

Antarctic place-names for all who did not return

All 29 men and women who “did not return” from British Antarctic Territory have now been honoured by a geographical feature being named for them. The UK Antarctic Place-names Committee, APC, took the historic step of naming a place for each of the last eight Fids at its meeting in October 2021. They are: John Anderson, Robert Atkinson, John Coll, Geoffrey Hargreaves, Ambrose Morgan, Kevin Ockleton, Michael Walker, and Graham Whitfield. The trust has contacted their families to advise them and received letters of “amazement” and “thanks.”

Dr Adrian Fox, Secretary to the APC and Head of the Mapping and Geographic Information Centre at the British Antarctic Survey has done a brilliant job of identifying significant features on the Antarctic Peninsula which had not yet been named that are grouped close to where the men died in three accidents.

The British Antarctic Monument Trust has campaigned for many years for this honour to be bestowed on all those Fids and seamen that died. Fourteen of those Fids lost were honoured with geographical features named for them and fourteen, for unknown reasons, were not. One, Alan Sharman was named for a feature which was no longer visible. Trust Chairman Roderick Rhys Jones says he was delighted by the news and felt that a long held wrong had been righted. Adrian Fox wrote that on behalf of the Committee he would like to pass on their recognition of the work of the British Antarctic Monument Trust.

The names are included in the *UK Antarctic Gazetteer*, are available for use on all maps and charts and in all publications, and will be submitted to the *SCAR Composite Gazetteer of Antarctica*. Copies of the maps and citations are available from the Chairman.

The return from Petermann Island – August 1962

Coll Glacier, Ockleton Glacier and Morgan Buttress have been named on the mainland opposite Petermann Island where John Coll, Michael Morgan, and Kevin Ockleton had sheltered before attempting to return to Faraday Station, Galindez Island, Argentine Islands in August 1982 when the sea ice broke up.

Coll Glacier 65°10'30"S, 64°04'W

Named for John Coll (1959-1982), diesel mechanic; Coll Glacier is 3 km long draining south-south west from Mount Scott to enter Penola Strait east of Duseberg Buttress and east of Petermann Island.

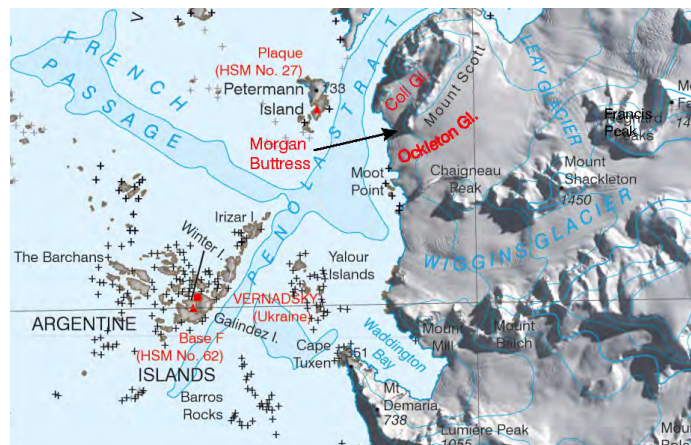
Morgan Buttress 65°11'S, 64°03'23"W

Named for Ambrose Morgan (1960-1982), radio operator; Morgan Buttress is at the end of the 4 km

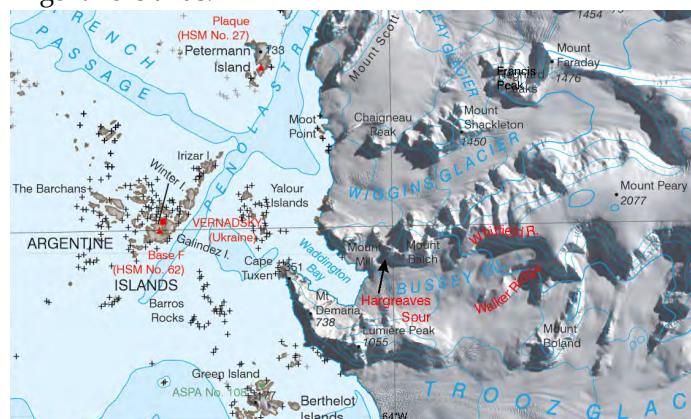
long ridge running south from Mount Scott, south east of Duseberg Buttress and east of Petermann Island across Penola Strait.

Ockleton Glacier 65°11'40"S, 64°03'W

Named for Kevin Ockleton (1959-1982), meteorologist; glacier 4 km long north of Blanchard Ridge draining south-south west to enter Penola Strait north of Moot Point and east of Petermann Island.

**The descent from Mount Peary – September 1976**

Hargreaves Spur, Walker Ridge and Whitfield Ridge all features close to Mount Peary where Geoffrey Hargreaves, Michael Walker, and Graham Whitfield were believed to have been killed in an avalanche or serac fall on descent from its summit they had reached on 6 September 1976 from Faraday Research Station, Argentine Islands.

**Hargreaves Spur 65°15'47"S, 63°59'50"W**

Named for Geoffrey Hargreaves (1955-1976), meteorologist; prominent spur at the southern end of the ridge running south west from Mount Balch, north of Bussey Glacier, Graham Coast.

Walker Ridge 65°16'30"S, 63°52'35"W

Named for Michael Walker (1955-1976), cook; low ridge with several small rock outcrops running south west from the Mount Peary massif. The south east edge of Bussey Glacier.

Whitfield Ridge 65°15'23"S, 63°52'20"W

Named for Graham Whitfield (1952-1976), physicist; Ridge running south west from Mount Peary, forming the northern edge of Bussey Glacier.

Crevasse accident on the Shambles Glacier – May 1981

Anderson Buttress and Atkinson Ridge are two features named for John Anderson and Robert Atkinson to the south of Shambles Glacier where they died in a crevasse accident on 16 May 1981.



Anderson Buttress 67°23'38"S, 68°18'05"W

Named for John Harvie McLeod Anderson (1957-1981), Antarctic field assistant at Rothera Research Station; Anderson Buttress about 900 m long on the north eastern side of Gwendolyn Peak, Adelaide Island, to the west of Rose Bluff.

Atkinson Ridge 67°23'22"S, 68°26'41"W

Named for Robert Atkinson (1956-1981), chef at Rothera Research Station; Atkinson Ridge with exposed rock running north to south on the north side of Mount Mangin, Adelaide Island.

Norwegian place names

Dai Wild, and John Wilson who died in 1965 have no place named after them in British Antarctic Territory but both Wild and Wilson have features named after them in the Norwegian sector where they died.

Maquette presentations

Maquettes of the southern and northern Antarctic monument are being cast by Pangolin Editions and when completed will be presented to the Scott Polar Research Institute, SPRI, where the northern part of the monument is sited and to the Falkland Islands Museum and National Trust, FIMNT, where the southern part is sited. Each of the maquettes is exquisitely modelled and the maps and list of those 'who did not return' can be read easily on the plinth.

Replacement of the Southern Monument

The replacement Southern Monument has now been completed and has been sited on Dockyard Point near

Government House and the Falkland Islands Museum. The stainless steel needle has been recast using higher specification steel and improved methods. It has been polished and affixed to a new bronze plinth and an agreement has been reached to clean and polish the stainless steel regularly. Discussions are taking place with the Director of the Falkland Island Museum to take the monument into its permanent possession.

SPRI acquires the Northern monument

The British Antarctic Monument Trust has donated the northern monument to the Scott Polar Research Institute, SPRI, which has taken it into its permanent collection and will be looking after it with the care it lavishes on its own unique artifacts.

In order to enhance the siting of the monument Trustee Dick Harbour has been working with SPRI to clean the sculpture and cut back the overhanging sycamore trees from the school next door. He has overseen the installation of a bed of stone chippings around the steel base to protect it from damage from passing mowing machines. New stainless steel plaques have been added to replace those that had become rather faded. The SPRI has installed two benches and additional planting to make the area more pleasant for staff and visitors to tarry a while.

Chairman Roderick Rhys Jones said, "The inclusion of the Northern part of the monument into the permanent collection of the world renowned Scott Polar Research Institute, founded to commemorate the deaths of Captain Scott and his companions, will bring great comfort to the relatives and colleagues of 'those who lost their lives in Antarctica in pursuit of science for the benefit of us all'."

Antarctic Monument Trust reaches goals

Having achieved all its goals the British Antarctic Monument Trust is planning to wind up its affairs by making a donation of £12,000 to the Scott Polar Research Institute in recognition of the support it has given to the Trust over a number of years. A similar donation is to be made to the Falkland Islands Museum. A donation will also be made to St Paul's Cathedral to support visits from school children. Our Antarctic Memorial close to the education suite in the crypt with its relief of Emperor penguins is much admired.

As part of its plans the Trust will be archiving its website so that it will continue to be available to search engines. The UK Web Archive, UKWA, collects on behalf of six UK Legal deposit libraries including the British Library and Cambridge University Library.

The archive collects millions of websites each year, curating them by topic and preserving them for future generations. A search for 'Antarctic' reveals 2,841,094 entries.