

Obituary

Captain KIRILL NIKOLAYEVICH CHUBAKOV, the Head of the Administration of the Northern Sea Route within the Ministry of the Merchant Fleet, died on 5 February 1986, aged 59. Trained as a ship's engineer, he later commanded Arctic-going ships based at Arkhangel'sk and Murmansk. Transferred in 1962 to the central offices of the Ministry of the Merchant Fleet, he became Head, in 1971, of the newly-formed Administration of the Northern Sea Route (it was an *Administratsiya*, not a *Glavnoye Upravleniye* like its more powerful predecessor which generally had the same name in English). In this capacity he was closely concerned with decisions to build more nuclear-powered icebreakers, and with the successful effort to keep the southwest Kara Sea open the year round. His publications, however, were of a general and popular nature, and gave none of the inside story. He held the Order of Lenin and many other decorations.

Terence Armstrong

Kontr-Admiral **IVAN DMITRIYEVICH PAPANIN**, the best known and most popular of all Arctic personalities in the USSR, died on 30 January 1986, aged 91. He was a major figure in Soviet Arctic endeavour of the 1930s and 1940s. Leader successively at the polar station of Bukhta Tikhaya in Zemlya Frantsa-Iosifa in 1932–33, and at that of Mys Chelyuskina in 1934–35, he was chosen to lead the North Polar drifting station expedition in 1937–38. His party of two scientists (Fedorov and Shirshov) and a radio man (Krenkel') achieved world fame as they drifted from the Pole to a point off the East Greenland coast. From 1939 to 1946 he was Head of the Chief Administration of the Northern Sea Route (GUSMP), and for most of that time was also the representative of the State Committee for Defence (GKO) responsible for Arctic transport.

His Arctic work was now over, but he continued to be very active in the organization of expeditions for the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, serving as Deputy Director of the Institute of Oceanology from 1948 to 1951, and Head of the Marine Expedition Department from 1951 to his death. He was also Director of the Institute of the Biology of Inland Waters from 1952 to 1972. He was one of the initiators of the Soviet Antarctic effort, which he wanted to lead.

He obtained the degree of Doctor of Geographical Sciences in 1938. His account of the drifting expedition, *Zhizn' na l'dine* (Moscow, 1938), was a frequently reprinted best-seller and appeared in English as *Life on an ice-floe* (New York, 1939; London, 1947). In 1977 he published his autobiography *Led i plamen'* [Ice and flame], reviewed in *Polar Record* 19(122): 511 (1979).

Papanin was an ebullient, energetic, enthusiastic man, who made a strong impression. It is said that it was his intervention that saved his ice-floe companion Fedorov from arrest and probable extinction in the 1930s (Fedorov, who later became an academician and head of the weather service, was a hereditary nobleman). His name has been given to a cape on Taymyr, mountains in the Antarctic, and a seamount in the Pacific. He was a keen Party man (whether with a large or small p), and was several times elected a Supreme Soviet deputy. He was very frequently decorated: twice a Hero of the Soviet Union, he held at his death nine Orders of Lenin and many other decorations. The announcement of his death in *Pravda* was signed by 80 leading Soviet citizens, including all members of the Politburo.

Terence Armstrong