the Royal Canadian Navy as a lieutenant. Following a posting in Victoria, British Columbia, Sadler was allowed by an indulgent navy to enrol at the University of Victoria, where he graduated with a degree in physics in 1965. He was then posted to Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he carried out oceanographic research related to submarine-detection methods.

Sadler retired from the Royal Canadian Navy in 1971 with the rank of lieutenant commander. He then moved to Ottawa, where he joined the scientific staff of the Defence Research Establishment to carry out further oceanographic research. In July–August 1972 he was oceanographer with a helicopter-supported field party, based at the top of a 250 m cliff near Lincoln Bay, Ellesmere Island, overlooking Nares Strait, which separates the island from northwest Greenland and provides potential passage for submarines. The party monitored the movement of sea ice down the strait, and made oceanographic measurements from the ice. An air landing at Polaris Bugt on the Greenland coast allowed the members of that party to visit the grave of Captain Charles Francis Hall, commander of the United States North Polar Expedition, 1871–72, who had died at his winter quarters. Because of Sadler's background, the party was able to mount a guard of honour representing three Commonwealth navies at the graveside (Fig. 1).

After gaining his PhD from Dalhousie University in 1975, Sadler continued his work on oceanographic prob-



Fig. 1. Eric Sadler at the grave of Charles Francis Hall, Polaris Bugt, northwest Greenland, July 1972.

lems. In their spare time, he and his wife bred basset hounds, winning many awards for their dogs. Sadler retired in 1990, following the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease in his wife, for whom he cared devotedly until her death in 1996.

Eric Sadler was in every sense a big man. His massive frame and bearded, sharp-cut features would have looked well on any navy recruitment poster. He possessed a remarkable range of knowledge on many subjects, but could be persuaded only rarely to speak in his quiet matter-of-fact way about his wartime experiences. He is survived by his daughter, Mrs Susan Pyles.

*Geoffrey Hattersley-Smith*

**Harrison Holt Richardson**, Arctic and Antarctic meteorologist, photographer, and medical doctor, died in Claiborne, Maryland, 17 July 1999, aged 80.

Richardson was a teenager when he attended a speech by Admiral Richard E. Byrd at Beaver (Pennsylvania) College. The young man was greatly inspired and wrote numerous times to Byrd, ultimately convincing the explorer to let him work on USS *Bear*. During his summer on that ship, Richardson further persuaded Byrd to allow him to stay on board as part of a US expedition to the Antarctic.

Richardson became a member of Byrd's 59-man team in Antarctica in 1940–41. The youngest member of the team to winter on that expedition, he worked as a dog driver and a meteorological observer. During that time, armed with a 16-millimetre movie camera, he also became the first person to take colour movies on the continent.

After Byrd's expedition, Richardson graduated from Geneva College and then the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. After joining the US Navy, he served as medical officer for expeditions to both the Arctic and Antarctic, and helped open the US Air Force base in Thule, Greenland.

After his retirement from the Navy, he returned to Beaver, where he worked as a radiologist. Mount Richardson in the Fosdick Mountains, Marie Byrd Land, was named in his honour.

*Beau Riffenburgh*

**Dr Robert Scott Russell**, CBE, botanist on the Imperial College science expedition to Jan Mayen in 1938, died in Wantage on 29 July 1999. Born in Kent on 14 February 1913, he emigrated with his family to New Zealand in 1920. In his schooldays, Russell and his brother spent their spare time climbing in the hills near their home in Nelson. In due course he joined the New Zealand Alpine Club, while venturing into the higher peaks of the Southern Alps. He made a number of first ascents while an undergraduate at the University of Otago. Returning to England in 1936 at the age of 23, he began postgraduate research at Imperial College. While honing his mountaineering skills in the

Swiss Alps, he was invited to join a 10-man expedition to Jan Mayen with a variety of scientific objectives. As second-in-command, botanist, and alpinist, he led a party that made the first ascent of the northeast peak of Beerenberg, a 2277 m extinct volcano.

Russell joined Eric Shipton's Karakoram expedition in 1939, a small group that planned to spend 15 months surveying, climbing, and botanising. In 1940, on learning of the outbreak of war, the party abandoned the project. While serving as a plant physiologist at the Rubber Research Institute of Malaya, Scott joined the Indian Army and was posted to Singapore as a commissioned officer in 1942. Taken prisoner by the Japanese, he spent three and a half years in Changi gaol. While confined, he drafted his memoirs in secret, later published as *Mountain prospect* (Russell 1946). From 1947, Russell served as university demonstrator and then lecturer in the Department of Agriculture at Oxford, becoming one of the first botanists to use radioactive tracers in studies of plant physiology. He thus became an obvious choice to set up the Agricultural Research Council Radiobiological Laboratory, which he served as director from 1957 to 1978.

In retirement Russell remained a delightful, provocative, and entertaining host to a wide circle of friends. He is survived by his wife Anne, a son, and a daughter. Another son lost his life in a Himalayan avalanche in 1977.

*Charles Swithinbank*

#### Reference

Russell, R.S. 1946. *Mountain prospect*. London: Chatto and Windus.

## Correspondence

### The crew of *Terra Nova*, 1903–04 Herbert J.G. Dartnall

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For some years I have been trying to put names to the faces of the crew of *Terra Nova*. The purpose of this letter is both to report my progress and to ask readers of *Polar Record* for their help in identifying the rest.

The 1903–04 voyage of *Terra Nova* is one of the least well-known Antarctic expeditions. Robert Falcon Scott ungraciously dismissed the part *Terra Nova* played in the extraction of *Discovery* from the ice, and none of the officers of *Terra Nova* wrote about their parts in the expedition (unlike Gerald Dooly of *Morning*). The photograph of the officers and crew is therefore the one clear record of the men of that voyage (Fig. 1). When I obtained a copy of it from Dundee Arts and Heritage, McManus Galleries, Dundee, I numbered the men (Fig. 2). At that

time, only the captain — Harry McKay, number 4 in Figure 2 — was known. However, a close examination of the photograph proved quite enlightening. From it I surmised the following and came up with three identifications.

- The men numbered 1–8 and 10 are the ship's officers. They are all wearing peaked caps and collars and ties.
- The man numbered 11 is the boatswain, as told by his manner, bearing, and dress. If this is correct, then he is Alexander Aiken.
- The men numbered 13–16, 18, and 24–26 are not dressed like the rest of the crew.
- The men numbered 24 and 25 are dressed in floppy white hats and aprons and are most likely the cook and cook's mate. If this is correct, then number 24 is John Grant, the cook, who is known to have been 45 years old and to have had defective eyesight. Number 25 is William Clark, his assistant, aged 21.

Most of the crew were Dundee whalersmen. Some