

Being poor sailors the voyage to SANAE was a nightmare for some of us and the infamous Roaring Forties and Terrible Fifties took its toll.

Our slow progress through the pack ice provided ample time to admire the spectacular tabular icebergs and to shoot 11 seals—mostly crabeaters and Weddell seals—to serve as food for the huskies at the base. The notorious leopard seal however, kept clear of our sight.

Our journey southwards took 20 days and on arrival we were most heartily welcomed by members of SANAE III. The tedious task of unloading the 150 tons of provisions, petrol and diesel drums left us just about spiritless. On 23rd January, 1963 at 02.00 GMT we took leave of the RSA.

A trip to the mountains was our first major task; four of us left the comfort of the Base on a 3-weeks' trek. En route from Dassiekop to Leeukop seven crevasses were crossed—some being 12 to 15 feet in width. Observations at a later stage indicated that these crevasses practically terminate near Dassiekop where they could be crossed with ease and safety.

As from Muskeg Depot we set out in a WSW direction to Tommeliten and Lorentzenpiggan where we spent two weeks collecting geological samples. Furthermore meteorological observations were taken at regular intervals, while the ramsondes, spire boreholes and proton magnetometer were other tasks that had to be performed. All the same, we spent a busy and enjoyable three weeks in the fields.

Before the actual onset of the winter we had two major tasks to perform—the dog tunnel had to be extended by 50 feet and one of the Bolinder diesel engines had to be transferred from Norway Station to SANAE. After a week's hard labouring we were reassured that our dogs would spend the winter in comfort. To shift the Bolinder, five men had to work continuously in cold weather for 10 days. At last we had both the Bolinder and the Redifon transmitters removed. We awaited the appearance of the first Aurora Australis eagerly; it appeared for the first time on 14th April but was rather disappointing. The geophysicist spent hours in a temperature of  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$  or even lower, recording these phenomena.

Efforts were being made to obtain more accurate drift snow measurements. The apparatus designed for this purpose in Pretoria did not record successfully. The radiosonde ascents at 24.00 GMT presented the usual difficulties during storms.

The ionospheric transmissions interrupted every 15 minutes some music or an important news flash, but we got used to it. With the partial eclipse in January 1964, these transmissions were repeated at 5-minute intervals.

July was our worst month as far as the weather was concerned. At 06.00 GMT on the 1st we experienced the worst gale of the year with a peak velocity of 105 knots and on 26th July, four days after the sun appeared above the southern horizon the thermometer registered the minimum temperature of  $-46.3^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

After the winter, we undertook journeys to Polarsirkelbukta, the Sub-station and Otterbukta. Early in August the pack ice in Polarsirkelbukta disintegrated and open water was visible. However, a week later the ice was driven back by the wind.

The crevasses on both sides of Polarsirkelbukta have enlarged considerably and it appears that the gradient to the east is definitely steeper. Apparently a part of this Bukta will be carved off as an ice-berg in the near future.

Two of our dogs died during our stay—Oscar, the leader, had to be put to sleep because of festering wounds and Bruno's death as due to peritonitis.

Monthly blood samples were taken by our Medical Officer from each member and analysed; the vitamin content of our food was constantly checked and ever so often an aching tooth had to be extracted or a cut finger bandaged.

The hospital was extremely well equipped—from suntan lotion to the most delicate surgical instruments. The value of the hospital proved itself on two occasions when members of the expedition were seriously injured in accidents. On one of these occasions an emergency operation which resulted in the amputation of two fingers had to be performed on the Senior Mechanic.

Our second journey to the mountains started on 29th October after we had to cancel our departure several times due to stormy weather. The greater part of the 51 days was spent in the vicinity of the Istind complex, south-west of Jekselen; and to the west at Valterkulen, Nupshamrane, Auruppen and Flarjuven. It was here at Flarjuven that we came across a rippling mountain stream to our surprise.

Eventually it was our turn to welcome back the RSA; a heavy heart we took leave of our two friends who volunteered to stay on for another year.

I would like to conclude with this quotation from *The Crossing of the Antarctic* by Sir Vivian Fuchs:

"This was the end of the expedition as the public saw it, but for us it is the beginning of a new endeavour—for now we must produce the results, which we believe, will justify the early faith and vision of all those who supported us in the beginning and sustained us to the end."

## Nuus van die Vereniging

### Vergadering van 24e Februarie 1964

Na die rustyd van die somermaande is die eerste vergadering van die jaar op die 24e Februarie in Pretoria gehou, met 27 lede en 4 nie-lede aanwesig. Spesiale verwelkoming is gerig aan Mnr. A. M. Venter leier van SANAE IV, wat so pas teruggekeer het, Mnr. Nieman wat een van die twee verteenwoordigers van die Vereniging op die RSA was en Kommandant W. J. B. Chapman voormalige voorsitter van die Vereniging, wat na iets meer as 'n jaar weer van Kaapstad na Pretoria verplaas is. Prof. K. van der Walt het die Konstitusie en reëls van optrede van die Toekenningskomitee vir die Suid-Afrikaanse Antarktiese Medalje verduidelik en aangekondig dat die eerste medalje aan Hannes la Grange toegeken sal word. Mnr. Sean Kavanagh, landmeter van SANAE III, was spreker van die aand oor die onderwerp *Landmeting in Antarktika*, 'n opsomming waarvan in 'n volgende uitgawe van die *Bulletin* geplaas sal word. Hy het ook 'n aantal uitstekende kleurskryfies van Antarktika vertoon.

### Nuwe Lede

Die volgende nuwe lede is aanvaar:  
L. A. Whitehead (Departement Buitelandse Sake, Pretoria).  
H. R. Hiddes (Ingenieur, Reunies Coasters, Durban).  
Prof. Lester King (Geologie Departement, Universiteit Natal, Durban).  
J. P. Louw (Stokrybestuurder, Wellington).

### Model van Antarktika

'n Gipsmodel van Antarktika is vir die Vereniging voltooi deur Mej. H. Beatson van die Aardrykskundefakulteit van die Universiteit Witwatersrand. Die model sal gehuisves word by die Permanente Wetenskaplike Uitstalling, Skouterrein, Pretoria.

### Dasse

Die dasse van die Vereniging is uiteindelik vervaardig en sal eersdaags uitgereik word aan diegene wat reeds betaal het, sodat u u das reeds behoort te hê wanneer hierdie *Bulletin* verskyn. Daar sal nog 'n aantal dasse beskikbaar wees teen R2.00 stuk plus 10c posgeld.

### Bouvet-verkenning

Vier lede van die Vereniging is onder diegene wat gekies is om op 21e Maart met die RSA na Bouvet-eiland vir verkenningdoeleindes te vertrek. Hulle is Dr. J. J. Taljaard (weerkundige en leier), Mnr. A. B. Crawford (weerkundige en deskundige op landings per boot), Mnr. D. C. Neethling (geoloog) en Mnr. F. McCall (P.W.D.).

## News from SANAE and the Islands

### SANAE

When the RSA departed from Cape Town on 27th December she had 26 scientists, artisans and observers of various denominations on board, apart from the normal crew. Winds were strong and seas high in the Roaring Forties but by the time the ship reached Bouvet Island (1,600 miles from Cape Town)—most of the "stowaways" had already crept from their bunks and showed up on board. After that, everybody remained good seamen. The RSA battered its way through thick pack ice and got stuck on many occasions, and eventually Captain McNish established his record but not for the shortest journey. In Polarsirkelbukta on 24th