

THE ADÉLIE MAIL & CAPE ADARE TIMES

Vol II

A Variety of Supplementary Material

*Compiled by*  
Robert B. Stephenson

Jaffrey: The Erebus & Terror Press

2020

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# THE NORTHERN PARTY

## WIKIPEDIA ENTRY

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terra\\_Nova\\_Expedition#Northern\\_Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terra_Nova_Expedition#Northern_Party)

After reporting Amundsen's arrival to Scott at Cape Evans, Campbell's Eastern party (Victor Campbell, Raymond Priestley, George Levick, George Abbott and Harry Dickason), became the "Northern Party". On 9 February 1911 they sailed northwards, arriving at Robertson Bay, near Cape Adare on 17 February, where they built a hut close to Norwegian explorer Carsten Borchgrevink's old quarters.

The Northern Party spent the 1911 winter in their hut. Their exploration plans for the summer of 1911–1912 could not be fully carried out, partly because of the condition of the sea ice and also because they were unable to discover a route into the interior. *Terra Nova* returned from New Zealand on 4 January 1912, and transferred the party to the vicinity of Evans Cove, a location approximately 250 miles (400 km) south of Cape Adare and 200 miles (320 km) northwest of Cape Evans. They were to be picked up on 18 February after the completion of further geological work, but due to heavy pack ice, the ship was unable to reach them. The group, with meagre rations which they had to supplement by fish and seal meat, were forced to spend the winter months of 1912 in a snow cave which they excavated on Inexpressible Island. Here they suffered severe privations—frostbite, hunger, and dysentery, with extreme winds and low temperatures, and the discomfort of a blubber stove in confined quarters.

On 17 April 1912 a party under Edward Atkinson, in command at Cape Evans during the absence of the polar party, went to relieve Campbell's party, but were beaten back by the weather. The Northern Party survived the winter in their icy chamber, and set out for the base camp on 30 September 1912. Despite their physical weakness, the whole party managed to reach Cape Evans on 7 November, after a perilous journey which included a crossing of the difficult Drygalski Ice Tongue. Geological and other specimens collected by the Northern Party were retrieved from Cape Adare and Evans Cove by *Terra Nova* in January 1913.

## NORTHERN PARTY TIMELINE

*There are a number of inconsistencies, mostly minor,  
given in the various sources.*

- 27 January 1911 Eastern Party sails from Hut Point in the *Terra Nova* heading for King Edward VII Land. *Source:* Don Webster web site.
- 2 February 1911 Arrives in vicinity of Edward VII Land, finds adverse ice conditions and no possible landing place so turns and heads west. *Source:* Don Webster web site.
- 3 February 1911 Meets *Fram* in the Bay of Whales. *Sources:* Stewart, *Encyclopedia*; Campbell diary.
- 4 February 1911 Meets *Fram* in the Bay of Whales. *Source:* Levick, *A Gun for a Fountain Pen*.
- 8 February 1911 Returns to Cape Evans to report on Amundsen. *Sources:* Levick, *A Gun for a Fountain Pen*; Campbell diary.
- 8 February 1911 Eastern Party (now Northern Party) sailed northwards. *Source:* Don Webster web site.
- 9 February 1911 Eastern Party (now Northern Party) sailed northwards. *Sources:* Wikipedia; Campbell diary.
- 13 February 1911 Northern Party arrives at Cape Adare. *Source:* Levick diary in entry for March 8. p.22 of transcript.
- 17 February 1911 Northern Party arrives at Robertson Bay. *Source:* Wikipedia.
- 18 February 1911 Northern Party lands at Cape Adare. *Sources:* Priestley diary Vol 1, p.48; Don Webster web site; *Penguins and Primus*; Campbell diary.
- 19 February 1911 *Terra Nova* departs for New Zealand. *Sources:* Priestley diary Vol 1, p.49; Don Webster web site.
- 21 February 1911 *Terra Nova* departs for New Zealand. *Source:* *Penguins and Primus*.
- 25 February 1911 Exterior of hut at Cape Adare completed. *Sources:* Don Webster web site; Campbell diary.
- 4 March 1911 “The hut was ready and we moved in...” *Sources:* *Scott’s Last Expedition*, Vol II, p.63; Campbell diary.
- 8 March 1911 Hut at Cape Adare completed and the stove was lighted. *Source:* Don Webster web site.

- 18 March 1911      The anemometer broke after wind speeds of 84 miles per hour were recorded. *Source:* Don Webster web site.
- 19 March 1911      The anemometer broke after wind speeds of 84 miles per hour were recorded. *Source:* Campbell diary.
- 3 January 1912      Northern Party leaves Cape Adare aboard *Terra Nova* for Terra Nova Bay. *Source:* Stewart, *Encyclopedia*.
- 4 January 1912      Northern Party leaves Cape Adare aboard *Terra Nova* for Terra Nova Bay. *Sources:* Don Webster web site; *Scott's Last Expedition*, Vol II, p.76.
- 8 January 1912      *Terra Nova* drops Northern Party off at Evans Coves. *Sources:* Stewart, *Encyclopedia*; Campbell diary.
- 5 February 1912      *Terra Nova* arrives back at Cape Evans. *Source:* Stewart, *Encyclopedia*.
- 17 March 1912      Northern Party moves into ice cave for 1912 winter. *Sources:* Stewart, *Encyclopedia*; Campbell diary.
- 30 September 1912      Northern Party sets out for Cape Evans. *Sources:* Wikipedia; *Scott's Last Expedition*, Vol II, p.106; Campbell diary.
- 7 November 1912      Northern Party arrives at Hut Point. *Sources:* Stewart, *Encyclopedia*; Wikipedia; *Scott's Last Expedition*, Vol II, p.122; Campbell diary.
- January 1913      Geological and other specimens collected by the Northern Party retrieved from Cape Adare and Evans Cove by *Terra Nova*. *Source:* Wikipedia.

## THE MEN

George Percy Abbott, *Petty Officer RN.*

Frank Vernon Browning, *Petty Officer RN.*

Victor Lindsey Arbuthnot Campbell, *Leader of the Northern Party*

Harry Dickason, *Seaman RN.*

George Murray Levick, *Surgeon, zoologist, photographer.*

Sir Raymond Edward Priestley, *Geologist and meteorologist.*

“Levick is photographer, microbiologist, and stores officer. His medical duties have been nil, with the exception of stopping one of my teeth, a most successful operation; but as he had been flensing a seal a few days before, his fingers tasted strongly of blubber!

Priestley’s geology keeps him wandering on the top or on the slopes of Cape Adare, and he certainly gets more exercise than any of us.

He is also meteorologist, and when he does have any spare moments is out with the trawl or fish trap.

I am doing a survey of Cape Adare and the magnetic observations.

Abbott is carpenter and has the building of the kayaks.

Browning is assistant meteorologist and his special care is the acetylene gas plant, a thankless task, as any escape of gas or bad light brings a certain amount of criticism.

Dickason has proved himself a most excellent cook and baker, while the ‘galley’ is a model of neatness.”

*Source: Scott’s Last Expedition, Vol. II, Pp. 95-96.*



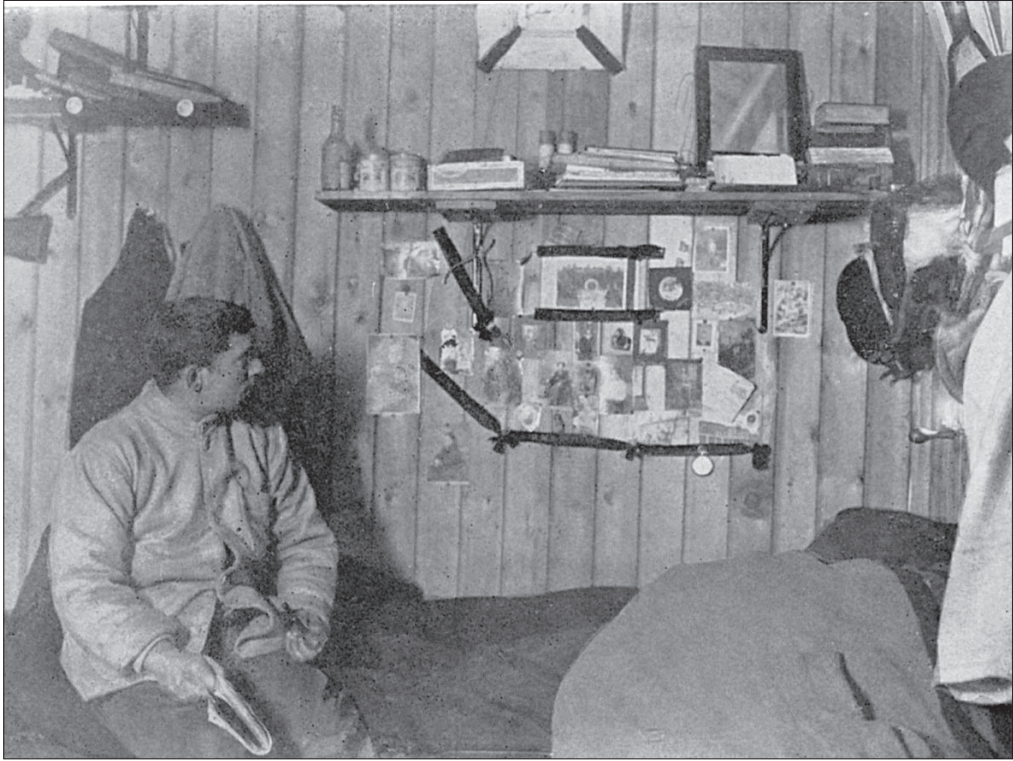
The Northern Party, December 17, 1911. Back, L to R: Abbott, Dickason, Browning. Front, L to R: Priestley, Campbell, Levick. *Source: Scott’s Last Expedition, Vol. II, opposite p. 112.*



Sitting, L to R: Levick, Campbell. Standing, L to R: Dickason, Browning, Abbott. May, 1911.  
*Source: Dickason, Penguins and Primus.*



Abbott in his cubicle. *Source: Priestley, Antarctic Adventure; Scott's Northern Party.*



Browning in his cubicle. *Source: Priestley, Antarctic Adventure; Scott's Northern Party.*



Dickason in his cubicle. *Source: Priestley, Antarctic Adventure; Scott's Northern Party.*





“Group after winter in Igloo.” L to R: Abbott, Campbell, Dickason, Priestley, Levick, Browning. *Source: Scott's Last Expedition.*



“Lieut. Campbell's Party on their Return to Cape Evans.” L to R: Dickason, Abbott, Browning, Campbell, Priestley, Levick. *Source: Scott's Last Expedition.*

## ENTRIES FROM *ANTARCTICA: AN ENCYCLOPEDIA*

John Stewart, *Antarctica: An Encyclopedia*. Second edition, 2011.

**Abbott, George Percy.** b. March 10, 1880, 22 Trinder Road, Islington, London, but raised in Northampton, son of silk salesman John Abbott and his wife Fanny Elizabeth Ingman. He joined the RN, and was serving on the *Excellent* as a petty officer when he went on BAE 1910-13. He was one of Campbell's Northern Party, and went mad on his return to Hut Point. For some time during World War I he was attached to the Naval Air Service. He married Emily Sourer in Northampton in 1916, and they lived in Henlow, Beds. Flying Officer Abbott (as he had been since 1919) died of pneumonia at Henlow Aerodrome, near Hitchin, Herts, on Nov. 22, 1923, and was buried at Northampton four days later. His son, Lt. Cdr. Don Abbott, disappeared over the English Channel in 1950.

**Browning, Frank Vernon.** b. June 27, 1882, Stockland, near Axminster, Devon, but raised in Lypstone, son of gardener Frank Albert Browning and his wife Rhoda Phillips. He joined the Royal Navy as a boy 2nd class, in June 1900, in Nov. 1905 becoming a petty officer, 2nd class, which is the rank he still held while serving on the *Talbot*, when he transferred to the *Terra Nova*, for BAE 1910-13. He was part of Campbell's Northern Parry during the expedition, and came close to dying on this trip. He left a diary. In Sept. 1913 he returned to Britain, just promoted to petty officer, 1st class, and when World War I broke out was serving on the cruiser *Carnarvon*, taking part in the Battle of the Falkland Islands in December 1914. He stayed with the *Carnarvon* until Nov. 1917. In 1920, by now a chief petty officer, he joined the *Warspite*, and on March 16, 1921, at Ellacombe, Devon, he married Marjone Helen Bending, and they lived in Torquay, having two children there. He retired in June 1922, and died on March 14, 1930, at the Cottage Hospital, in Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

**Campbell, Victor Lindsey Arbuthnot.** b. Aug. 20, 1875, Brighton, son of naval captain Hugh Campbell and his wife Lucy Eleanor Archer. He left Eton in 1892, was a merchant seaman for a brief while before becoming an officer in the RN in 1895. In 1901 he resigned his commission to live as a country gentleman, but in 1910-13, as a lieutenant, RN (emergency list), he went with Scott on BNAE 1901-04, as 1st officer on the *Terra Nova*, leading the Northern Party that wintered-over twice in Victoria Land, in 1911 and 1912. He was promoted to commander, served in the Navy during World War I, at Jutland, Gallipoli (as commander of the Drake Battalion), and in 1918 took part in the Zeebrugge raid. He retired to Newfoundland in 1922. In World War II he served briefly in Trinidad and Canada, and died on Nov. 19, 1956, in Corner Brook, Newfoundland. He wrote *The Wicked Mate: The Antarctic Diary of Victor Campbell*.

**Dickason, Harry.** b. Dec. 16, 1884, Barron Regis, Bristol, Glos, son of Herbert Dickason. He was an able seaman on the *Defiance* when transferred to the *Terra Nova* for BAE 1910-13, and was a member of Campbell's Northern Party on that expedition. His diary is held by the Scott Polar Research Institute. He was later a petty officer. He died in 1943, in Battersea, London.

**Levick, George Murray.** Known as Murray, and even as "Toffer" or "Tofferino," or "the old sport." b. July 3, 1876, Newcastle, England, son of Welsh civil engineer George Levick and his wife Jeannie Sowerby. He grew up in London, and, after St Paul's School, qualified as a doctor at Barts in 1902, and was a Royal Navy surgeon from then on, specializing in physical training. From 1908 to 1909 he served on the battleship *Essex*, under Scott, and went on BAE 1910-13. Scott's first impression of the doctor (written in his published journal) was, "I am told that he has some knowledge of his profession, but there it ends. He seems quite incapable of learning anything fresh. Left alone, I verily believe he would do nothing from sheer lack of initiative." Scott observed Levick's constant amiability and his "vacant smile," and said he "cheerfully accepts any amount of chaff." "In short, I am afraid there is little to be expected of him." Before the *Terra Nova* had reached Melbourne, Scott was writing, "Levick has a really charming nature." He was medical officer with Campbell's Northern Party, during that expedition, and wrote *Antarctic Penguins*, in 1914. On Nov. 21, 1915, after action at Gallipoli, he became Fleet Surgeon, and retired as such. On Nov. 16, 1918, at Wescminster, he married the remarkable Audrey Beeton, famous lacrosse player and future explorer, daughter of Sir Mayson Beeton, and granddaughter of Mrs Beeton of cookbook fame. Between the wars he was medical officer in charge of the Electrical Treatment Department at St Thomas's Hospital, in London, and was involved with physiotherapy at the Ministry of Pensions Hospital, and with the healing power of sunlight in tuberculosis cases. In 1932 he founded and developed the Public Schools Exploring Society, and was in Intelligence during World War II, training Commandos for extreme weather conditions. He died on May 30, 1956, at Budleigh Salterton, Devon. Audrey died on July 23, 1980.

**Priestley, Raymond Edward "Ray."** b. July 20, 1886, Tewkesbury, England, son of Joseph Edward Priestley, the headmaster of the grammar school there, and his wife Henrietta Rice. Through his older brother, he became, while in his final year studying science at University College, Bristol, the assistant geologist on BAE 1907-09. He later studied geology in Sydney under Prof. Edgeworth David. He was back in Antarctica on BAE 1910-13 (replacing Allan Thomson, who had become ill), and was the leader of the 2nd ascent of Mount Erebus. He was a member of Victor Campbell's Northern Party during the same expedition, and thus a part of their wild adventure. In fact, another expeditioner, Grif Taylor would become his brother-in-law. His book, *Northern Adventure* [sic], was published in 1914. He was in France

during World War I with the 46th Divisional Signals, and on April 10, 1915, at Ringwood, Hants, he married Phyllis Mary Boyd, a New Zealander. He was seconded to the War Office to write *The History of the Signal Service*, and also wrote *Breaking the Hindenburg Line*, the story of his division. After the war he spent years at Cambridge, and from 1934 to 1938 was in Australia, unhappily, as vice chancellor of Melbourne University, and from 1938 to 1952 was vice chancellor and principal of Birmingham University, back in England. He was knighted in 1949, which is when he finally stopped playing cricket. From 1953 to 1955 he was chairman of the Royal Commission on the Civil Service, and from 1955 to 1958 (while Vivian Fuchs was crossing Antarctica) he was acting director of the FIDS scientific bureau. He accompanied Prince Philip on the early Jan. 1957 cruise of FIDS bases, and in the summer season of 1958-59 went to Antarctica on the *Wyandot* as an observer with OpDFIV. He was also on the *Staten Island* that season, and visited Scott's huts. He was president of the Royal Geographical Society, 1961-68. His wife died in 1961, and Sir Raymond died on June 24, 1974, at Cheltenham. Glos.

## ENTRIES FROM OTHER SOURCES

**George Abbott.** March 10th 1880 - November 1923

George Abbott joined the Navy three days after his 15th birthday, he became an Ordinary Seaman by 18, he was one of the men selected to pull the gun carriage at Queen Victoria's funeral in 1901, an outstanding athlete and instructor in physical fitness.

In Antarctica on the Terra Nova expedition, he was part of the Northern Party under Campbell, they spent one planned winter away from the main expedition base in hut built at Cape Adare and another unplanned winter in an ice cave when the party could not be picked up due to heavy sea ice. Abbott and Browning constructed an entrance hatch to the cave from ski-sticks and ice blocks after the original snow construction kept collapsing bringing with it the threat of asphyxiation.

During the winter Abbott gave himself a terrible cut on his right hand, severing the ligaments to three of the fingers. Leveck, the surgeon treated him as best he could under the primitive conditions and while Abbott's injury didn't become any worse, he was only ever able to bend the fingers on that hand a very small amount afterwards.

Before leaving Antarctica, Abbott took part in a ascent of Mount Erebus, the world's southernmost active volcano.

He had a breakdown on the ship on the way home and was institutionalized for a time, it led to him being invalided out of the Navy for over a year. He served with the Royal Navy in WW1 from 1914, in the Royal Naval Air Service. After the war he was an instructor his last posting was to RAF Henlow in Bedfordshire where he learned to fly.

He died in 1923 of pneumonia at the age of 43 and was given a funeral with full military honours in Northampton, all 600 men came from his aerodrome, there was a full parade through the town with a Royal Air Force band, many shops closed for the occasion in the town centre.

He received the Antarctic medal.

Source: <https://www.coolantarctica.com/Antarctica%20fact%20file/History/biography/abbott-george-percy.php>

**Frank Browning.** June 1882 - 1930

Born in Stockland, Devon, England and joined the Royal Navy as a Boy 2nd Class in June 1900 at age 18, made Petty Officer 2nd Class in November 1905, he was recruited to the Terra Nova Expedition from the *Talbot*, one of Lieutenant E. R. G. R. Evans (2nd in command on the expedition) old ships.

He was part of the Northern Party under Campbell, they spent one planned

winter away from the main expedition base in a hut at Cape Adare and another unplanned in an ice cave when the party could not be picked up due to heavy sea ice. Browning and Abbott constructed an entrance hatch to the cave from ski-sticks and ice blocks after the original snow construction kept collapsing bringing with it the threat of asphyxiation. He also came up with a “blubber lamp” along with Dickason to light the otherwise pitch black living quarters which was fuelled by fat from the few penguins and seals they managed to capture through the winter.

On return from Antarctica in September 1913 Browning was promoted to Petty Officer 1st class and continued his career with the Royal Navy. He saw action in the First World War in the battle of the Falklands in December 1914 on board the *Carnarvon*, he was promoted to Chief Petty Officer by the end of the war remaining enlisted until 1922. He lived in Torquay with his wife Marjorie and two children, Frank Ernest and Mary. He was presented the Antarctic medal at Buckingham Palace by King George V.

Died in 1930 and believed to have been of pneumonia in Henley-on-Thames where he was working as a chauffeur.

Source: <https://www.coolantarctica.com/Antarctica%20fact%20file/History/biography/browning-frank-vernon.php>

### Capt Scott's lesser-known companion in Antarctica

THE Scott expedition to the South Pole is one of the most famous stories of English exploration.

When news of Capt Robert Scott's death in Antarctica reached England 100 years ago, there was mourning in Henley where his mother lived and he had often visited.

However, he is not the only polar explorer with a link to the town. Frank Vernon Browning, who was also a member of the Terra Nova expedition group, is thought to have died in Henley.

Browning, then 28, was one of only two men hand-picked by Scott to join the expedition and he became the cook for the northern shore party. They spent the summer at Cape Adare in a penguin rookery. Disaster struck when the *Terra Nova* was unable to pick them up as planned at the end of February 1913, due to extreme ice. The stranded crew had to endure winter in the Antarctic despite only having their summer gear and just eight weeks' rations.

Browning's skills were needed when the team ventured south and the remaining crew skirted the coast, becoming trapped in what the men called “Inexpressible Island”.

Despite becoming increasingly ill himself, Browning learnt how to make porridge with seal or penguin steak.

When the decision was made to walk 200 miles back to base camp, Browning was pulled on a sledge, although he insisted on walking the final stages. It took the men seven weeks to reach their destination, where they learned of the fate of Scott and his men. Browning came home to Torquay and continued to serve with the navy during the First World War and until 1922. He had two children with his wife Marjorie—Mary and Frank Ernest.

He was presented with the Antarctic Medal by King George V at Buckingham Palace for his part in the expedition. Mount Browning and Browning Pass in Antarctica were also named after him.

However, his life was not to be a long one and he died in 1930 after a bout of double pneumonia. He was 48.

His great nephew Mark Pool, who works at Torquay Library, said: “I believe he died in Henley-on-Thames, where I understand he had gone to work for a senior naval officer as a chauffeur or similar.”

Source: <https://www.henleystandard.co.uk/news/diary/80912/capt-scotts-lesser-known-companion-in-antarctica.html>

**Victor Campbell.** 20th August 1875 - 19th November 1956

Born in Brighton, England, and educated at Eton, Victor Campbell served initially in the merchant navy before receiving a Royal Navy commission in 1895. He resigned this in 1901 and lived the life of a country gentleman before joining Scott on the *Terra Nova*. Having private means he spent many summers in Norway where he learned to become proficient on skis and learned much about glacier, mountains and snow. He was nicknamed the “Wicked Mate” on board the ship as he was so keen on cleanliness.

He led what was to be an Eastern Party of 6 men to carry out scientific work in King Edward VII’s Land at the far side of the Great Ice Barrier (now the Ross Ice Shelf) from Ross Island in the west. Unable to find a landing site, they proceeded westward again when the ship met Roald Amundsen and the *Fram* in the Bay of Whales. They continued back the way they had come via Cape Evans, eventually heading north when they built a hut and wintered at Cape Adare in 1911, from this point, they became known as the “Northern Party”.

They wintered successfully though were unable to travel far or find a place where they could readily strike inland. So in January 1912 they were transferred about 250 miles further south by the *Terra Nova* to Evans Cove to carry out a geological survey. They had enough sledging rations for 6 weeks and the intention of staying 2 weeks before being picked up again. Sea ice conditions meant that the ship could not reach them and they had to over-winter again. An ice cave was excavated on what they named Inexpressible Island and a miserable winter ensued, rations being extended with the occasional seal or penguin that could be killed. With no relief forthcoming and not even sure if the *Terra Nova* had been lost or not

after they weren't picked up the previous summer as planned, the six men decided to start the 200 mile walk back to base at the end of winter on the 30th of September 1912. They were in a very weakened state with barely enough food and insufficient equipment but fortunately found a food and fuel depot along with the news that the *Terra Nova* had not been lost, they arrived at Cape Evans on the 7th of November in much better condition due to their new found supplies than they had been after their awful winter. Their journey should have been around 55 weeks, in the end they were gone for 93 weeks.

Campbell assumed command of the *Terra Nova* after being told of the death of Scott and the Polar Party as he was the senior remaining naval officer.

Campbell was decorated for his part in the WW1, rose to the rank of Captain and was awarded the OBE, he migrated to Newfoundland in 1922 where he farmed and fished, he died in 1956.

Source: <https://www.coolantarctica.com/Antarctica%20fact%20file/History/biography/Campbell-Victor-Lindsay-Arbuthnot.php>

**Victor Lindsay Arbuthnot Campbell** DSO & Bar OBE (20 August 1875 – 19 November 1956) was a British sailor and Royal Navy officer, who was a renowned explorer.

Born in Brighton, he was the son of Hugh Campbell and Lucy Eleanor Archer.

#### Terra Nova expedition

In 1910, he was First Officer on Robert Falcon Scott's Terra Nova expedition. After arriving in Antarctica in January 1911, his role was to lead an Eastern party of 6 men to explore and carry out scientific work in King Edward VII Land, to the east of the Barrier. On 26 January 1911, Campbell's party left in the *Terra Nova* and headed east. After failing to find a suitable landing site on the King Edward VII Land shore, Campbell decided to sail to Victoria Land. On its return westward, *Terra Nova* encountered Roald Amundsen's expedition camped in the Bay of Whales, an inlet in the Barrier.

#### Marooned in Victoria Land

After returning to Cape Evans and informing Scott of Amundsen's location, Campbell's party were renamed the Northern party and set off again, sailing northwards and put ashore at Robertson's Bay, near Cape Adare. They built a hut and wintered at Cape Adare but due to the sea ice conditions were unable to fulfil much of their intended summer 1912 explorations. In January 1912, *Terra Nova* returned from New Zealand, and transferred the party of Campbell, Raymond Priestley, G.M. Levick, G.P. Abbott, H. Dickason, and F.V. Browning to Evans Coves, a location 250 miles (400 km) south of Cape Adare and 200 miles (320 km) northwest of Cape Evans. However, they only had sledging provisions for six



weeks with the intention of completing the geological work in a couple of weeks. After the work was done they were left with rations for about four weeks. It was not anticipated the ship would have trouble picking them up as arranged in February but the *Terra Nova* could not reach them due to heavy pack ice. Unable to connect with their ship, the Northern Party was forced to winter in Antarctica again. The party built an ice cave on Inexpressible Island where they spent the winter in miserable conditions, supplementing their rations by killing scarce seal and penguins. On 30 September 1912, they set off for Cape Evans, finally arriving on 7 November after crossing more than 200 miles (320 km) of sea ice. After learning of the death of Scott and the entire Polar party, as the senior remaining Naval officer, Campbell assumed command of the Terra Nova expedition for its final weeks.

### Later years and honours

During the First World War, Campbell fought as Commander of the Drake Battalion in Gallipoli and in the Dardanelles, where he received the Distinguished Service Order (DSO), in the Battle of Jutland and took part in the Zeebrugge raid on board of HMS *Warwick* in 1918. Campbell served in the Dover Patrol and sank a U-boat by ramming it, for which he was awarded the bar to his DSO. In his further service with the Royal Navy, he reached the rank of Captain. During the winter of 1918-19 Campbell was posted to Murmansk in North Russia during the Archangel Campaign, having been recommended by fellow Antarctic explorer Ernest Shackleton to help instruct British forces in the use of arctic equipment. For this work he was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE).

Campbell emigrated to Newfoundland in 1922 where he died and was buried at Montgomerie Street Catholic Cemetery in Corner Brook, Newfoundland, in 1956.

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victor\\_Campbell\\_\(Royal\\_Navy\\_officer\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victor_Campbell_(Royal_Navy_officer))

### **Harry Dickason.** December 1884 - December 3rd 1943

Harry Dickason was born in Clifton, Bristol, England, most probably was, the record is not entirely clear. He became a mariner aged 16 in 1900 and joined the navy at Chatham, Kent at the age of 18.

In Antarctica on the Terra Nova expedition, he was part of the Northern Party under Campbell, they spent one planned winter away from the main expedition base in a hut at Cape Adare and another unplanned in an ice cave when the party could not be picked up due to heavy sea ice. He came up with a “blubber lamp” along with Browning to light the otherwise pitch black living quarters which was fuelled by fat from the few penguins and seals they managed to capture through the winter.

Before leaving Antarctica, Abbott took part in a ascent of Mount Erebus, the world’s southernmost active volcano.

Dickason served with the Royal Navy in WW1 as a Petty Officer being transferred to a Q-ship, an armed decoy boat designed to bring U-boats to the

surface where they would raise the white ensign and attack the out-gunned U-boat.

He was pensioned by the Royal Navy in 1924 and died in 1943, he received the Polar Medal for his time in Antarctica.

<https://www.coolantarctica.com/Antarctica%20fact%20file/History/biography/dickason-harry.php>

**George Levick.** 30th May 1876 - 30th May 1956

Born in Newcastle upon Tyne, Murray studied medicine at St Bartholomew's Hospital and joined the Royal Navy in 1902, a specialist in physical training.

Levick was given leave of absence from the navy in 1910 to join Scott's Terra Nova expedition to the Antarctic as a zoologist and surgeon. He was a member of the "Northern Party" and spent the austral summer of 1911-1912 at Cape Adare amongst the largest Adelie penguin colony in the world. A part of his studies of this colony were published initially in Greek only, due to what he considered the "depraved" sexual practices of the penguins, they were printed in 1915, but declined for publication in the official reports of the expedition and effectively lost until 2012 until they were rediscovered and published in the *Polar Record*.

The Northern Party were due to be picked up by the *Terra Nova* in February 1912, but the ship was unable to reach them due to pack ice, the party of five overwintered in an ice cave on Inexpressible Island in particularly uncomfortable conditions. Levick was known as "Mother" to the men for his compassion and ability to make friends with all, across social boundaries.

Back in England, Levick returned to the navy and was promoted to Fleet Surgeon in 1915 for his services in the Antarctic and in the First World War.

Between the wars he spent 20 years pioneering rehabilitation and physiotherapy in London, particularly with the blind and against some opposition. He founded the Public Schools Exploring Society in 1932 and was president until his death in 1956.

In the Second World War Levick returned to the navy, age 64 in 1940, in a position in a specialist training centre in Scotland where he taught fitness, diet and survival techniques for commandos in extreme conditions.

A notebook belonging to Levick was found as recently as 2013 at Cape Evans.

Source: <https://www.coolantarctica.com/Antarctica%20fact%20file/History/biography/Levick-George-Murray.php>

**George Murray Levick** (1876–1956) was a British Antarctic explorer, naval surgeon and founder of the Public Schools Exploring Society (now the British Exploring Society).

#### Early life

Levick was born in Newcastle upon Tyne, the son of civil engineer George Levick

and Jeannie Sowerby. His elder sister was the sculptor Ruby Levick. He studied medicine at St Bartholomew's Hospital and was commissioned in the Royal Navy in 1902. He was secretary of the Royal Navy Rugby Union at its founding in 1907.

### Terra Nova Expedition

He was given leave of absence to accompany Robert Falcon Scott as surgeon and zoologist on his Terra Nova Expedition. Levick photographed extensively throughout the expedition. Part of the Northern Party, Levick spent the austral summer of 1911–1912 at Cape Adare in the midst of an Adélie penguin rookery. As of June 2012, this has been the only study of the Cape Adare rookery, the largest Adélie penguin colony in the world, performed and he has been the only one to spend an entire breeding cycle there. His observations of the courting, mating, and chick-rearing behaviours of these birds are recorded in his book *Antarctic Penguins*. A manuscript he wrote about the penguins' sexual habits, which included sexual coercion, sex among males and sex with dead females, was deemed too indecent by the Keeper of Zoology at the British Museum of Natural History, Sidney Harmer, and prevented from being published. Nearly 100 years later, the manuscript was rediscovered and published in the journal *Polar Record* in 2012. The discovery significantly illuminates the behaviour of a species that is an indicator of climate change.

Prevented by pack ice from embarking on the *Terra Nova* in February 1912, Levick and the other five members of the party (Victor Campbell, Raymond Priestley, George Abbott, Harry Dickason, and Frank Browning) were forced to overwinter on Inexpressible Island in a cramped ice cave. Apsley Cherry-Garrard described the difficulties endured by the party in the winter of 1912:

They ate blubber, cooked with blubber, had blubber lamps. Their clothes and gear were soaked with blubber, and the soot blackened them, their sleeping-bags, cookers, walls and roof, choked their throats and inflamed their eyes. Blubbery clothes are cold, and theirs were soon so torn as to afford little protection against the wind, and so stiff with blubber that they would stand up by themselves, in spite of frequent scrapings with knives and rubbings with penguin skins, and always there were underfoot the great granite boulders which made walking difficult even in daylight and calm weather. As Levick said, "the road to hell might be paved with good intentions, but it seemed probable that hell itself would be paved something after the style of Inexpressible Island."

On his return, Levick served in the Grand Fleet and at Gallipoli on board HMS *Bacchante* in the First World War. He was specially promoted in 1915 to the rank of fleet surgeon for his services with the Antarctic Expedition. He married Edith Audrey Mayson Beeton, a granddaughter of Isabella Beeton, on 16 November 1918.

After his retirement from the Royal Navy he pioneered the training of blind people in physiotherapy against much opposition. In 1932, he founded the Public Schools Exploring Society, which took groups of schoolboys to Scandinavia and Canada, and remained its President until his death in June 1956.

### Second World War

In 1940, he returned to the Royal Navy, at the age of 64, to take up a position, as a specialist in guerilla warfare, at the Commando Special Training Centre at Lochailort, on the west coast of Scotland. He taught fitness, diet and survival techniques, many of which were published in his 1944 training manual *Hardening of Commando Troops for Warfare*.

He was one of the consultants for Operation Tracer; in the event that Gibraltar was taken by the Axis powers, a small party was to be sealed into a secret chamber in the Rock of Gibraltar to report enemy movements.

### Death

At the time of his death, Major D. Glyn Owen, Chairman of the British Exploring Society wrote:

A truly great Englishman has passed from our midst, but the memory of his nobleness of character and our pride in his achievements cannot pass from us. Having been on Scott's last Antarctic Expedition, Murray Levick was later to resolve that exploring facilities for youth should be created under as rigorous conditions as could be made available. With his usual untiring energy and purposefulness he turned this concept into reality when he founded the Public Schools Exploring Society in 1932, later to become the British Schools Exploring Society, drawing schoolboys of between 16 and 18½ years to partake in annual expeditions abroad into wild and trackless country.

### Discovery of Levick's notebook

In 2013 Levick's photography notebook was found by a member of the Antarctic Heritage Trust. It was found outside Scott's 1911 Cape Evans base. The notebook contains Levick's pencil notes detailing the date, subjects and exposure details for the photographs he took while at Cape Adare. After conservation it was returned to Antarctica. This notebook should not be confused with Levick's notebooks of his zoological records at Cape Adare, of which Volume 1 contains his revelations about the mating behaviour of the penguins.

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George\\_Murray\\_Levick](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Murray_Levick)

### **Raymond Priestley.** 20th July 1886 - 24th June 1974

Born in Bredon's Norton near Tewkesbury, England the son of a grammar school headmaster, Priestley studied Geology at Bristol University.

He joined Shackleton's Antarctic Nimrod Expedition (1907-09) at the end of his second year studying geology at university, he worked closely with renowned geologists, Philip Brocklehurst and Edgeworth David. He collected mineral and biological samples and was part of supply depot laying teams for Shackleton's

attempt on the South Pole in 1909. In November 1908 he spent three days in a blizzard sleeping outside the tents in his sleeping bag due to a lack of space inside. As the blizzard progressed, he gradually slipped down the glacier they were on nearly falling off the end to his death.

Priestley was recruited by Scott for the Terra Nova expedition when the ship called at Sydney on the way south where he was working on the geology report for the Nimrod expedition.

He was part of what was intended to be an Eastern Party of 6 men led by Campbell to carry out scientific work, but failing to find a landing site, they returned westward again coincidentally meeting Roald Amundsen on the *Fram* in the Bay of Whales. Unable to find a suitable eastern landing, Campbell's party became the Northern Party, building a hut and wintering at Cape Adare in 1911, he was the only civilian member of this group, the others being naval men.

The following summer in January 1912, they were transferred 250 miles south by the *Terra Nova* to Evans Cove (closer to the expedition base hut) with enough sledging rations for six weeks and two weeks provisions for six men with the intention of staying two weeks before being picked up again. Heavy sea ice conditions meant that the ship could not reach them and they had to over-winter again. Unprepared and woefully under resourced, their tents having been damaged by a gale, the team dug an ice cave on a place they later called Inexpressible Island and a miserable winter ensued, rations were extended with the occasional seal or penguin that could be killed. They left at the end of winter on the 30th of September 1912, walking towards Cape Evans, crossing 200 miles of sea ice to arrive on the 7th of November when they were informed of the deaths of Scott and the South Polar party.

Before leaving Antarctica, Priestley took part in an ascent of Mount Erebus, the world's southernmost active volcano.

Priestley served in WW1 with distinction being awarded the Military Cross, he remained in the army until 1920. In the same year he was awarded a BA at Cambridge for his research work and writings on glaciers, 15 years after beginning to study for a degree at Bristol!. Also in 1920, he co-founded the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge with fellow Terra Nova expedition member Frank Debenham. Priestley had a long administrative university career holding many academic and government posts in Australia and England. He was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne, later the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham (1938-52) he was knighted in 1949.

Despite retiring in 1952, he served variously as Chairman of the Royal Commission on the Civil Service, deputy Director of the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey (which later became the British Antarctic Survey), and president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science (1956). He returned to Antarctica in 1956 and 1959.

Source: <https://www.coolantarctica.com/Antarctica%20fact%20file/History/biography/Priestley-Raymond.php>

Sir Raymond Edward Priestley MC (20 July 1886 – 24 June 1974) was an English geologist and early Antarctic explorer. He was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham, where he helped found The Raymond Priestley Centre on the shores of Coniston Water in the Lake District National Park.

Raymond Priestley was born in Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, in 1886, the second son and second of eight children of Joseph Edward Priestley, headmaster of Tewkesbury grammar school, and his wife, Henrietta Rice. He was educated at his father's school and taught there for a year before reading geology at University College, Bristol (1905–07).

### Antarctic expeditions

Priestley had completed his second year of studies when he enlisted as a geologist for Shackleton's Nimrod Expedition (1907–09) to Antarctica. There he worked closely with renowned geologists (Sir) Edgeworth David and Douglas Mawson, also members of the expedition. Priestley collected mineral and lichen samples from the region including islands in the Ross Sea, the North face of the Mount Erebus volcano, and mountains near the Ferrar Glacier. He was part of the advance team that laid the food and fuel depots for Shackleton's nearly successful attempt to be the first to reach the South Pole in 1909. In a November 1908 expedition, due to a lack of space in a tent, Priestley spent three days of a blizzard sleeping outside in his sleeping bag. As the blizzard raged, he slowly slipped down the glacier and nearly fell off its end to his death. On his return from the expedition, he spent four months in England before returning to Sydney, Australia, to work with Edgeworth David on the geological report, eventually published in 1914.

Priestley returned to the Antarctic as a member of Robert Falcon Scott's ill-fated Terra Nova Expedition (1910-1913), after being recruited by Scott when the *Terra Nova* arrived in Sydney. Three weeks after landing at Cape Evans in January 1911, Priestley and five others departed in the expedition ship, the *Terra Nova* to explore and carry out scientific work in King Edward VII land to the east under the leadership of Victor Campbell. Unable to find a suitable landing site, they decided to return West with the intention of landing at the Bay of Whales but arriving on 3 February 1911 they encountered Roald Amundsen's ship *Fram* and his expedition already camped there. Unwilling to establish a camp so close to the Norwegians, Campbell decided to explore the coastline of Victoria Land instead. After returning to Cape Evans and reporting Amundsen's location to Scott, they set off North to Victoria Land where they established a hut near Carsten Borchgrevink's 1898 site at Cape Adare. In January 1912, the six man party was taken 200 miles farther south by the *Terra Nova* to Terra Nova Bay, midway between Cape Evans and Cape Adare, for summer fieldwork. They had provisions for eight weeks but their tents were badly damaged by a gale and the *Terra Nova* was unable to penetrate the ice pack and pick up the party as arranged. Realising that they would have to winter where they were, they excavated a small 12 foot by 9 foot ice cave in a snow drift

and remained there in the shelter they nicknamed “Inexpressible Island” for almost 7 months until the end of the Austral winter, supplementing their meagre rations with seal and penguin. With two of the party weak from enteritis, they left their temporary home on 30 September 1912 and walked for five weeks, fortuitously finding a cache of food and fuel along the way which had been left by the expedition’s western party the previous year. They eventually arrived safely back at Cape Evans on 7 November 1912, only to be informed that Scott and the entire Polar party had perished months earlier.

### First World War

Priestley served in the British Army during World War I, receiving a commission as a temporary second lieutenant in the Royal Engineers (London Wireless Signal Company) on 5 September 1914. He was seconded on 9 December 1914, and was appointed an adjutant and promoted to temporary lieutenant on 15 April 1915. Priestley served as adjutant at the Wireless Training Centre (1914–17), then with the 46th (North Midland) Divisional Signal Company R.E. in France, and was promoted to temporary captain on 5 February 1916. He commanded the 46th (North Midland) Divisional Signal Company R.E. from 1917–19, and was involved in the taking of the Riqueval Bridge, part of the Hindenburg line, by the 137th Infantry Brigade, for which he was awarded the Military Cross in March 1919:

Lt. (T/Capt.) Raymond Edward Priestley, 46th (N. Mid.) Div. Coy., R.E., T.F. Near Bellenglise on 2nd, 3rd and 4th October, 1918, he was in charge of the executive handling of the signal communications and was mainly instrumental in keeping touch with units during the attack on Ramicourt and Montbrehain. His efficiency and enthusiasm were most marked. He showed utter disregard of danger during his duty on the lines over the whole of the shelled area.

### Post-war career

After the war, Priestley was promoted to acting major on 24 January 1919, and was seconded to the War Office that year to write the history of the signal service. He also wrote “Breaking the Hindenburg Line”, an account of 46 (North Midland) Division’s spectacular attack during the Battle of St Quentin Canal. During April-May 1919, he was a staff officer to the Signal Officer-in-Chief, with the temporary rank of major. He relinquished his temporary commission on 17 November 1920, reverting to the permanent rank of lieutenant in the Territorial Force. From 19 February 1921, he again held the temporary rank of major in the reserves, in the 3rd London, Royal Corps of Signals. On 6 July 1921, he was commissioned a lieutenant in the Cambridge University Contingent (Senior Division), Officers Training Corps. He was promoted to captain on 21 June 1922 and resigned his commission on 30 June 1926, retaining the rank of major.

His research and thesis on glaciers in the Antarctic earned him a BA

(Research) at Cambridge in 1920. The same year, he co-founded, with fellow Terra Nova expedition member Frank Debenham, the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge. In 1922, Priestley was elected fellow of Clare College. In 1924 he joined the university's administrative staff, becoming concurrently assistant registrar, secretary to the board of research studies and secretary-general of the faculties. From the 1930s until his retirement, he held a series of academic and government administrative posts in Australia and England. He was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne from 1935 until resigning in 1938 on a matter of principle after one of several confrontations with the Chancellor. He returned to Britain to be Vice-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham (1938–52). He was knighted for Services to Education in the 1949 New Year Honours.

After retirement in 1952, he served as Chairman of the Royal Commission on the Civil Service from 1953–55, as deputy Director of the former Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey (later called the British Antarctic Survey) from 1955–58, and as president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science (1956). He revisited Antarctica in 1956 and 1959 and in the latter year was awarded the Patron's Gold Medal of the Royal Geographical Society, for whom he was President from 1961–63.

### Personal

He married Phyllis Mary Boyd (d.1961) in April 1915. He was the brother-in-law of fellow Terra Nova expedition members C. S. Wright and Thomas Griffith Taylor.

He died, aged 87, on 24 June 1974 in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, survived by his two daughters.

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raymond\\_Priestley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raymond_Priestley)

Sir Raymond Edward Priestley (1886-1974), scientist and vice-chancellor, was born on 20 July 1886 at Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, England, second son of Joseph Edward Priestley, headmaster of Tewkesbury Grammar School, and his wife Henrietta, née Rice. It was a 'staunch Methodist background'. Educated at his father's school, Priestley was in the final year of science at University College, Bristol, when he was appointed geologist to Ernest Shackleton's 1907-09 Antarctic expedition. His geological and geographical observations, many made in association with (Sir) Edgeworth David, are included in appendices to Shackleton's *The Heart of the Antarctic*.

Working with David in Sydney on the expedition's geological reports, Priestley was recruited to Robert Falcon Scott's second Antarctic expedition of 1910-13, again as a geologist although his actual scientific work covered a broad area. A team-mate, T. Griffith Taylor, later married his sister. Priestley's major work was with the northern party which, ice-bound at Terra Nova Bay, survived the winter



in summer outfits by digging a snow cave and living on seal and penguin meat. Sir Vivian Fuchs wrote of the episode as 'a story of human endurance which has rarely been equalled', and Priestley's *Antarctic Adventure* (1914) treats graphically of the experience.

In 1914-17 Priestley was adjutant to the Wireless Training Centre; he later served in France with the 46th Division Signals and was awarded the Military Cross. In 1919 he was seconded to the War Office to write the history of the signal service. He also published *Breaking the Hindenburg Line* (1919) and, in 1922, the 'classic' *British Antarctic (Terra Nova) Expedition, 1910-1913. Glaciology*, with C. S. Wright. On 10 April 1915 at Ringwood, Hampshire, he married Phyllis Mary Boyd (d.1961), of Dunedin, New Zealand.

After graduating B.A. (1920), Dip.Ag. (1922) from Christ's College, Cambridge, Priestley was elected in 1922 fellow of Clare College. In 1924 he joined the university's administrative staff, becoming concurrently assistant registrar, secretary to the board of research studies and secretary-general of the faculties. Lord Rutherford commented on his tact and 'remarkable capacity for administration'.

From the early 1930s the Council of the University of Melbourne moved to appoint the university's first salaried vice-chancellor. In 1934 Priestley somewhat reluctantly accepted the appointment, at £2000 a year with allowances. He proved an able and humane administrator, arguing that students should graduate cultured and broad in outlook. He established a 'development and policy' committee, and threw himself into the task of representing the university before the wider community. He fought for scholarships, places, more staff, more research, the extension of disciplines and a new library. The opening of the students' Union House in 1938 was his greatest success, but his liberality both of vision and behaviour set a standard which was emulated and has not been forgotten.

Priestley suffered however from relentless attrition at the hands of the chancellor, Sir James Barrett, Professor T. H. Laby and others who resented the transfer of powers. Following a demand from Barrett for a report on a controversial student meeting about the Spanish Civil War, Priestley informed the council that there appeared to be no place 'for a Vice-Chancellor who is not a man of straw'. Despite receiving council's support, he resigned from June 1938. He was also despondent at the lack of funds from the State government, and his wife was unwell and unhappy in Australia. Geoffrey Blainey has said that, in his brief time in Australia, Priestley established a reputation as probably the country's 'most dynamic and invigorating educationist'; looking back, Priestley remarked that he was somewhat amazed at his boldness at the time.

In 1938 he became principal and vice-chancellor of the University of Birmingham. He immediately faced immense problems. The war saw the university transformed into a research centre, and great postwar expansion followed. (Sir) Mark Oliphant, then his vice-principal, remarked that, whereas in Melbourne Priestley saw himself as 'the manager of a large business', in Birmingham he regarded himself 'as spokesman for the academic staff and the students'. Priestley's

harmonious relationship with the student body was regarded as one of his major achievements at Birmingham, together with his forging of links between the university and the Midlands community, and his demonstration to industry of the value of the university.

Among many extra-mural activities Priestley was an adviser to the British Broadcasting Corporation and member of the Asquith commission on higher education in the Colonies. He was knighted in 1949. After retirement in 1952 he served as chairman of the royal commission on the civil service (1953-55), was acting director (1955-58) of what was to become the British Antarctic Survey, and president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science (1956). He had a lifelong interest in cricket and tennis, and revisited Antarctica in 1956 and 1959.

All associated with Priestley appreciated his 'direct and uncomplicated character', his quiet humour and patience, but also his firm resolve. He died at Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, on 24 June 1974, survived by two daughters.

*Source:* S. Murray-Smith. This article was published in Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 11, (MUP), 1988.

### **Raymond Edward Priestley**

Born on July 20th 1886, Raymond Edward Priestley grew up and went to school in Tewkesbury, before going on to become an explorer, scientist, soldier and educator.

At the age of 20, whilst studying geology at Bristol University, chance gave him the opportunity to join Ernest Shackleton's 1908 expedition to Antarctica as a geologist. This experience allowed him to be offered a place on Scott's 1910, Terra Nova Expedition.

As a member of Scott's scientific Northern Party led by Lieutenant Victor Campbell, Priestley lived with the five other members in a hut at Cape Adare for a year. After a summer spent camping further down the coast the Northern party became stranded and had to spend the winter of 1912 living in an ice cave on very strict rations eked out with penguin and seal meat. All six of them survived until the spring and then they trekked 200 miles to Scott's base, only to be greeted with the news of the deaths of Scott's polar party. Priestley's book on the experience "Antarctic Adventure: Scott's Northern Party", was published in 1914. He was also responsible for several scientific papers based on field data from Shackleton's and Scott's expeditions, published between 1914 and 1923

Priestley served in the Great War in the Signals Division of the Royal Engineers. Priestley attained the rank of Major and was awarded the Military Cross. After the war he wrote, "Breaking the Hindenburg Line: The Story of the 46th North Midland Division", published 1919 and "The Signal Service in the European War of 1914-1918", published 1921.

With Frank Debenham, he helped found the Scott Polar Research Institute in

Cambridge in 1920.

Post-war he worked in university administration at Cambridge University, then took the post of first Vice Chancellor at Melbourne University, Australia. In 1938 he was appointed Vice Chancellor of Birmingham University, retiring in 1952.

From 1941, he was Chairman of the Post-War Planning Survey: West Midlands Group.

During 1943 – 45 he was a member of the West Indies Committee of the Commission on Higher Education in the Colonies. He was subsequently involved with setting up the University of the West Indies in Jamaica and Trinidad from 1946-51.

He was knighted for Services to Education in 1949.

He was Chairman of the Royal Commission on the Civil Service 1952-55. The Commission covered all aspects of the employment of civil servants.

He was Acting Director of the former Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey (FIDS) (later called the British Antarctic Survey) from 1955-58. He essentially ran the organisation whilst the Director, Sir Vivian Fuchs was leading the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition. Priestley completely rationalised the administrative organisation during his tenure.

He accompanied the Duke of Edinburgh on the *Britannia* to visit Antarctica in 1956-57. On arrival they transferred to the ship RSS *John Biscoe*. Priestley accompanied the Duke of Edinburgh in his capacity as Acting Director of FIDS, landing and inspecting the stations at Detaille Island, Faraday, Anvers Island, Port Lockroy, Danco Island, Admiralty Bay and Deception Island.

He returned to the Antarctic in 1958-59 as an observer of the U.S. Operation Deep Freeze IV. He sailed from New Zealand on USS *Wyandot* to McMurdo Sound before transferring to the icebreaker, USS *Staten Island*. He visited Hut Point, the Scott Hut at Cape Evans, Shackleton's Hut at Cape Royds, Little America, Hallet Base and the Balleny Islands.

Sir Raymond Priestley became President of the Royal Geographical Society 1961-63.

After retirement he retained his interest in all Antarctic exploration and always kept contact with Tewkesbury, living at nearby Bredons Norton until his death in 1974.

Source: <https://www.tewkesburymuseum.org/the-collection/the-object-collection/raymond-priestley-antarctic-explorer/>

## OBITUARIES

### SIR RAYMOND EDWARD PRIESTLEY

With the death of Sir Raymond Edward Priestley MC on 24 June 1974 the Society has lost a distinguished Vice-President, who made his name as a member of Shackleton's *Nimrod* expedition 1907-09 and of Scott's Terra Nova expedition of

1910-13. Between those expeditions and his Presidency of the Society from which he retired at the age of 76 years, he, like a number of his contemporaries of the heroic age of Antarctic exploration, made an outstanding contribution in the public life of this country. Although for many years he was too busy as a Vice-Chancellor to give much time to Antarctic exploration, it remained a central interest and favourite topic of conversation throughout his life.

Priestley was born in Tewkesbury in 1886 where his father was headmaster of the Grammar School. It was through his elder brother that he joined Shackleton's *Nimrod* expedition in 1907 as a geologist, having left Bristol University College during his second year as an undergraduate reading geology. During the next 15 years his academic progress was intermittent but he gained outstanding experience that qualified him for his future life in the university world.

As an active field geologist on Shackleton's expedition, he studied areas on Ross Island and the mountains to the west of McMurdo Sound. He then returned to Sydney University with the senior geologist, Professor Edgeworth David, to work on expedition reports and continue his studies. However, along with Frank Debenham from the same department, he was recruited by Scott, on his professor's recommendation, to join the British Antarctic expedition of 1910-13. It was no doubt due to his previous experience that Scott chose him as a member of the Northern Party. After spending the first year at Cape Adare, the party were landed at Terra Nova Bay to conduct a geological and glaciological reconnaissance for six weeks. At the end of the summer, when it became clear that the ship would not pick up the group, they set about preparations to survive the winter. Because of gales they hacked a cave out of a snow-drift for their winter home and set about killing and collecting as many seals as possible since they had normal rations for only one month. Priestley was placed in charge of the commissariat—clear evidence that at that age, as later, he was noted for his fair-mindedness and integrity.

Six months of life in a small ice cave had its drawbacks, including a general bout of food poisoning, but the men responded to the situation. A line down the middle of the cave divided the 'wardroom' from the 'lower deck'. Nothing said by the three on one side of the line could be heard 'officially' by the three on the other side, and as a safety valve the system worked. Priestley maintained that it was due to this training that in later years he never lost his temper with professors at the council table, no matter how unreasonable they were. When the spring came, the party managed to sledge back to McMurdo Sound. Undeterred Priestley then led the second ascent of Mt. Erebus.

Scott's story had such an effect on the public that after the expedition the survivors shared the fame. Priestley returned to England, wrote *Antarctic adventure*, and returned to study at Cambridge. He married Phyllis Boyd, a New Zealander, in 1915, and became brother-in-law to the two Antarctic friends when his sisters married Charles Wright and Griffith Taylor. However, his studies were again interrupted, this time by the First World War. He won the Military Cross for

his work with the 46th Divisional Signals during an assault on the Hindenberg Line, and finished active service as a major, after which he was seconded to the War Office to write the official history of the Signal Service. He also wrote *Breaking the Hindenberg Line* and sections of Wright and Priestley's *Glaciology* which has become a classic.

On his return to Cambridge he studied agriculture in Christ's College, and became a fellow of Clare College in 1922 when he joined the administrative side of the University. After a period as Secretary for graduate students, he became the first Secretary-General of the Faculties in 1934. It was during this period in Cambridge that, along with Frank Debenham, he played a major part in founding the Scott Polar Research Institute. He also gave a popular lecture series on polar exploration which inspired several young men to activity in polar exploration—Gino Watkins being one of them.

Priestley, who was a firm believer in the British Commonwealth, put this into practical effect by moving to the post of Vice-Chancellor at Melbourne University in 1935 and by serving on various Commonwealth University advisory bodies over many years. In Melbourne, although popular with students and staff, he felt that he was not being given sufficient financial support by government and industry. He left in 1938 to become Vice-Chancellor of Birmingham University, where he spent the next 14 years. He was a conscientious and hard-working vice-chancellor who not only had his successes in gathering money and in academic recruitment, but who also took trouble to maintain close and friendly relationships with his students. In both Melbourne and Birmingham he supported the development of physical education and the provision of sporting facilities in the University—while he himself continued to enjoy cricket as a player and spectator. He was a keen supporter of undergraduate expedition activity, first at Cambridge, then at Birmingham and finally on the Society's Expeditions Committee.

After his official retirement, he continued a busy and active life. His first major task was to chair the Royal Commission of 1953-55 which laid down the principles by which pay in the Civil Service is still related to pay in other spheres. This done, he was able to return to his earlier interests, as well as becoming President of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in 1956. From 1955 to 1959 he took over as acting Director of the London Office of the Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey during the absence of Dr, later Sir, Vivian Fuchs on the trans-Antarctic expedition. He made two visits to the Antarctic during this period, first with Prince Philip on the Royal Yacht *Britannia* in early 1957 when it visited the Falkland Islands and Dependencies. In 1958-59 he revisited his old haunts at McMurdo Sound as official British Observer with the US Operation Deepfreeze IV. It was during this voyage that he learned that the Society had awarded him its Patron's Medal.

After serving the Society in various capacities he became President for 1961-63, fifty years after the Terra Nova expedition. He retired from office when nearly

77 years old—an active and much loved President. His later years were spent in a happy family atmosphere near Tewkesbury with his daughter and many family friends.

Priestley's outstanding characteristic was a common sense and fair-minded approach to problems. He was readily approachable by students and professors alike. He was generous to a fault, with both money and time. Like many great men, he was modest, with few pretensions. However, he evidently much enjoyed his association with Prince Philip. He had many of the virtues of the Victorian era into which he was born, but he was a realist who kept pace with the times. It was a privilege of many, great and humble, to have known him.

*Source: The Geographical Journal. Vol. 140, Part 3, pp. 322-23.*

THE HUT  
from Raymond Priestley's  
*Antarctic Adventure Scott's Northern Party*

By the end of March the interior of the hut looked quite like a home, for each man had decorated his own cubicle with photographs and sledge flags; each had also shelves for his own books, and Browning had fixed up a set of library shelves.

The galley also was quite shipshape and the stove was working moderately well, and, in consequence, we were able to keep the temperature well up between 50° and 60° when the weather was not too boisterous. A strong wind, however, always created a mighty draught through the hut, and it was quite a common thing during a blizzard for the temperature of the hut to be down to well below freezing while the whole of the top of the stove and the first few feet of the chimney were red-hot.

It had originally been intended that each man should curtain off the 6 feet of space which was his own property, and some very artistic curtain material had been bought with this idea. We found, however, that there was never any need for such privacy, and the curtain material was put to better uses. Every one was allowed to use his own taste when arranging the furniture and in the decoration of his cubicle, but our ideas ran much in the same lines, and a description of my own cubicle will thus do very well as a sample.

The only official boundaries separating me from my neighbours on either hand consisted of two pencil marks on the wall; and imaginary lines drawn at right angles to the wall from these marks, and projecting 6 feet towards the centre of the hut, constituted the limits of my territory. One of these imaginary lines I at once reinforced with my bedstead, an iron frame with a spring wire mattress, but the delimitation between Campbell and myself was left variable so that I should have some legal right to the use of the chart-table which projected from his cubicle into mine. The bed took up quite half of the available floor space, and underneath it the greater part of my geological outfit, my spare clothes, and the specimens I was working on from time to time were stored in wooden boxes, so that there was not much room wasted. The spring mattress was thus not quite an unmixed blessing. I still feel it would have been just as comfortable to lie on a bed made out of a number of cases, as I did in the Shackleton Expedition, as to lie on a mattress whose contour, thanks to the projection of several hammer and pick handles, and the corners of sundry tins, reminded one strongly of a West Country landscape in England.

By the side of the bed was a flour-box, which served to hold the candlestick and books which solaced many of the hours I spent in bed, and this completes the tale of furniture.

On the wall above the head of the bed were three shelves, which occupied in my mind all through the winter the same position that the sword must have done in that of Damocles. These were laden with the whole of my geological library and other

books, and most of the apparatus I possessed which was breakable. Fortunately, here again our carpentry was considerably better than it looked, and if the hut is still standing, it is probable that the shelves are too. Below the shelves came the small picture-gallery I possessed, and (purely for the sake of appearances) an impressive map of the Antarctic was also pinned to the wall by the side of my bed, while a series of nails held such articles of clothing as I was obliged to don every two hours before leaving the hut to take the meteorological observations.

The hut was in all 20 feet square, and so the dimensions of our cubicles, which were 6 feet by 6 feet, left quite a considerable space for general use and we were never cramped for room. The comparatively large size of the hut was useful in many ways, and is distinctly to be recommended for any party which is intended to do much scientific work. It made all the difference to our comfort that we were able, thanks to this and to the presence of Borchgrevink's hut, to do most of our work indoors.

The great height of the hut, on the other hand, was decidedly a drawback, for it doubled its resistance to the wind and much increased the amount of time and material taken up in its erection.

From the plan it will be seen that the men's cubicles and the galley were arranged along one side of the hut, and the officers' cubicles and Campbell's chronometer-box on the other side. The stove was purposely fixed as near the door as possible so as to reduce to a minimum the labour of carrying fuel and ice, and the piping of the chimney was thus increased in length considerably. This latter fact, however, was an advantage rather than a disadvantage, for it very much increased the efficiency of the stove as a heating apparatus while decreasing the danger from fire. The position of the dining table was determined with reference to the windows.

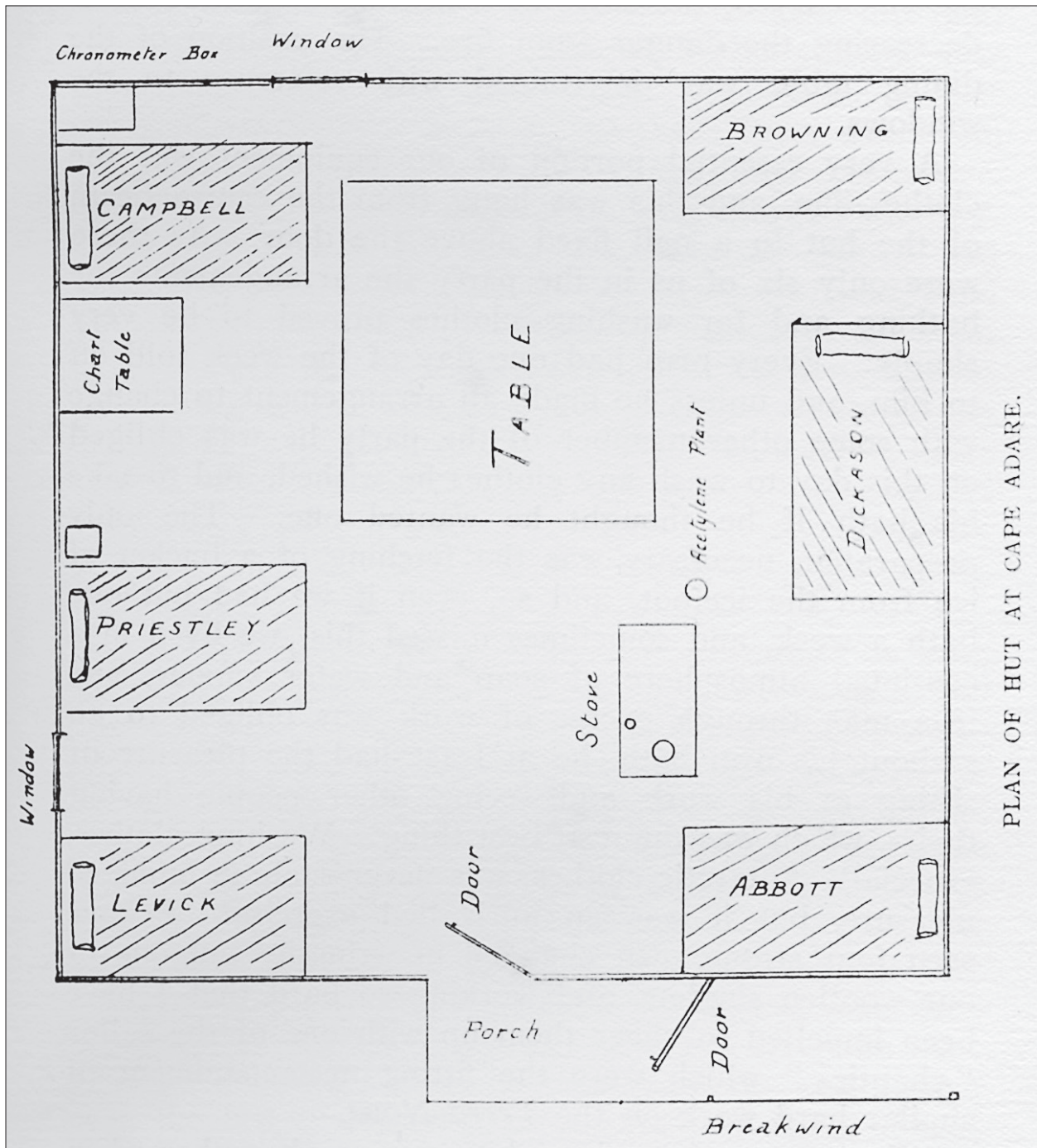
A very essential portion of our equipment was the clothes-line, and this was hung from the centre beam of the hut to a nail fixed above the door. As there were only six of us in the party the arrangements for bathing and for washing clothes proved to be very simple. Every man had one day of the week told off to him, and unless he made an arrangement to change with some other member of the party he was obliged on this day to wash any clothes he wished, and to take his bath if he thought he wanted one. The only preparation necessary was the fetching of a bucket of ice from the icefoot, and so, even if we had but one bath a week, and sometimes missed this, we lived in a continual atmosphere of soap and water vapour, and if a man through excess of work was obliged to go without his own bath, he at least had the pleasure of sitting at his work and seeing other people having theirs, which was the next best thing. Washing clothes, especially Antarctic clothes, was never such an unmixed pleasure, but it was an unrivalled exercise. I have seen four strong men engaged in wringing out one of our woollen singlets, and working so hard that I have been impelled to cheer them up with one of the sailor "chanties" which were the fitting accompaniment of similar hard work on the *Terra Nova*.

*Source: Antarctic Adventure Scott's Northern Party, pp. 62-66.*





The Hut. *Sources:* Photos by George Murray Levick. SPRI



Plan of the Hut. Source: Priestley, *Antarctic Adventure*; Scott's Northern Party.



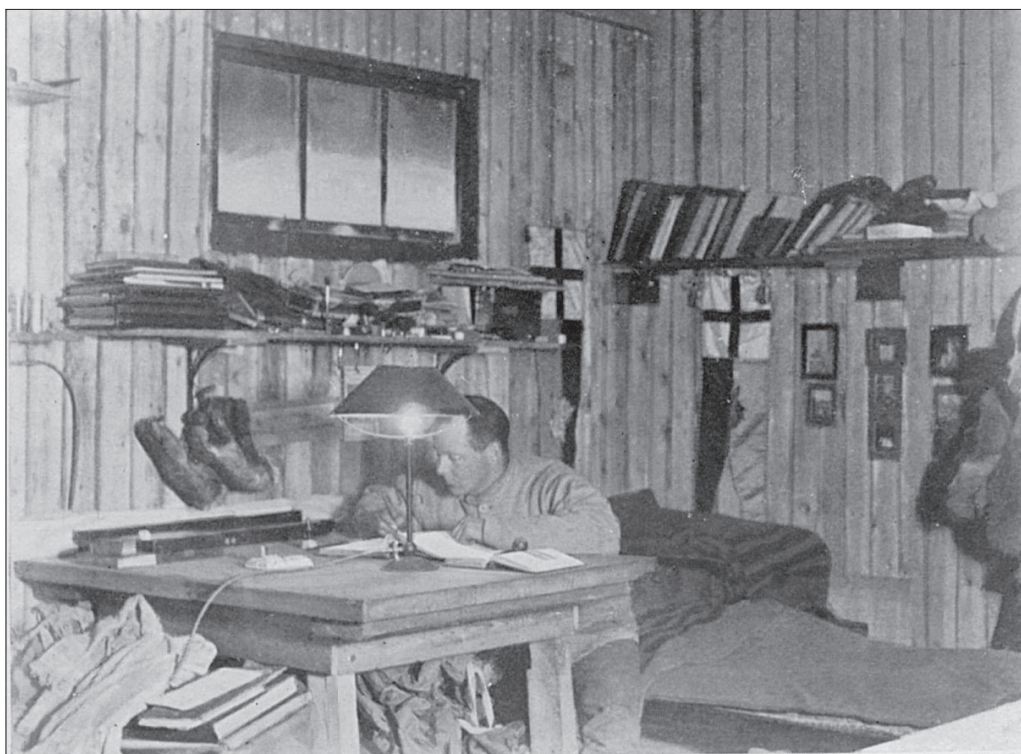
"The Galley." *Source: Priestley, Antarctic Adventure; Scott's Northern Party.*



"An Afternoon's Sewing." *Source: Priestley, Antarctic Adventure; Scott's Northern Party.*



"A Comfortable Shave." *Source: Priestley, Antarctic Adventure; Scott's Northern Party.*



"Comfort in the Antarctic." *Source: Priestley, Antarctic Adventure; Scott's Northern Party.*



“Two Methods of Washing Clothes.” *Source: Priestley, Antarctic Adventure; Scott’s Northern Party.*



“Midwinter-Day Dinner.” *Source: Priestley, Antarctic Adventure; Scott’s Northern Party.*

CONTRIBUTORS  
to the *Adélie Mail & Cape Adare Times*

The Naval Mounted Horse. Signed: *Air Ball*.  
 A Lament. Signed: *Bluebell*. .....Levick (in ink, by Priestley)  
 Verse following A Lament. [Added in ink] .....Signed in ink: REP (Priestley)  
 For Sale. ....Signed in ink: R.E.P (Priestley)  
 Testimonial  
 A Burglar's Birthday. Signed: *Onlooker* ..... (In ink, Browning?)  
 Police News.  
 Lost. ....Signed in ink: REP (Priestley)  
 Our Prize Poem. The Barrow Dip. Signed: *Bluebell*. ..Levick (in ink, by Priestley)  
 Exciting Scrap in Water Street. ....Abbott (in ink, by Priestley)  
 "We Regret to have to Announce..."  
 Books of the Month.  
 Science Notes. The Chilly Season.  
 The Controversy.  
     Letter 1 .....Priestley  
     Letter 2 .....Levick  
     Letter 3 .....Priestley  
     Letter 4 .....Levick  
     Letter 5 .....Priestley  
     Letter 6 .....Levick  
     Letter 7 .....Priestley  
     Letter 8 .....Levick  
     Letter 9 .....Priestley  
     Letter 10 .....Levick  
     Letter 11 .....Priestley  
 Sequel to a Scientific Argument.  
 Ode to an Odoriferous Plant. Signed: *Hyacinth*.  
 To Let. ....Campbell?  
 Our Cookery Column. Signed: *Primus*. ....Dickason (in ink, by Priestley)  
 Purely Antarctic Recipes. Signed: *Aunt Mary*.  
 A Naval Anecdote. Signed: *Scud*.  
 A Story for Children. ....Levick (in ink, by Priestley)  
 To Let. Signed: *Bluebell*.  
 A Legend in Portsmouth. Signed: G.M.L.....Levick

Excerpts from Raymond Priestley's  
Diaries & Journals relating to the  
*Adélie Mail and Cape Adare Times*

Diary III. MS298/6/4.

“This evening I have spent at the typewriter with fair success.”

*Entry for August 22, 1911.*

“We are trying to get up a small paper & already Abbott & Levick have sent in two contributions each. I am editor & am going to type the six copies required.”

*Entry for November 25, 1911.*

“Afterwards I did a bit of work on my ice notes & the rest of the day has been used up in compiling & editing, including typing the Cape Adare Adélie Mail up to date, a task I intend to devote my Sundays in the future until it is finished. ¶ Campbell does the illustrations. Levick the poetry while the men contribute the articles & I do the odd pass [?] & an article [or] two as well together with the advertisements. I think the paper is going to be rather hot stuff.”

*Entry for November 26, 1911.*

“We have been writing a scientific & abusive controversy for the “Adélie Mail”.”

*Entry for November 27, 1911.*

“I have to acknowledge the receipt of another poem from Levick which in my opinion beats all his other efforts. I will insert it here:- “A Story for Children” [Appears to be the same as published.]

*Entry of December 1, 1911.*

“This morning I typed out a few pages more of the “Adélie Annual & The Cape Adare Sporting Life” as we have finally decided to call the paper...”

*Entry for December 4, 1911.*

“This morning I labelled my specimens & put in a couple of hours at the typewriter bringing the magazine up to date. With Dickason's help I have devised a Cookery Column to which he has contributed an excellent article on sledging cookery.”

*Entry of December 5, 1911.*

“Levick has given me another poem for the paper, an advertisement for the hut to let. NOTICE TO LET [Appears to be the same as published.] It is quite up to standard

& amusing especially to anyone who, like myself, is a very amateur carpenter & helped put up the hut. I don't know that I endorse his statement about next winter but I give it about three if left to itself, in spite of wire stays, leanto & cases. ¶ Levick has also done two faked? aurora photographs for the paper but they are not very good.

*Entry for December 17, 1911.*



Excerpts from Raymond Priestley's  
*Antarctic Adventure; Scott's Northern Party*

Now that we had more spare time on our hands, it seemed a good time to endeavour to produce some sort of a magazine or paper which should be modelled on those of previous expeditions. We therefore called a meeting of authors, at which contributions were promised by all hands, and I was appointed editor, and so the *Adélie Annual* came into being. We did not pretend to a high literary standard, but the articles were mainly topical and so interesting to ourselves, and the paper was the cause of much amusement. One poem, which was sent to me signed "Bluebell," was an advertisement of our hut and enumerated its points very well:—

TO LET.

The late inhabitants, with much regret,  
Beg to announce this hut is now to let.  
They grieve exceedingly they cannot stay,  
But urgent business calls them away.  
The hut and furniture, thus on the market,  
Remains for any one who cares to shark it,  
And if you care to walk in, I dare say, gents,  
You won't be worried by no dashed house agents.  
There'll be no rent to pay, no tax or poor rate;  
You won't be fussed, or called on by the curate,  
Whilst duns will leave you quiet for a space,  
Being positively strangers to this place.  
A place, in short, a prince might well inhabit.  
Look ! what a chance ! and no one here to grab it.  
Each time the wind blows plates rain off the shelves,  
For, with the hut, we put them up ourselves,  
And consequently we're prepared to state  
Each plank is split, and not a nail's in straight.  
This latter dodge was ours, and quite a great one  
(A crooked nail sticks faster than a straight one)—  
It's all yours for the asking, every splinter,  
But hurry up, it won't last out next winter.

Another poem by the same author deals with science from the explorer's point of view.

## THE BARROW DIP.

The day being calm, we take occasion  
To make magnetic observation  
With Poles direct and B end dipping,  
We don't care how the frost is nipping.  
With instrument first facing east,  
Who minds such hardships in the least ?  
So merrily we crack our quip,  
The while we work the Barrow Dip.  
And, stamping on the creaking snow,  
Shout, "Right away, boys ! let her go!"

With face of instrument now west  
The little needle seems possessed.  
Ye gods ! the fun is waxing warm;  
This must be a magnetic storm.  
We stop to find the reason and  
Find some one's been and kicked the stand.  
For though a tripod was at school  
Declared to be a three-legged stool,  
This toy would seem to have indeed  
Enough legs for a centipede.

The instrument being once again  
Adjusted on a level plane,  
And the offender roundly cursed,  
We start again with poles reversed,  
And watch the swinging needle bend  
Its upper then its lower end,  
And noting twice which way it lean,  
First take the sum and then the mean.

The worker's hands are numb with cold,  
His nose a wonder to behold.  
All this we've done, but don't forget  
The fun's not nearly over yet,  
Because there still remains, of course,  
The three times cursed magnetic force.  
The jest this time is much increased  
(With both the needles facing east).  
We fix (as we are told to do)  
The north end near the tangent screw,

Nor do we heed the chilly air,  
But note each reading down with care.  
Then on our frozen limbs we rise,  
And fill the air with joyous cries.  
We'll go and make a huge repast—  
The beastly thing is done at last !

*Source: Antarctic Adventure; Scott's Northern Party, pp. 188-190.*

Note: There are differences between the versions here and in the Priestley's original copy of the *Adélie Mail Cape Adare Times*, more so in the case of the "The Barrow Dip" than "To Let."

## THE TYPEWRITER

THE *Adélie Mail and Cape Adare Times* was typed by Raymond Priestley on an Underwood typewriter, one of two taken on the expedition. (The other one was at Cape Evans and was used by Cherry-Garrard to produce the *South Polar Times*.) The Underwood Typewriter Co. even featured in an advertisement a photograph of Cherry typing away in the hut; pictured is a No. 5 Underwood. We know that the one at Cape Evans made it back to London because Underwoods wrote Commander Evans asking to borrow the original machine to place in its window for advertising purposes. But what about the second typewriter, the one Priestley used at Cape Adare? In all likelihood it went aboard the *Terra Nova* when the men were picked up on January 4, 1912, and taken to Terra Nova Bay. Or possibly when the *Terra Nova* returned to Cape Adare in January 1913 to pick up the geological and other specimens. Where either typewriter is today is not known.

There is a question about the typing: Did Priestley use carbon paper? If so, can you successfully come up with an original and five carbon copies on a manual typewriter? Inspecting the one surviving copy—Priestley's at SPRI—it's difficult to tell whether it's original or a carbon copy. My guess is that Priestley either typed



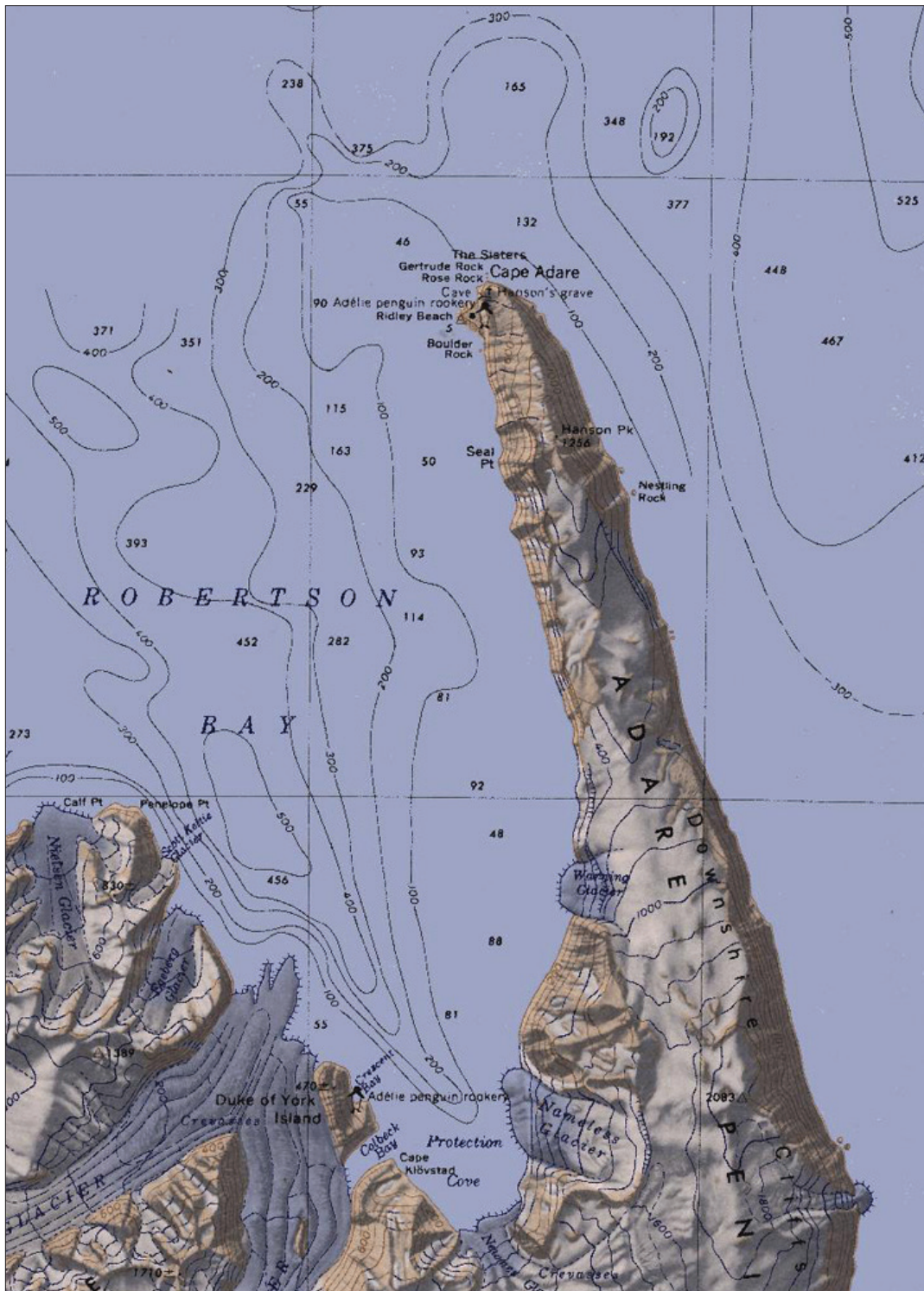
An Underwood No. 5. Source: Casillo, Anthony. *Typewriters; Iconic Machines from the Golden Age of Mechanical Writing*.

up six originals (in which case there would be minor differences with each one) or typed 2 or 3 originals with the remainder being carbon copies. This could be cleared up, of course, if additional copies were to turn up.



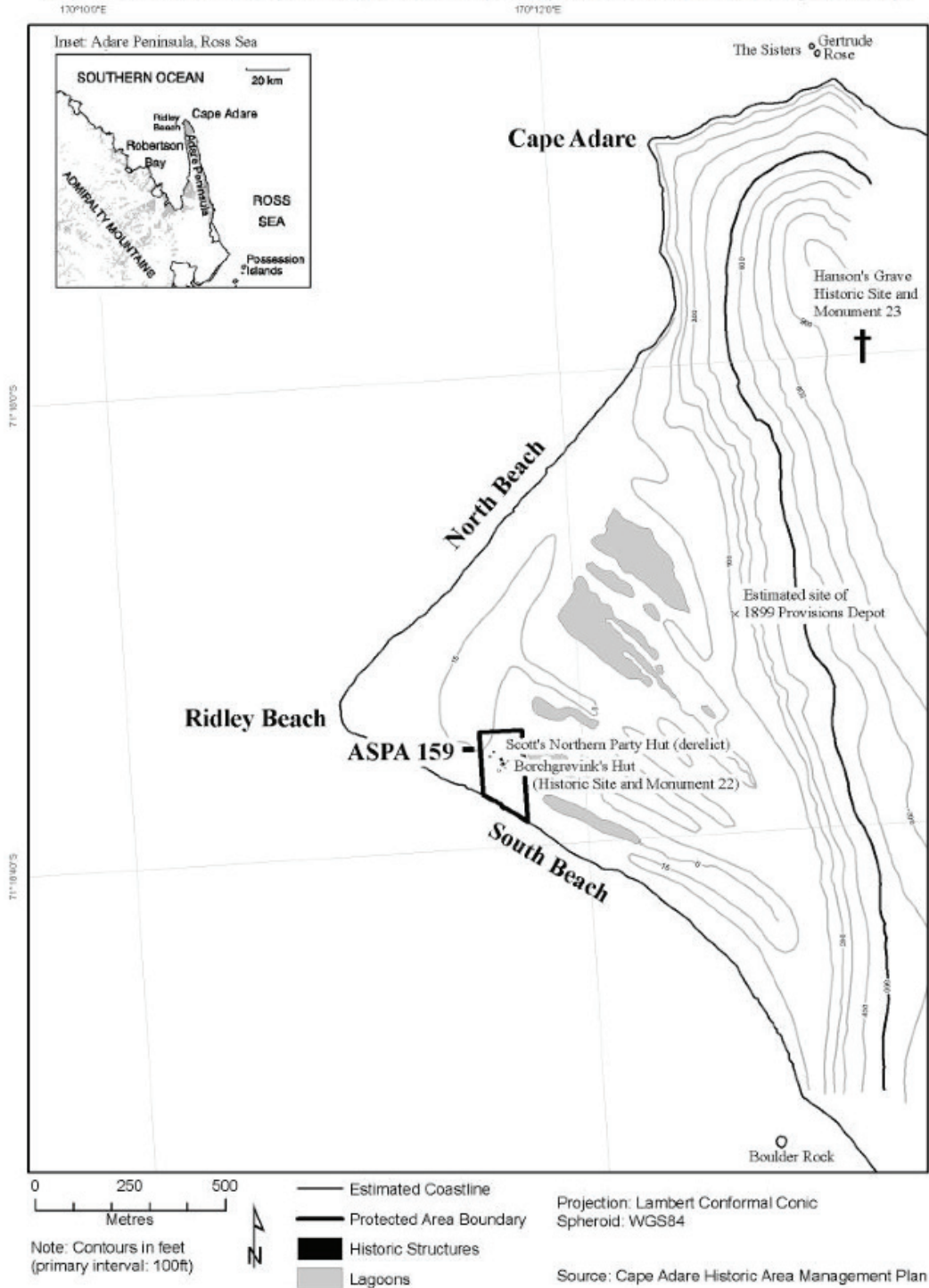
Priestley at the typewriter.  
*Source: Priestley, Antarctic Adventure; Scott's Northern Party.*

## OTHER IMAGES



Cape Adare and Robertson Bay, detail. *Source:* U. S. Geological Survey, 1968.

Map A - Historic Hut, Cape Adare, Antarctic Specially Protected Area 159: Regional Map



Cape Adare. Source: [http://www.ats.aq/documents\\_recatt\\_Att45I\\_e.pdf](http://www.ats.aq/documents_recatt_Att45I_e.pdf)



Browning plaque in the Torquay town hall. *Source:* Photo by Paul Davies.

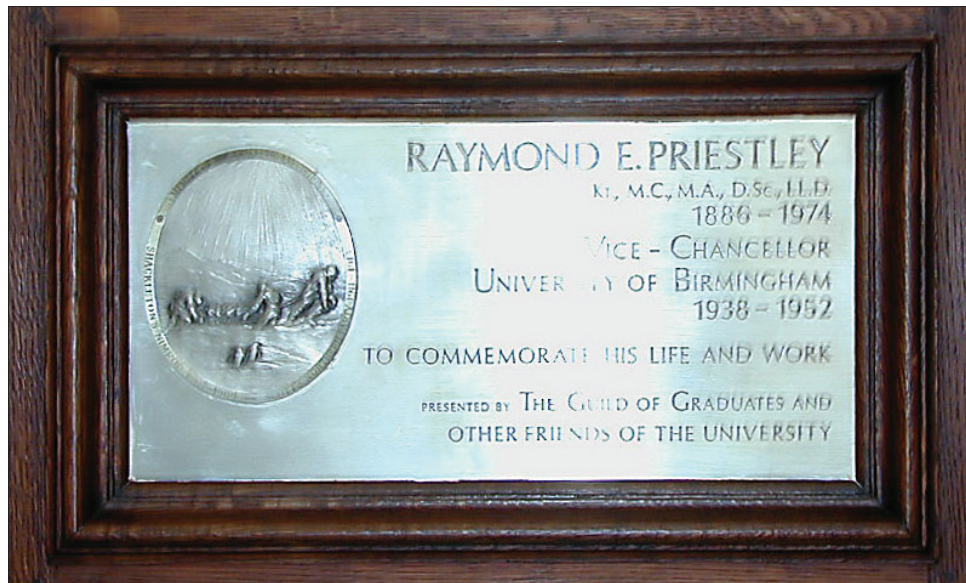


Campbell's grave in Corner Brook, Newfoundland. *Source:* Findagrave. Photo by Tonya





The Priestley family gravesite, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire.  
*Source:* Photo by Robert Stephenson.



Priestley plaque in the Great Hall, University of Birmingham.  
*Source:* Photo by Robert Stephenson.

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of part of MS 298/6/1;BJ with photographs, diagrams and notes on sledging  
equipment] 1 volume, holograph

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