

His military career was both outstanding and varied. During the First World War, he held important staff appointments in France, Egypt, and Palestine, earning a D.S.O. and other decorations. Later, he commanded the University O.T.C. for eight years, was chairman of Aberdeen Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association, and in the Second World War, set an excellent example by his service as a sergeant in the Aberdeen Battalion of the Home Guard.

For many years, he was County Commissioner of the Boy Scouts, and received the Silver Acorn – the movement's highest award.

A keen Rugby player in his younger days, he was a regular supporter of the University Rugby Football Club. I have heard it said that when he was touch judge at King's College, it often meant a gain of five to ten yards for the University!

A Memorial Service was held in the Chapel at King's College on 3 December 1971, and I should like to quote from Principal Wright's brilliant oration at that very well attended ceremony:

I remember him at a Grammar School Prize-Giving giving the boys this advice: 'If ever you have to choose between taking exercise yourself, or watching someone else doing so, choose the active alternative.' It was therefore very appropriate that we should have named the Butchart Physical Recreation Centre of the University after him.

Amongst his many other accomplishments, Colonel Butchart was an expert in Scottish Reels and Country Dancing. Before he had been long in a hotel anywhere in Europe, he had a knack of getting people of all nationalities to dance and enjoy an Eightsome Reel.

He had a wonderful life, and although not able to climb in his later years, his interest in all Scottish activities was evidenced by his continuing to wear Highland Dress with the bright Butchart tartan until his death at the ripe old age of 89.

E.B.R.

MARGARET GAULD

Margaret Gauld's unexpected and untimely death on 11 February 1972 was a great shock to her many friends. She was a person of such clear and honest thinking who perhaps took the pain of others into her hands too often, but always appeared so capable, and must have given such a feeling of trust and peace to her parents.

The interest and closeness of a conversation with Margaret while both she and yourself walked among the hills was something to stay



in the mind for a very long time and which quite a few of us will be privileged to remember.

On the practical side, Margaret soothed or averted several nasty blisters on a number of hillsides with her special system of bandaging.

For those who only knew Margaret from a distance, she will be remembered for the energy and enthusiasm she put into all she undertook, and be respected for her knowledge, sense, ability and enjoyment of the hills.

Margaret, who joined the Cairngorm Club in 1965, also joined in many Club outings and was often at Muir Cottage. Latterly she became a great bothy enthusiast, and it was her ambition to stay in every mountain bothy in Scotland, especially the more remote ones.

For a great many years to come, certain places such as the Cuillin of Skye, where she climbed her 100th Munro in 1971, and so many hilltops and bothies, will hold fond memories of Margaret Gauld. For the many of us who knew her well, it will be these memories which pay tribute to a very special member of our Club.

J.M.M.

GEORGE EDMOND CROMBIE

We regret to record the death of George Edmond Crombie in December 1972. Although a comparative newcomer to the Club, he had known the Cairngorms well since boyhood. During family holidays spent at Braemar forty to fifty years ago he explored the glens and visited the tops in that area. After graduating, with honours in Classics, at Aberdeen University, in 1930 he entered the Indian Civil Service. In the Second World War he served in the Indian Army. After 1947 he was transferred to the Foreign Office and held a number of overseas appointments, which took him to, among other places, Canada and Gambia. On his retirement he returned to live in Aberdeen and joined the Cairngorm Club to renew his acquaintance with the Scottish hills. Many of us will have happy memories of his company on recent excursions.

J.E.B.

ANNE ELIZABETH ESSELMONT

Betty Esslemont died in Wick last September, after becoming suddenly ill at Bettyhill where she and her husband were on holiday.