

AV 13: Bernard Stonehouse oral history summary

Recorded at Bernard's home, Swaffham Bulbeck. Interviewed by Charles Swithinbank (CS).

Track 1 [01.00.19]. [00.00.50] Charles Swithinbank introducing Bernard Stonehouse (BS). [00.01.10] Description of BS education in Hull including joining the Navy during the war; mention of joining Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey (FIDS). [00.03.20] Description of Operation Tabarin including BS connection to it via his brother-in-law Freddy Marshall; mention of secondments from the Navy to FIDs and FIDS members being given civilian job titles. [00.06.21] Description of spending three winters at Stonington Island including incompetence preventing their departure at the end of the second year; mention of the abandoned American base and the strategic importance of the island for gaining access to the plateau. [00.10.40] Description of Finn Ronne returning and re-occupying the American base including story about Chileans looting the base prior to the Americans arrival; initially poor relations with the Americans; problems with the dogs the Americans had; comments on Finn Ronne's leadership and the women who came on the expedition. [00.16.37] Description of FIDS rescuing an American called Peterson from a crevasse. [00.19.00] Description of FIDS plane crash in which BS was co-pilot, September 1947; cumulative errors and poor weather lead to the crash; lucky to have been rescued by the Americans. [00.27.42] Description of joining the FIDS sledging and field programme including a depot laying winter journey to Alexander Island, July 1948. Mention of Fuchs, Blaiklock, Colin Brown and Ray Adie. [00.32.00] Description of journey to Adelaide Island, September 1948. Mention of Marguerite Bay, Léonie Islands and discovering an Emperor Penguin rookery on the Dion Islands. Mention of Ken Blaiklock, Bob Spivey, David Dalgleish; comments on travelling on sea ice. [00.37.17] Comments on the differences between the American and British Antarctic programmes. [00.40.45] Comments on FIDS codenames for their bases. [00.42.12] Description of BS brief University training at Hull in zoology whilst waiting to be called up to war. Comments on publishing papers on Emperor penguin behaviour and studying Brown Skua on South Georgia; Emperor work won him a place at University College London (UCL). [00.45.15] Brief mention of meeting his wife Sally and joining University of London Air Squadron. [00.46.05] Description of meeting David Lack at Oxford and publishing his undergraduate work on Emperor Penguins in Nature and in a FIDS report; gaining a place at Oxford to study King Penguins on South Georgia for his PhD; studying Skua in his spare time. Mention of Lance Tickell and Bird Island. [00.49.20] Description of moving to New Zealand in 1960 to lecture in zoology at Christchurch; BS chose Christchurch for its link to Antarctica. Mention of relationship with Bill Sladen and their research interests; BS expedition work supported by the New Zealand government. [00.52.05] Mention of John Brotherhood's accident in 1967 and supporting him afterwards. [00.53.10] Description of studying breeding behaviour of New Zealand's introduced wildlife including tahr, red deer and possums. [00.54.30] Description of working on a bird strike problem at Christchurch airport. [00.56.22] Description of leaving New Zealand in 1968 to work at Yale University, University British Columbia and the Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI) including mention of BS children's schooling. [00.57.35] Description of becoming a school teacher in Perthshire and writing books; mention of becoming chair of environmental studies University Bradford, 1972. [00.58.55] Description of working on the book "Britain from the air" using the Aerofilm archive; mention of writing children's books. [01.00.19 END]

Track 2 [00.21.08]. [00.00.40] CS states that BS took early retirement in 1982; mention of BS becoming editor of the Polar Record at SPRI. Description of participating in the German Winter Weddell sea project on board Polarstern including the discovery of new Emperor penguin colonies and finding abundant marine life under the sea ice. [00.05.20] Description of expedition to the Kerguelen Islands to study fur

seals. [00.06.40] Mention of lecturing on cruise ships and retiring multiple times. [00.07.11] Mention of Polar Ecology and Management group at SPRI and the 'garden shed' expeditions set up to get more young people in to Antarctic research. [00.08.21] Description of work on monitoring tourist impact. Mention of Ron Naveen. [00.10.14] Mention of work with MPhil and PhD students. [00.10.44] Description of relationship with his wife and impact on his career. [00.12.00] Description of forthcoming publications including Encyclopaedia of the Antarctic; Encyclopaedia of the Arctic; Children's books. [00.13.10 ENDS] [shots for editing including CS questions; further comments on FIDS base codes] [00.21.08 END]