

## OBITUARY

On 19 February 1900, four men from C. E. Borchgrevink's *Southern Cross*<sup>1</sup> expedition stood on the Ross Ice Barrier, south of the "Bay of Whales", in about lat 78°50'S, forty miles farther south than the point reached by Captain James Clark Ross in 1842. Their record stood for only two years, until Armitage and Bernacchi reached lat 79°03'S in 1902.

One of these four men was **HUGH BLACKWALL EVANS**. The son of the Reverend Edward Evans, he was born on 19 November 1874 at Aylburton, Gloucestershire. The family later moved to Gloucester and he was educated at the King's School. Tall, strong, tough and resilient, with no leanings towards a clerical or business career, he was the son his father did not know what to do with; so in 1890 he went to St John's College, Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan, where he studied agriculture. He then went to work on the land near Indian Head and the Beaver Hills, a newly-developed area, where he lived in a log shack. He enjoyed good relations with both treaty and non-treaty Indians, and on one occasion unknowingly gave a night's shelter to Almighty Voice, a young Cree Indian wanted for killing a North West Mounted Police officer.

In 1896 he returned to England and in the following year learned that one of his cousins was financing a sealing expedition to Iles Kerguelen. He joined the expedition at Melbourne, partly to look after his cousin's interests and partly to act as zoological assistant to Robert Hall, an ornithologist. Their Norwegian bark, *Edward*, had stormy passages each way and spent nearly three months in the Iles Kerguelen.

When he arrived back in England, Evans learned that Borchgrevink had plans for an Antarctic expedition, the *Southern Cross*, which he joined as assistant zoologist. Evans quickly picked up the practical side of the work and when Hanson, the zoologist, died in the Antarctic he took over the collecting, earning the praise of Dr Bowdler Sharpe of the Natural History Museum. As a result of the choice of base, the geographical discoveries were limited and the expedition was rather overlooked; but it served to dispel fears about the possibility of wintering on the Antarctic continent. Evans was one of the first ten men to winter on the mainland.

Back in England in 1900, he learned that the National Antarctic Expedition was under way, but Sir Joseph Hooker dissuaded him from joining because of its "financial difficulties". He was offered a post, in 1901, but by this time he was in Canada and his obligations compelled him to decline.

On returning to Canada, he started farming, cattle ranching, in the Vermilion River valley. In 1919 the early winter ruined many prairie farmers, but Evans managed to survive and took to mixed farming. In 1923 he became one of the founder members of the Alberta Wheat Pool. With the coming of the railway the settlement of "Vermilion" began. Evans took an active part in the school board meetings, the first of which were held in his log home, and he helped to establish the Anglican church. He retired from farming when he was nearly seventy.

Until he contracted pneumonia, in his hundredth year, his memory was clear and accurate. In his last two years he wrote three articles for *Polar Record* in which he described his Antarctic experiences<sup>2</sup>. On his hundredth birthday, he received greetings from the Amundsen-Scott Station, Sir Vivian Fuchs, Sir Edmund

Hillary, Tryggve Gran and many other Antarctic men. These he appreciated after being one of the forgotten explorers of the Antarctic for so many years. He died at Vermilion on 8 February 1975, in the country that, as a pioneer, he had helped to create.

A. G. E. Jones

### Notes

1. A detailed and vivid account of this expedition can be found in either of the following titles:  
BERNACCHI, L. 1901. *To the south polar regions; expedition of 1898-1900*. London, Hurst and Blackett Ltd, 348 p.  
BORCHGREVINK, C. E. 1901. *First on the Antarctic continent, being an account of the British Antarctic Expedition, 1898-1900*. London, George Newnes Ltd, 333 p
2. A voyage to Kerguelen in the sealer *Edward* in 1897-98, Vol 16, No 105, p 789-91. The *Southern Cross* expedition, 1898-1900: a personal account, Vol 17, No 106, p 23-30. A forgotten explorer: Carsten Egeberg Borchgrevink, Vol 17, No 108, p 221-35, (with A.G.E. Jones).

**VIKTOR ANTONOVICH BUGAYEV**, the Soviet meteorologist, died on 2 April 1974 aged 66. He devoted his whole life to meteorology, and was closely associated with the introduction of frontal analysis to the Soviet weather service. He visited the Antarctic in 1957-59, when he was head of the upper air section of the Third Soviet Antarctic Expedition. After his return he retained a keen interest in Antarctic studies, and published a number of papers on Antarctic meteorology and climatology. He was chief editor of the annual publication *Antarktika: Doklady Komissii*, and was the main initiator and organizer of the Soviet contribution to the Global Atmospheric Research Programme (GARP). He later held high positions in the Soviet weather service, and received a number of state prizes and awards, including the Order of Lenin.

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