

"December sixteenth. Due to low lying and sheltered position "one of the last parts of the islet to be clear. Apparently "still a little life left in *Empetrum* and *Azorella*. Both "species of *Blechnum* have small green shoots though main plants "dead. *Armeria* healthiest looking of all and may flower. All "else seems dead (especially grasses) but will keep a watch for "any development. We have had scarcely any sunshine since snow "went."

Monday, 31st December. Cloudy with occasional intervals of sunshine and a fairly strong northerly wind; warm (46 degrees F.). Flett and I worked on our collections. Back went over to the Scar Hills and found a strong stream flowing in the valley beside them. Ashton kindly gave me a haircut, and I then had a shave; Taylor and Donnachie did likewise. Back put a temporary filling into one of my teeth to replace a metal filling which came out today. At 2000 hrs. we heard the radio broadcast of New Year celebrations from England, it being then midnight there.

Tuesday, 1st January, 1946. Cloudy and foggy later in the day. Back, Davies, Marshall and Matheson ~~started off on their sledge journey~~ were to have started on their sledge trip to Duse Bay this evening, but their departure was postponed on account of the weather. Flett and I were packing our specimens all day.

Wednesday, 2nd January. Very warm in the forenoon when the sun was shining, 49 degrees F.; the glacial stream on the other side of the Nissen Hut started to flow, and is now swollen to a small torrent; round the laboratory about 18 inches of water lies in the bottom of the moat formed by the high snowdrift round the house. Back sent up a meteorological balloon, with James working the theodolite. Donnachie has erected a new aerial mast on the small rock outcrop west of the house. Ashton went up into the corry of Mt. Flora to the place where the fossiliferous shale crops out in situ, and returned with some fine specimens. Flett and I busy all day with the sledge journey collections. In the afternoon the temperature dropped to below freezing, it became overcast and foggy, and heavy snowfall came on; the departure of Back, Davies, Marshall and Matheson is therefore again postponed. I received the following message from Lockley: "Gardening Notes. Last February I scattered a packet of Chinese cabbage seeds at random in shell patches below house. Many seedlings now coming up."

Thursday, 3rd January. Sunny and hot in the early part of the day. Back, Davies, Marshall and Matheson started off on their sledge journey at midday, taking two teams; they intend to be away for a week. Taylor, Donnachie, Russell and I gave them a hand to haul the sledges up the steep slope. Donnachie and James sent up a meteorological balloon in the afternoon. Ashton erected his weather vane and signal lamp on a ~~x~~ tall steel mast in front of the house. Flett and I worked on our collections. Water is running underneath the house and several small brooks are emerging from beneath it on its east side. An incredible ~~are~~ amount of rubbish and dirt is being revealed by the rapid thawing of the snow round the house.

Friday, 4th January. A clear day of unbroken sunshine. Ashton, with our help, finished the erection of his weathervane and signal lamp in front of the house. I finished the cataloging and packeting of the botanical specimens collected on our sledge journey; the total comes to about 270 specimens. Donnachie attempted twice during the evening to establish radio contact with Marshall's sledging party, but unsuccessfully. In the evening a message

came through for Taylor from the Governor of the Falklands, telling us that Cdr. Bingham had arrived in Stanley, and was being placed in charge of both the incoming and outgoing parties; he would communicate with us direct.

Saturday, 5th January. Another fine sunny day. James and Donnachie sent up two meteorological balloons. Donnachie could not get in touch with the sledging party. Flett still working hard on the geological collections. I finished the packeting of the botanical collections and started on the microscopic examination of some of them.

Sunday, 6th January. A rather windy but bright sunny day. After breakfast Ashton and I went up into the corry of Mt. Flora, towing my small sledge loaded with rucksacks and collecting materials. We went to the place on the north flank of the mountain marked in one of the illustrations of Nordenskjold's "Antarctica"; here the fossiliferous shale forms thin seams cropping out on an overhanging cliff face. Blyth came up a little later to join us, and he and Ashton began to collect plant fossils, while I examined the lichen and moss vegetation around this place. I then left them and went down the hillside towards the "Scar Hills"; at one place, where small rivulets of snowmelt water irrigate stony slope, there is a wonderful profusion of moss, mostly Polytrichum, of a most vivid green colour and forming cushions up to 2 feet across- the most luxuriant moss growth I have ever seen. None of it was fruiting, but the vegetation development was magnificent. I returned to the house via the shore of Boeckella Lake, which is now open in some places around its margin; several penguins were disporting themselves in the water, swimming round below the surface. In the afternoon we picked up the weekly broadcast news from Stanley, and learnt that the "Fitzroy" will be leaving to come to the South Shetlands on the 9th of this month. Despite Taylor's request, we still have had no official news regarding the arrangements made for our evacuation and that of our scientific material.

Monday, 7th January. Mainly cloudy, but otherwise fine. Ashton and Blyth continued the painting of the outside of the house, a job which they started some weeks ago. I made progress with the microscopic examination of my lichen specimens. Flett is still working on the packing and cataloging of the rock specimens and fossils. James went out in the afternoon with the plane table to conclude his large scale map of the Hope Bay area. A message came through from Bingham to tell us that it is hoped to relieve all bases and evacuate us within the next ten days; he wanted to know the number of dogs and pups still here, and whether Ashton would be prepared to wait at Base D and continue with the new party until two new bases are established. Finally, he requested that seal meat be got ready at Deception for the feeding of 50 dogs. Painting wooden boxes for specimens in the evening.

Tuesday, 8th January. Sunny and calm. Taylor completed his typed and bound copy of his official journal of the expedition. Flett and I working on our scientific collections. Early this morning the sledging party, consisting of Back, Davies, Marshall and Matheson, returned; they had experienced great difficulty in travelling between the islands in Duse Bay on account of the flooding of the

sea ice with snowmelt water off the slopes; this indicates that in this area sledge travel becomes impracticable about the beginning of January. Was up painting specimen boxes till nearly midnight.

Wednesday, 9th January. Cloudy mainly, but calm. A message came ~~from~~ through from Stanley to inform us that the "Scoresby" had left there early this morning to come here and take us down to Port Lockroy to join the "Fitzroy". In the forenoon I loaded one of the 12-foot sledges, set up the plate camera, harnessed the dogs, and took four plate photographs of Taylor, Marshall, Matheson, and myself at the sledge; when I developed the plates in the evening, however, I found that they were not a success, as the shutter speed had not been sufficient to arrest the rapid movement of the dogs. In the afternoon I finished the microscopic examination and cataloging of all the botanical specimens. Flett is writing up his report on the geological results of the sledging journey. Marshall packed up some of his specimens. James typed out my diary as far as I have it transcribed from the rough version kept on the sledge journey.

Thursday, 10th January. Everybody is busy packing up personal and scientific gear, typing out lists etc. I took photographs of the sledgers one by one standing beside the loaded sledge, with the dogs harnessed up; used Flett's camera for the purpose.

Friday, 11th January. A radio message from the "Scoresby": now on her way to us, stand by ready for her arrival at 0800 hrs. tomorrow, arrange for rapid departure. We finished the packing of our effects, and our boxes and chattels are now all ready. There are 68 cases of scientific material, botanical, zoological and geological.

Saturday, 12th January. The weather is poor with a southerly wind, falling snow and poor visibility. In addition to this, there is a good deal of pack ice out in the Sound. It was therefore not surprising that the "Scoresby" did not arrive, and later in the day a message came through from her to say that she was abandoning the attempt.

Sunday, 13th January. The weather continues bad, with a southerly wind raising drift and obscuring the view in the bay. There is less pack ice in the bay, however, as the wind is steadily driving it north. I spent most of the day transcribing this diary from my field book.

Monday, 14th January. At 0330 hrs. we were suddenly roused from our slumbers by a voice bellowing: "Hey, you f---s, don't you want to be relieved?!" The "Scoresby" had in fact arrived, and Marchesi, Niddrie (the Port Stanley Meteorological Officer), and Dr. Andrews, the new medical officer for Base D, had entered the house and found everybody asleep. This was hardly to be wondered at, for we had no notification of the second attempt to get through to us. We tumbled out and dressed, and soon our scientific cases and personal baggage were being sledged down to the rocks

being sledged down to the rocks and loaded aboard the waiting dinghy from the "Scoresby", which was lying about half-a-mile offshore in the bay near Seal Point. I went off with the first load of specimens (botanical and geological) to arrange for their safe stowage. As we came alongside, fairly large waves whipped up by a moderate southerly wind tossed the dinghy up and down, up and down, and several breaks of spray splashed over the boxes of botanical specimens which I am trying so hard to keep dry; I shall have to open them up in Stanley to investigate the extent of the damage. Going aboard, I met the first mate, Fleck, an old friend of ours from Park Street days, and had a cup of tea in the galley while the dinghy returned to the shore for another load. The botanical specimens and personal gear were stowed forward, off the crew's mess-deck, and the geological boxes in the heads on the port side. Berry came out with the second load and climbed aboard, and after the unloading of this lot I went back in the empty dinghy with Davies, Donnachie and Matheson. The last of the cases and personal baggage was then loaded into the dinghy, and after bidding farewell to Russell, James and Andrews, we all piled in among the boxes and bundles and pulled out to the ship. As soon as we and our gear were all aboard she turned and steamed out of Hope Bay towards the west, at about 0730 hrs. The sea ~~was~~ was somewhat rough in Antarctic Sound, but after mid-day we ran into fine calm sunny weather in the Bransfield Strait. Our mail was on the "Scoresby", and as soon as it had been sorted out we sprang upon it avidly and started to read letter after letter from home. Lunch and dinner of fresh mutton and cabbage was greatly relished by most of us. Leading Seaman M. Lewis was aboard, hard to recognise at first behind a blond beard, and I went to his cabin forward where he showed me a number of his latest photographs and gave me some to keep. At 2100 hrs. we arrived at Deception, ran in through the "Bellows", and tied up alongside the "Fitzroy" and the oil barge, which is being used as a platform for the stores unloaded from the "Fitzroy". The "Trepassy", the small diesel-engined vessel captained by our old friend, Capt. Sheppard, whom we saw standing on the oil barge to greet us, was lying at anchor some way off. We saw and saluted several familiar faces, including Reece of Base B, Capt. Pitt of the "Fitzroy", Mr. Jones the first mate, Bob Whitton, first mate of the "Eagle" and now of the "Trepassy", Chas. Smith of Base B and others. Cdr. Bingham, whom I knew already from a short visit I paid him in 1943, appeared and greeted us, then went onto the "Fitzroy" with Taylor for consultations. The members of the new parties for the different bases were unloading their stores from the "Fitzroy's" hold onto the deck of the oil barge for later transfer to the "Scoresby" and the "Trepassy". We got our own stores off the "Scoresby" onto a vacant part of the barge, and later they were taken onto the "Fitzroy". Davies, Matheson and I went ashore in a dinghy to revisit the old Base B house, and to look at the new dogs (nearly 50 of them) brought down for next year's work. At the house we met Farrington, Bonner, ~~Reece and Smith~~ who is being repatriated to Stanley on account of ill health, and the new cook of Base B, a Port Stanley man. We then accompanied Farrington, Bonner, Reece, and Smith off to the "Fitzroy" ("Scoresby" in the case of Reece, who is going to Hope Bay), together with their baggage. Shortly afterwards, Bingham asked all

members of both the outgoing and incoming parties into the mess room of the "Fitzroy" for a drink, and introduced us to them with remarks expressing his appreciation of the work which we have accomplished. One of the new party for Base D was Croft, a Museum colleague from the Department of Geology, released from the Royal Engineers to join the expedition in a scientific capacity; we had an interesting talk, and shared the same cabin until tomorrow, when we shall leave on the "Fitzroy" for Port Lockroy, leaving the others here to go on to the other bases in the "Scoresby" and the "Trepassy". It is understood that two new bases are to be established, one at Marguerite Bay and the other at the South Orkneys. We turned in some time after midnight.

Tuesday, 15th January. At 0800 hrs. Bingham and the rest of the new personnel, except two, Hardy and Stock, who are going to take over at Port Lockroy, left the "Fitzroy" to go on to the "Scoresby" and the "Trepassy". The "Fitzroy", with us on board, then steamed out of Deception and southwards down the Gerlache Strait towards Port Lockroy. The weather was excellent, calm and sunny, with good visibility, and we had a fine view of the mainland coast with the high plateau above it and of the various islands, large and small, which forms the Palmer Archipelago. The green rock on Copper Peak, Anvers Island, showed up well as we passed it in the Neumayer Channel. We got into Port Lockroy at about 2230 hrs, and the outgoing residents, Lockley, Biggs, Layther, and "Dodger" White, came out in their dinghy and came aboard.

Wednesday, 16th January. Today was spent at Port Lockroy, discharging the new Base A stores from the "Fitzroy". Farrington and I went ashore and helped the new residents, Hardy and Stock, to carry up their radio stores into the house. I took the opportunity to look at the "Garden" of Falkland Islands plants which I established there last year; most of the plants are dead or dying, probably due more to prolonged blanketing by deep snow than to low temperatures; the census gave the following results:-

1. Alive and healthy: Armeria Maccloriana and Taraxacum -sp.;
2. Unhealthy and apparently dying: Empetrum Rubrum, Azorella caespitosa;
3. Dead: Baccharos magellanica, Pernettya pumila, Blechnum tabulare and B. pinna-marina.

Lockley has sown some cabbage seed in sandy soil beside the meteorological screen, and the seedlings have come up vigorously and are now in the cotyledon stage. White, the cook, is staying on at Base A for another year, and Biggs, the handiman, will also return there after having his teeth attended to in Stanley. Taylor and Niddrie came ashore later, and the former worked on the cancellation of mail which is being sent off from Base A. Lockley has captured some ringed penguins which he is taking back in a crate for the London Zoo. In the evening Lockley, Marshall, and I went along to the cabin of the chief engineer, Mr. Ealius, and had some beer and a chat.

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Thursday, 17th January. The "Fitzroy" continues its voyage in fine sunny calm weather. We passed the Palmer Archipelago in the forenoon and left Deception and Livingstone Island about 20 miles to port side in the evening. We are bound for Laurie Island, South Orkneys, and should arrive there Saturday morning, at about the same time as the "Scoresby" and the "Trepassy", which are going on to there from Hope Bay. The sea is ice free except for sporadic bergs and growlers.

Friday, 18th January. Another fine warm sunny day. In the afternoon the "Fitzroy" overtook the "Scoresby" and the "Trepassy", which have come from Hope Bay, and all three proceeded together northwards. A few stringers of brash ice of very limited extent were encountered; otherwise the sea was quite open. In the late afternoon we had Elephant Island about 15 miles away on the starboard side; I took a photograph of this island, historically interesting in connection with Shackleton's "Endurance" expedition. Cape Pigeons frequently fly in swarms round the ship, and twice this afternoon we saw a Black-backed Albatross resting on the water; we have never seen this bird at Port Lockroy or Hope Bay. At 2200 hrs all three vessels had to deflect their course to avoid a wide belt of pack ice extending to the north of us.

Saturday, 19th January. The weather continues fine but the sea is rougher. After several detours to avoid belts of pack ice, the three ships were in the afternoon slightly north of the South Orkneys and to the west of them. At about 1700 hrs. the "Fitzroy" attracted the attention of the "Trepassy" with lights and siren, and flashed to her a message that she was leaving the convoy to proceed straight to Port Stanley; she then deflected her course westwards, and soon we lost sight of the other two ships. We should be in Stanley on Tuesday. This morning our convoy was joined for a few hours by a Norwegian whale catcher, the "Suderoy VII", which is operating from the parent whaler "Suderoy". The decision to head straight for Stanley was arrived at from consideration of the poor state of Bonner's health.

Sunday, 20th January. Somewhat cloudy and noticeably warmer; ~~Sunday, 20th January~~ we probably crossed the Antarctic Convergence today, or soon will. Numbers of Whale-birds (Pachytila) flying alongside; birds about the size and build of a Snow Petrel, but of a light grey colour. Several Albatrosses also seen.

Monday, 21st January. Warm, mostly sunny, with scurrying cumulus clouds and a fairly smooth sea, although a strong north wind was blowing. At about midday we sighted the Falklands, and an hour later we were passing low tussock-covered islands on our way to the narrows leading into Port Stanley. We could smell the peat smoke and vegetation off the land, and were excited, after our two years sojourn amid snow and ice, to seen green vegetation and human habitations again. The "Fitzroy" entered the narrows, and the town of Stanley appeared round the corner of the point, with its brightly coloured houses scattered on the hillside—a welcome and gladdening sight. At about 1330 hrs. the "Fitzroy" docked against the public jetty, where a number of people were waiting. It gave us quite a thrill to see women again. The Colony's surveyor, Col. Woodgate, came aboard and made arrangements for the reception of members of our party in several different places; he also arranged for two motor trucks to take our personal luggage off in relays. Taylor was driven off to Government House, where he will stay as a guest of the Governor, together with Col. Main, who is returning to Britain on account of ill-health.

Flett and I tallied our specimen boxes out of the ~~main~~ ship's hold into the warehouse on the jetty; he then went on to Captain Robert's house, where he and I have been invited to stay, to arrange money advances for our party. I got his personal gear and mine, also Taylor's, onto one of the trucks, and took it with a box of expedition documents; the latter I left at the Colonial Secretary's office, and sent the truck on to Government House with Taylor's trunk. Going back ~~taxi~~ towards Capt. Robert's house, I met Mrs. Gibbs and her small son, and had a chat; shortly afterwards Dr. Gibbs, with his agricultural assistant Mr. ~~over~~took me in his car and asked me to come with them out towards the lighthouse where he was going to inspect some of his experimental cropping patches. He drove out about three miles, to a point by the seashore, and showed me several experimental patches sown with grasses and ~~a~~ clover and manured with different fertilisers, also a field of potatoes which he was raising in newly tilled soil. The soil is a mixture of peat and sand, and needs much improvement with lime, phosphate, etc., before it will yield anything like profitable crops. We returned at 1700 hrs., towing back to Stanley the car of one of the wireless station operators who had had a breakdown nearby. I went on to Capt. Robert's house, and joined him and Flett at tea, after which he showed us round his garden, where he grows a large variety of vegetables. Then a luxurious bath, and I changed into one of my new suits which has been waiting for me here in my trunk for nearly two years; we had dinner at 2030 hrs., greatly enjoyed the fresh meat, vegetables and fruit.

Wednesday, 23rd January. A beautiful warm sunny day, fairly calm for the Falklands. At 1030 hrs. the expedition personnel assembled in the conference room of the Colonial Secretary's office, which we are using as a headquarters here. We have the use of a typewriter to make copies of our manuscript ~~make~~ logs. Smith went to the warehouse and looked out the botanical specimen boxes, bringing them up to Dr. Gibbs' office, where I had an upstairs room for their reception; he opened them up, and I examined each one in turn for dampness. Only one box was damp and I spread out the affected specimens to dry. I sent off two telegrams this morning, one for home, and the other to my bank manager, enquiring how much I now have to my credit.

Thursday, 24th January. Went to the headquarters in the morning, then on to Dr. Gibbs' office, where Smith had put out some empty boxes, into which I ^{re}packed the dry lichen specimens. The "Fitzroy" left for Punta Arenas at 1800 hrs.; among the passengers was Dr. Gibbs, whom I saw shortly before his departure and gave him an airmail letter to Butterfly to post at Punta Arenas. Had tea at the "Ship" hotel with Ashton, who is staying there, with Berry. In the evening Dr. Hamilton and Lockley came round to Capt. Roberts' house, and I showed them some of my botanical photographs.

Friday, 25th January. I was working on the preparation of my botanical report most of the day. Smith has nailed up the new boxes into which I have transferred the lichen and moss specimens, and is preparing to paint and stencil them. Capt. Roberts is in bed today with a severe cold.

Saturday, 26th January. Typed out part of my botanical report at the Col. Secretary's office. Smith painted the new specimen boxes. In the evening we enjoyed extracts from "Rigoletto" on Capt. Roberts' very fine radiogram.

Sunday, 27th January. Flett and I went along to the office in the forenoon, and typed out some of our reports. Taylor came over to Capt. Roberts' house after lunch, and he, Flett, and I had a walk up on to the peat moor above the town, returning to Capt. Robert's house for tea. I collected a few lichens, but we did not see many, as there is not much rock exposed immediately above the town.

Monday, 29th January. After breakfast Flett and I went along to the Public Works Office, and arranged for a motor truck to fetch my last year's botanical specimens. Accompanied by a clerk from the P.W.O., we rode in the truck up to the store, which is in a Nissen hut at the top of the hill overlooking Stanley. We loaded the boxes onto the truck, which took them down to Dr. Gibbs' office, where I put them with the others. I spent the afternoon painting the titles and British Museum address on the old and new boxes.

Tuesday, 29th January. A fine sunny day. At 1015 hrs. (Falklands Time) Taylor rang me up and told me that he was driving out with the Governor in his car to inspect some of the agricultural experimental plots outside Stanley, and I was invited to accompany them. I went along to Government House, and was met by the car at the gates. We drove out to the sea coast on the S.E. side of Stanley, where I had been with Dr. Gibbs last week. I collected some lichens on the shore, and we sat on the freshly cut hay for a while, basking in the sunshine. The sands here are very white and it was a fine sight to see the green rollers coming in, mounting up and then disintegrating with a hollow roar into a surge of white frothy foam. We returned at lunchtime, and the Governor dropped me outside Capt. Roberts' house. In the afternoon I catalogued and packeted up the botanical specimens which I have collected here. In the evening we were all invited to the Governor's for dinner. We assembled in the reception room of Government House, where we were greeted by the Governor and his A.D.C. Mr. Aldridge; then into another room where we were served dinner round a long table with the Governor sitting at the head of it. Capt. Roberts and Dr. Hamilton were also present. After dinner the Governor made a short speech, to which Taylor replied. We left at about 2330 hrs. (Falklands time), and some of us went on to the gymnasium, where a dance was being held. Blyth was unable to attend, being in hospital with an attack of quinsy.

Wednesday, 30th January. After breakfast Capt. Roberts came out with Flett and myself in the motor launch "Lively" to Fairy Cove, which is on the other side of the inlet opposite Port Stanley. He left Flett and myself there to do some collecting, and sent another motor launch to fetch us back at midday. I collected a number of lichens on the quartzite rocks cropping out here and walked along the rocky shore, which abounds with mussels and limpets, and harbours extensive growths of various species of marine algae. We had a good opportunity of examining the giant Kelp (Macrocystis) in the living state, streaming out in profuse masses in the water round the jetty; it reaches a length of 20 feet or more. In the afternoon I went over to the hospital and had a chat with Blyth, Bonner, and Col. Main. Also went over to Dr. Gibbs house, but there was nobody at home.