

Record

Dr Kenneth C. Maclure, AFC CD

Kenneth Maclure, a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Navigation (1949), died suddenly on 24 March 1988 while on vacation in Mexico. He was one of the pioneers of modern polar navigation and a crew member of the Lancaster *Aries*, the first RAF aircraft to reach the north geographic pole.

His career in the RCAF began as a navigation instructor at the start of World War II. In 1941, while on the staff of the Empire Air Navigation School (EANS) at Shawbury, England, he proposed a grid system for measuring direction in high latitudes. The EANS was investigating methods of polar navigation at the time. In February 1945 the Air Ministry directed EANS to carry out a number of experimental flights in the region of the north magnetic and north geographic poles. The aircraft chosen was the Lancaster *Aries* which, under the same captain Wing Commander D. C. McKinley DFC, AFC, had completed a round-the-world flight in 1944.

The polar flights with Wing Commander Maclure a crew member were completed in May 1945. The grid system, which he had proposed earlier, proved successful on all flights, one of which reached the north geographic pole. This polar exercise ushered in a new era of high latitude flying. A preliminary account of the *Aries* flights was given by Wing Commander Maclure at a meeting of the US Institute of Navigation in October 1945 and published in *Navigation*, Vol. 1, No. 1, March 1946.

Wing Commander Maclure received the Air Force Cross for his contribution to the success of the *Aries* flights. The US Institute of Navigation honoured him with the Thurlow Award for 1945 for his contribution to polar navigation.

After World War II, Ken Maclure acquired a doctorate in nuclear physics from McGill University, and remained in the RCAF in a range of technical appointments, including a tour as defence scientist at the Canadian High Commission in London. He also was Air Attaché to Poland. In 1969 he retired from the armed forces with the rank of Group Captain, but continued to serve his country as a scientific officer with the Defence Research Board to which he had been seconded several times.

Dr Maclure continued his career as a scientific officer with the Department of National Defence until his retirement in 1979, at which time he was Superintendent of the Pacific Naval Laboratory. The Laboratory was active in northern research, an interest which Ken had retained since his days at EANS.

On retiring from government service, Dr Maclure devoted much of his time to church affairs and to helping the handicapped and the less fortunate. This quiet, modest Canadian, a major contributor to modern-day polar navigation and northern research will be greatly missed by his associates as well as many others.

Keith R. Greenaway

Harvey Fisher Schwarz

Harvey Schwarz, who was the joint originator, with the late William J. O'Brien, of the Decca Navigator system, died on 23 April, aged 82.

It was through his persistence and drive, coupled with a profound conviction of the