

From 18 to 27 July 1975 an expedition camped on Beechey Island with the aim of documenting and preserving the sites. Discernible features on the ground were investigated, surveyed and comprehensively photographed, and the sites were also aerially photographed at scales ranging from 1:20 000 to 1:1 000. Tests were made to determine the feasibility of on-site removal of modern white paint from the grave markers. Two grave markers were carefully removed, wrapped in protective materials, and shipped in a frozen state to Ottawa for conservation treatment. Minute samples of black paint were removed from inscriptions on two rocks located in the grave site area to determine if it is contemporaneous with the black paint on the grave markers. Some artefacts requiring immediate conservation treatment were collected, and a small representative number were also removed for study and test purposes. Three small signs were erected for the purpose of informing visitors of the historical importance of the sites and requesting their co-operation in their preservation.

The field party consisted of Dr M. and Miss K. Haycock, Ottawa; J. D. Heyland, Quebec Wildlife Service; G. D. Hobson (leader), Director, Polar Continental Shelf Project; Mrs A. L. Hobson; and Dr D. K. Sebera, Assistant Director, Conservation Research Programme, Canadian Conservation Institute. Essential logistic support was provided by the Polar Continental Shelf Project.

## OBITUARY

With the death of **SIR CHARLES SEYMOUR WRIGHT**, KCB, OBE, MC, MA, in Victoria, British Columbia, on 1 November 1975, there passed the remaining survivor but one of the shore party of Scott's last expedition. Of that legendary band only Major Trygve Gran of Grimstadt, near Oslo, remains to tell the tale.

'Silas', as Sir Charles was sometimes known to his friends (after Silas K. Hocking, an American novelist) tended in conversation to play down his part on Scott's expedition, regarding his subsequent career as an Admiralty 'boffin' as being of far greater importance. Even allowing for his natural reticence there can be no doubt of the significance of his report on Antarctic glaciology, a classic of its type co-authored with his future brother-in-law, Raymond Priestley, or of his reports on magnetism and aurora.

Born in Toronto, Canada, in 1887, Wright was educated at Upper Canada College and the University of Toronto, where he carried out research work on cosmic rays under Professor Mc-Lennon. From there he won an '1851' scholarship to Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, where he did research at the Cavendish Laboratory, again on cosmic rays. A fellow research student in Cambridge at that time was the Australian physiographer, Griffith Taylor. It was 'Griff' who introduced Wright to Douglas Mawson, recently returned from the South Magnetic Pole on Shackleton's expedition of 1907-09. As a result of their meeting Wright at once applied to join Scott's forthcoming expedition as physicist and was promptly rejected. 'Griff' then persuaded Wright to walk with him from Cambridge to London and apply for the post in person. The upshot of the marathon was that Wright was accepted by Scott on the advice of his Chief of Scientific Staff, Dr E. A. Wilson.

As one of six scientists Wright spent the first winter at Cape Evans studying glacier ice, snow and sea ice. During the second winter he extended these studies to include magnetism, gravity and aurora. Scott thought highly of Wright whom he described as 'very thorough and absolutely fit for anything'. A measure of this regard was his choice of Wright as a member of the first supporting party on the polar journey, along with Atkinson, Cherry-Garrard and Keohane. The party turned back on 21 December 1911 at Upper Glacier Depot in lat 85°7'S, at the top of the Beardmore Glacier, Scott noting in his diary: 'all are disappointed—poor Wright bitterly I fear'. In the summer of the following year it was Wright who headed a search party of eight men and seven mules in search of the bodies of Scott and the remainder of the pole party, long presumed lost. On the morning of 11 November 1912 Wright spotted a tiny dark spot in the snow and asked the others to wait while he went over to investigate. It was the pole party's tent as he had suspected and its discovery on the featureless wilderness of the Ross Ice Shelf was a tribute to Wright's skill as a navigator.

After the expedition Wright returned to Cambridge as a lecturer in cartography and surveying and also wrote up his scientific work. With the outbreak of World War I in 1914 he joined the Royal Engineers as a second lieutenant and was sent to France, where he developed instruments and techniques for French wireless communication. In due course he became General Staff Officer in wireless intelligence, being mentioned in despatches and gaining an MC and the OBE.



Drawing of Sir Charles Wright by his daughter, Pat.

On demobilization Wright joined the newly established Admiralty Research Department in 1919 as assistant to its director F. E. (later Sir Frank) Smith. Ten years later he became superintendent of the Admiralty Research Department at Teddington. From 1934 to 1936 he was director of scientific research at the Admiralty, involved with experimental work in geophysics. He played an important part in the early development of radar and methods for detecting magnetic mines and

torpedoes, work which was to give the Royal Navy a decisive edge in the sea war. He became first chief of the Royal Naval Scientific Service when it was formed in 1946, the year in which he received the KCB.

In 1947 Sir Charles left Britain and returned home to Canada on the first of his several 'retirements'. Almost at once he was recalled to become scientific adviser to the Admiral at the British Joint Services Mission, Washington DC. In 1951 he retired for a second time to Esquimaux, British Columbia, but the same year accepted an invitation from the US Navy's Bureau of Ships to become, temporarily, director of the Marine Physical Laboratory of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography at La Jolla, California. He carried out research there until 1955 when he retired again, returning to British Columbia to join the staff of the Pacific Naval Laboratory at Esquimaux. Here his work was involved with the early investigation of geomagnetic micropulsations which was to lead to joint observations with Stanford University on variations in the earth's magnetic field at two conjugate points—Great Whale River, Canada and Byrd station, Antarctica. Studies in this field were the occasion of his two subsequent visits to the Antarctic in 1960 and 1965. Sir Charles's fourth 'retirement' came in 1967, this time to the Institute of Earth Sciences, University of British Columbia, and Royal Roads Military College, Victoria, BC.

In 1969 he finally did retire—this time to his cottage on Saltspring Island near Victoria, BC. Here he settled down with his artist daughter, Pat, and came to be regarded by the many who visited or corresponded with him as a kind of Antarctic elder statesman. He continued his research and his writing to the end. On 13 November 1975 his mortal remains were consigned to the Pacific Ocean in the course of a service on board HMCS *Restigouche* off Esquimaux.

H. G. R. King

**EDWARD HILLIS MARSHALL**, DSO, TD, Polar Medal, MRCS, MRCP, ship's surgeon on the first and subsequent *Discovery* expeditions, died on 28 February 1975. He was born on 31 March 1885. The son of a London solicitor, he was the youngest of four brothers, one of whom, Eric, distinguished himself while participating in Shackleton's attempt to reach the South Pole (1905–07). He undertook his medical training at St Thomas's Hospital and before he qualified served as a dresser in one of the first British Red Cross teams to go from St Thomas's to Montenegro in the Balkan wars of 1912–13.

It was in 1925 that Marshall joined the *Discovery* expedition as ship's surgeon, having served in the 1914–18 war, and subsequently, as a field surgeon in Greece with the Red Cross. He was in the ship until 1927 when she returned to England. He also served in the *Discovery II* from 1929 to 1931, by which time the project had become designated the Discovery Investigations. Between the two commissions he went back to the Ross Sea in the Norwegian whaling factory ship *C. A. Larsen*. During the voyage he collected valuable information about pelagic whaling methods, the kinds of whales to be caught, their oil yield, their food and so on. He also made meteorological and hydrological observations, records of ice conditions, useful notes on the seals and birds, and took biological samples at every opportunity.

Although the demand for his expertise as the ship's doctor was obviously limited on these expeditions, he looked after the general welfare of those on board, their finance, nourishment, physical well-being, their private concerns. He was a skilled photographer and produced many beautiful records of Antarctic scenery and of the marine animals collected. Both in the *Discovery* and the *Discovery II* he was the guide, philosopher and friend who, with his mature judgement, knew what to do in any situation. The greatest contribution that 'Doc' Marshall made to Antarctic science was the influence he brought to bear through the strength of his personality on making the ship he was in a happy one.