

## British Antarctic Survey Archives Service

### Deaths of FIDS/BAS Staff in the Antarctic

Last updated 7 July 2016 Joanna Rae, BAS Archives Service

See also list of those who died in service outside Antarctica.

#### FIDS/BAS employees – who died whilst serving at an Antarctic Base/Station

The British Antarctic Survey (BAS) cares for the graves and memorials in the Antarctic of those listed below. Photographs of most of these are available from BAS Archives Service (contact [basarchives@bas.ac.uk](mailto:basarchives@bas.ac.uk)).

This information also appears on the BAS Club website <http://www.antarctica.ac.uk/basclub/> and the British Antarctic Monument Trust website <http://www.antarctic-monument.org/> (which also has photographs and memories from relatives and friends of those who died)

#### **1948**

Oliver Burd and Michael C Green, 9 Nov 1948, Hope Bay

Killed in hut fire.

Graves in the vicinity of the original hut.

Commemorative place names: Cape Bird & Cape Green, Trinity Peninsula.

Eric Platt, 10 Nov 1948, Admiralty Bay

Heart attack.

Grave marked by cross in vicinity of base.

Commemorative place name: Platt Cliffs, King George Island.

#### **1953**

Arthur H Farrant, 17 Nov 1953, Deception Island

Suicide.

Grave in whalers' cemetery. Cross was probably washed away or buried by the mud slide caused by the 1969 volcanic eruption.

#### **1956**

Ronald G Napier, 24 Mar 1956, Admiralty Bay

Drowned when dinghy overturned.

Memorial (cross in vicinity of base) (body not recovered).

Commemorative place name: Napier Rock, King George Island.

#### **1958**

Stanley E Black, David Statham and Geoffrey Stride, 27 May 1958, Horseshoe Island

Lost when sea ice broke up during depot laying trip to Dion Islands.

Memorials - single cross on Beacon Head, Horseshoe Island and plaque at Rothera Point (bodies not recovered).

Commemorative place names: Black Pass, Statham Peak & Stride Peak, Pourquoi Pass Island.

## **1959**

Alan Sharman, 23 Apr 1959, Admiralty Bay

Fractured skull following a fall on rocks when out walking.

Grave, marked by cross in vicinity of base.

[Commemorative place name: Sharman Rock, King George Island – but feature later found to be non-existent.]

Dennis R Bell, 26 Jul 1959, Admiralty Bay

Crevasse fall.

Memorial - cross in vicinity of base (body not recovered).

Commemorative place name: Bell Point, King George Island.

## **1961**

Roger Filer, 13 Feb 1961, Signy

Fell from cliff while doing ornithology work.

Grave on Pantomime Point.

Commemorative place name: Filer Haven, Signy Island.

## **1963**

Neville S Mann, 15 Aug 1963, Halley

Lost on sea ice (part of a 2 sledge party which became separated in bad weather).

Memorial - plaque at Halley Station (body not recovered).

Leading Seaman Reg Hodge and Able Seaman Michael Lane, 6 Dec 1963, HMS Protector  
Two Royal Navy seamen killed and a third seriously injured in an explosion aboard HMS Protector 6 Dec 1963 while the vessel was working with RRS Shackleton on joint seismic surveys for BAS (Prof. Griffiths' project.) (Source: AD3/1/AS/138/3/3(1) - unnamed in BAS's records)

## **1965**

Jeremy T Bailey, David P Wild and John K Wilson, 12 Oct 1965, Halley

Occupants of Muskeg tractor lost in crevasse fall en route to Vestfjella.

Memorials - plaques on Survey Point, Vardeklettane, Heimfrontfjella and at Halley Station (bodies not recovered).

Commemorative place names: Bailey Ice Stream, BAT; Baileyranten, Wildskorvene & Wilsonbergen, Droning Maud Land.

## **1966**

John F Noel and Thomas J Allan, Jun 1966, Stonington Island

Died of exposure whilst sitting out a storm in a snow hole during field trip, Butson Ridge area.

Graves on Flagstaff Hill.

Commemorative place names: Mount Noel & Mount Allan, Traverse Mountains (Rymill Coast); Tragic Corner (Fallières Coast).

## **1976**

Geoffrey H Hargreaves, Michael A Walker and Graham J Whitfield, Sep 1976, Argentine Islands

Lost during return from ascent of Mount Peary.

Memorial - single cross on Rasmussen Island (bodies not recovered).

## **1980**

Miles V Mosley, 2 Feb 1980, Halley  
Hit by low flying aircraft.  
Memorial - plaque at Halley Station (buried at sea).

### **1981**

John H M Anderson and Robert Atkinson, 16 May 1981, Rothera  
Crevasse accident on Shambles Glacier.  
Memorial - single cross on Rothera Point (bodies not recovered).

### **1982**

Ambrose C Morgan, Kevin P Ockleton and John Coll, 14 Aug 1982, Argentine Islands  
Lost when sea ice broke up during field trip, Petermann Island area.  
Memorial - single cross on Petermann Island (bodies not recovered).

### **2003**

Kirsty M Brown, 22 July 2003, Rothera  
Drowned when attacked by Leopard seal while snorkling.  
Memorial at Rothera Point. Body returned to UK for burial.  
Commemorative place name: Kirsty Island, Ryder Bay (Adelaide Island).

### **In addition a small number of non-BAS staff have died at our stations, for example:**

### **1994**

N J Armstrong (Canada), D N Fredlund (Canada), J C Armstrong (Canada) and E P Odegard (Norway), 23 Nov 1994, Rothera  
Kenn Borek Air Ltd aircraft crashed on take-off after re-fuelling at Rothera.  
Memorial at Rothera Point (bodies not recovered).

### **Memorials outside the Antarctic**

British Antarctic Survey Cambridge – Memorial Orchard, 2005  
British Antarctic Survey Cambridge – Book of Remembrance, Apr 2011 (displayed in the Library)  
St Paul's Cathedral crypt – Memorial Plaque, Apr 2011  
Scott Polar Research Institute – Book of Remembrance, Apr 2011  
Scott Polar Research Institute – Monument sculpture (part 1), Apr 2011  
Stanley, Falkland Islands (Dockyard Point) – Monument sculpture (part 2), Feb 2015

### **Sources**

1. AD3/2/121/143/30
2. Archives Information Sheet 1, ed. 4 (and sources referenced there)
3. Staff personal files
4. Rod Downie, Oct 2002
5. 80/31/4512 (file on Kirsty Brown's death)
6. Place name research by Petra Searle, 12 Dec 2007
7. Publications:
  - Pre-1973 fatalities: Fuchs, Sir Vivian - 'Of Ice and Men', 1982 (Anthony Nelson) (ISBN no.0 904614 06 9).

- 1981 Shambles Glacier fatalities: Tait, Stephen, 'Shambles', 2009 (Strategic Book Publishing, New York) (ISBN 978-1-60860-044-1)
- 1982 sea ice fatalities: Airey, L.R., 'On Antarctica', 2001 (Luna Books) (ISBN 0970869908)
- British Antarctic Monument Trust  
See <http://www.antarctic-monument.org/> for details, including photographs and memories from relatives and friends of those who died.

## **Appendix 1 – Alphabetical List of FIDS/BAS Staff Who Died in the Antarctic**

Thomas Allan, June 1966, Stonington Island

John Anderson, 16 May 1981, Rothera

Robert Atkinson, 16 May 1981, Rothera

Jeremy Bailey, 12 October 1965, Halley Bay

Dennis Bell, 26 July 1959, Admiralty Bay

Stanley Black, 27 May 1958, Horseshoe Island

Kirsty Brown, 22 July 2003, Rothera

Oliver Burd, 9 November 1948, Hope Bay

John Coll, 14 August 1982, Argentine Islands

Arthur Farrant, 17 November 1953, Deception Island

Roger Filer, 13 February 1961, Signy Island

Michael Green, 9 November 1948, Hope Bay

Geoffrey Hargreaves, September, 1976, Argentine Islands

Reg Hodge, 6 December 1963, HMS Protector

Michael Lane, 6 December 1963, HMS Protector

Neville Mann, 15 August 1963, Halley

Ambrose Morgan, 14 August 1982, Argentine Islands

Miles Mosley, 2 February 1980, Halley

Ronald Napier, 24 March 1956, Admiralty Bay

John Noel, June 1966, Stonington Island

Kevin Ockleton, 14 August 1982, Argentine Islands

Eric Platt, 10 November 1948, Admiralty Bay

Alan Sharman, 23 April 1959, Admiralty Bay

David Statham, 27 May 1958, Horseshoe Island

Geoffrey Stride, 27 May 1958, Horseshoe Island

Michael Walker, 6 September 1976, Argentine Islands

David Wild, 12 October 1965, Halley Bay

John Wilson, 12 October 1965, Halley Bay

Graham Whitfield, 6 September 1976, Argentine Islands