

NATIONAL CHILDREN'S HOME

FORTY BRANCHES

HARPENDEN BRANCH

AND ORPHANAGE

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HARPENDEN, HERTS

Governor: Mr. E. SHUTT J.P.

Telephone: Harpenden 125

Nearest Station: Harpenden Central

Founded by Dr. Stephenson, 1869

Chief Offices

HIGHBURY PARK, LONDON, N.5

General Treasurer

SIR HAROLD BELLMAN, D.L., J.P., LL.D.

Remittances payable to the
National Children's Home and
Orphanage

11th September 1957

Miss Ann M. Savours,
Scott Polar Research Institute,
Cambridge.

Dear Madam,

Thank you for your letter of 4th
September.

At the time that we acquired a house in Harpenden known as Clare Lodge to be used as a hostel for printing apprentices we received a gift from Miss Wild, the sister of the late Commander Frank Wild, towards the cost of furnishing and equipping the house. It was thought fitting that one of the rooms of the house should be known as "The Frank Wild Room" and photographs of the "Endurance" and Commander Wild were placed in the room, together with a message from Lord Mountevans which is under the photograph of Commander Wild.

We have not in our possession any diaries or letters, but we have a copy of the book "Aurora Australis" which was printed within the Antarctic, bound in what appears to be wood of a tea chest and thin leather, which we were told was dogskin.

We have three photographs in the Frank Wild Room. One is of the "Endurance", one of Frank Wild sitting in a group with other men round a fire, presumably during Shackleton's absence, and the third of Commander Wild, under which is the following inscription:

"Commander Frank Wild, C.B.E., F.R.G.S., R.N.V.R.

Who served with such distinction and gallantry through five Antarctic Expeditions was one of those pioneers of exploration in the Great White South, one who was admired and beloved by all who knew him and no finer tribute could be paid to him than that a special room bearing his name should perpetuate his example in the National Children's Home. His story is one of unflinching devotion to duty and one which puts him high in the history of exploration, one which should inspire the youth of our great nation to strive, to seek, to find and not to yield. May you who use this room and all who visit it, remember that he died as he lived - a great-hearted sailor, a bold and intrepid explorer and, above all, a great christian gentleman.

~~signed~~ Mountevans, Admiral

Evans of the "Broke" April 5th 1946"

I hope this information will be of some help to you.

Yours faithfully,

E. Shutt

Ack'd

Am S.

12/9/57