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EDITORIAL—REDAKSIONEEL

It is with deep regret that we advise our readers of the death of an expedition member in Antarctica—the first such incident in the ten year history of our active involvement on the continent. The Department of Transport has supplied the *Bulletin* with the following report:

“Mr. Gordon Ian Mackie—Motor Mechanic with the SANAE 10 Expedition, died on the 3rd December, 1969, from multiple head and neck injuries when he fell down a windscoop at Slettfjellnutane. He was on his way to repair a tractor when the accident occurred. According to reports submitted, Mr. Sutcliffe accompanied the deceased on this particular trip and while Sutcliffe was busy with Geomagnetic observations Mackie decided to explore the surroundings. He climbed to a height of approximately 300 feet on the face of the mountain peak, when he

lost his footing and fell down a windscoop, which caused his death.

“His parents were flown out from Scotland by South African Airways and on the day of the funeral, his mother died of a stroke in the Frere Hospital, East London. Thus, the family suffered a double tragedy. Mother and son were cremated and the caskets bearing their ashes were buried in the Garden of Remembrance at East London Crematorium. It is at a time like this that one feels at a total loss to express one's feelings of sympathy to the family and friends.”

The *Bulletin* and its readers join the Department of Transport in expressing their sympathy and condolences to the friends and relatives of the late Mr. Mackie and fervently hope that this tragedy will not be repeated in future expeditions.

Suid-Afrikaanse Nasionale Antarktiese Somerekspedisie 10 Januarie - 5 Maart 1970

D. E. BOSMAN (Landmeter SANAE 9)

Op 10 Januarie 1970 vertrek die Suid-Afrikaanse poolskip, die *R.S.A.* met die elfde Suid-Afrikaanse Antarktiese Navorsingspan, twee Suid-Afrikaanse somerekspedisie lede, die Belgiese somerekspedisie span asook 'n werkgroep van die P.W.D. na SANAE, die Suid-Afrikaanse navorsingsstasie op Antarktika.

Ryk was die beloning weereens om na die „roaring forties” en die „furious fifties” van die stormagtige suidersee, die wonderskone poolgebied binne te gaan. Ongelooflike spieël-gladde water het ons binne die Antarktiese sirkel ontvang nog voordat die pakys bereik is.

Die pakysgordel was die keer maar sowat 50 km. breed en binne 10 uur het die *R.S.A.* sy weg daardeur gevind—die veertiende dag van die seereis kan ons in Otterbukta invaar!

Henry Fulton en nege van sy manne maak nie lank daarna hul verskyning as 'n swart kolletjie op die wit koue horison. Soos seker met elke span wat 'n jaar op die wit kontinent deurgebring het, was die manne van SANAE 10 se eerste belangstelling ook hul pos van die Republiek.

Kaptein McNish besluit toe om die twee Belgiese vliegtuie op die baaiys van die baai net Oos van Otterbukta af te laai vanwaar hulle toe ook kon opstyg.