T'OTHER SIDE O'WAKEFIELD, BASE F – ANTARCTICA (1958–1959) LAT. 65˚15′ S LONG 64˚16′ W. By J.B. SHAW. London: Blurb book (Self-publishing company), 2012. 114 p., colour illus. Available at blurb.co.uk/bookstore/detail/3889456. Softbound, £26.95; Hardbound, £31.95 + shipping.

British contributions to the "Heroic Age" of Antarctica are well and often eloquently documented. Fewer accounts deal with the post-World War II period, including the early days of the Antarctic Treaty (1959 onwards) when nations with an interest in Antarctica were settling down to a new, more mundane, reality of maintaining bases on the continent and mapping and researching Antarctic land and sea. Although by then communications were more advanced than they had been in the days of the early explorers, time spent anywhere in Antarctica was still truly isolation time, involving long months of primitive living, out of touch with the rest of the world.

After World War II, Britain set up the Falklands Islands Dependency Survey (FIDS), predecessor of the current British Antarctic Survey, to manage its Antarctic affairs. Based in Stanley, Falkland Islands, it staffed and maintained bases on the Antarctic Peninsula. This book is a very personal account of life on one of those bases, told by a staff member.

In those days, FIDS recruited young men, some from the universities, most not, for two-winter stints at its bases. The author, J.B. (Bod) Shaw, was recruited in 1957, when, after serving in the RAF, he was a forestry worker. Few FIDS recruits had polar experience, and many had limited knowledge of the polar regions, a fact captured in the title of the book. Shaw received the acceptance cable from FIDS while with a forestry field party in the north of England. One of the group asked him where Antarctica was. He replied that it was a long way away, "T'other side o'Wakefield."

After training as a weather observer, Shaw traveled to Antarctica on the *John Biscoe* (FIDS' 70 m supply vessel) with that year's staff contingent for the British bases. He describes the last part of this long voyage, including his impressions of the whaling industry of South Georgia, his first ski lessons on a snow patch on that island, and then the voyage south to the Antarctic Peninsula, dropping off new crews and picking up veterans. This short passage alone gives a good impression of the nature and scale of the British Antarctic effort around the time of the International Geophysical Year (IGY). The IGY was a period of concentrated scientific activity around the globe with an emphasis on the polar regions. In this book, Antarctica is seen through the eyes of a complete newcomer, like someone seeing snow for the first time.

After the arrival at Shaw's base, Base F, the author describes the change of staff at and re-supply of a typical base, well illustrated with colour photos. Accommodation was in a cold 10-man bunkroom. There were dogs to look after, seals to hunt (mainly for the dogs) from tiny rowboats, and skiing to practice. Shaw provides a glimpse of a hydrographic survey crew charting channels in the vicinity as Britain began to fulfill its Antarctic Treaty obligations.

The new team spent a short time learning the weather program from old hands, and Shaw describes the 24-hour weather routine that was a basic function of the bases. These were times when virtually all weather measurements and observations were made outdoors, night and day, with a daily struggle to launch a radiosonde (using hydrogen produced on site). Anyone who has made weather observations in cold regions can relate to the extraordinary effort involved in this work in the Antarctic of that time. As this was the IGY, ozone and ionospheric observations were added to the daily routine. The ozone work contributed to the much later discovery of the ozone "hole" above Antarctica. Each day, results were transmitted by Morse code to head office in Stanley. Shaw was in charge of sea ice measurement. He had never seen sea ice before, but this work, as will be seen, stood him in good stead.

The glimpses of the base staff entertaining themselves without TV or radio make one think. Today, it is difficult to imagine people in the Antarctic messing around in small boats without life jackets, or man-hauling Nansen sleds on recreational trips, often without radios that could reach even their own base. Even recreational skiing by novices became what we would consider a remarkably risky enterprise in such a severe and isolated locale.

There are passages in the book devoted to seals, penguins, and other wildlife around the base and winter entertainment on base, each with colour photos developed by the author. Shaw documents a trip made by some of the team to a "nearby" Argentine base, which happened to be closed. Peeking in, they were surprised to find that, unlike their own base, it was like an "ordinary street house" (p. 81) with such luxuries as tables and chairs.

When spring came, the *Biscoe* returned, and Shaw now describes the annual turnover from the point of view of an experienced base resident. This time, because it was the IGY, there were visits by helicopters, whose passengers included Sir Vivian Fuchs. Fuchs, who had led the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition in 1957, became director of FIDS in 1958. We get glimpses of interactions with other polar nations in those early days of the Antarctic Treaty.

Although there were major treks and large science projects in Antarctica during those years, this book presents the Antarctic as it was for the majority of its visitors at that time. This might not have been a Heroic Age, but the book captures heroic individual experiences shared by hundreds of unsung heroes. It is a book for those who relish the detail of life in the polar regions and who enjoy sharing very personal experiences of that life. Even the many colour photographs have a very personal touch.

Eventually Bod Shaw completed his term and departed on the *Kista Dan* for a complicated voyage to the outside world that included being broken out of the ice by an American icebreaker. He and his colleagues then traveled, again by sea, back to the United Kingdom.

After what surely was a life-changing experience, many FIDS personnel simply returned to their previous lives. The recruiters used to stress that FIDS was not a career opportunity. However, it changed the lives of some for ever. The late R.M. (Fritz) Koerner, who was recruited by FIDS the same year as Bod Shaw but worked on a different base, went back to university and then served on AINA's Devon Island Expedition and the British Trans-Arctic Expedition before becoming Canada's leading glaciologist. Bod Shaw became the Senior Meteorological Observer at the McGill Sub Arctic Research Laboratory in Schefferville, Québec-Labrador. He was one of a number of FIDS people who worked at the Laboratory over the years, training Canadian students, many of whom went on to conduct polar work of their own. His sea ice experience helped make him a pioneer of the Lab's productive lake ice research program. After the Lab, Bod Shaw taught at a rural school in Britain where weather observing and snow observations were an important part of the curriculum.

This attractive book will please a wide age range of readers, both those with polar experience and those whose polar experience is through reading.

Peter Adams
Professor Emeritus
Department of Geography
Trent University
Peterborough, Ontario K9J 7B8, Canada
peter.adams@cogeco.ca

STEFANSSON, DR. ANDERSON AND THE CANADIAN ARCTIC EXPEDITION, 1913–1918: A STORY OF EXPLORATION, SCIENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY. By STUART E. JENNESS. Gatineau, Quebec: Canadian Museum of Civilization, 2011. ISBN 978-0-660-19971-9. Mercury Series, History Paper 56. xxiv + 415 p., maps, b&w illus., appendices, references, index. Softbound. Cdn$39.95.

After the return of the Canadian Arctic Expedition of 1913–18, the Canadian government initially planned to publish the expedition's scientific results in 10 (later increased to 17) volumes, which would include a total of 78 individual reports. What ultimately appeared were 13 volumes comprising 64 individual reports. Strikingly absent from the final total is Volume I, which was to have contained Part A, *Narrative of the Northern Party 1913–1918*, by the overall expedition leader Vilhjalmur Stefansson, and Part B, *Narrative of the Southern Party, 1913–1916*, by Rudolph M. Anderson. In terms of the Northern Party's activities, this striking absence of the official general accounts of the expedition is explained by author Stuart Jenness (son of the expedition's anthropologist, Diamond Jenness) as follows: "Unfortunately Stefansson was busy enriching his reputation and his pocket at the time by publishing and lecturing across the U.S. and Canada about the 'friendly' Arctic" (p. 312). The absence of an account of the Southern Party's activities was due to the fact that its leader, Dr. Rudolph Anderson, was too busy with his duties as general secretary of the editorial committees for the series and (from 1920) as the chief of the Biology Division of the Geological Survey of Canada.

Stefansson's book, *The Friendly Arctic* (1921), being a popular account, scarcely filled this lacuna, especially since Anderson and W.L. McKinlay (the expedition's meteorologist) found "many errors of fact in Stefansson's book and disagreed violently one hundred percent with both the book's title and its central theme…" (p. 312). But now, for the first time, Stuart Jenness has effectively filled this conspicuous gap in the expedition's series of reports. His book presents in considerable, interesting detail not only the complex and intricate activities of both parties, but also the story of the loss of the expedition ship, *Karluk*, with subsequent substantial loss of life, and the details of the bitter and protracted feud between the two leaders of the expedition, Vilhjalmur Stefansson and Rudolph Anderson.

Stefansson originally conceived the expedition as a small endeavour aimed at possibly discovering new land to the north and northwest of the Canadian Arctic Archipelago and at locating the boundary of the continental shelf. He initially obtained a promise of financial support from the National Geographic Society, with a promise of matching funding from the American Museum of National History. Stefansson then approached the Canadian Prime Minister, Robert Borden, who undertook to underwrite the entire expedition if Stefansson became a Canadian (i.e., British) citizen, and if a cadre of scientists reporting to the Geological Survey of Canada were added to the expedition. This is the origin of the two parties: the Northern Party to pursue Stefansson's initial aims, and the Southern Party to map the Arctic coast from Cape Parry east to Kent Peninsula and make a wide range of scientific observations and collections. The Northern Party was to report to the Department of the Naval Service, and the Southern Party to the Geological Survey of Canada.

Under the command of Captain Bob Bartlett, the expedition's main vessel, *Karluk*, sailed from Victoria, British Columbia, on 17 June 1913. After calling at Nome and Teller, Alaska, she headed north through Bering Strait and round Point Barrow but became beset in the ice and drifted, first east then west, only a relatively short distance offshore. On 19 September Stefansson headed ashore by dog sled to hunt caribou, accompanied by ethnographer Jenness, photographer Hubert Wilkins, his secretary Burt McConnell, and two Iñupiat.

Thereafter the ice drift carried *Karluk* west and northwest, until she was ultimately crushed north of Herald Island (Ostrov Geral'da). Before she sank, a relatively comfortable camp was established on the ice, from which Bob Bartlett organized the retreat south to Wrangel Island (Ostrov Vrangelya). Unfortunately, seven men did not even reach the relative safety of Wrangel Island. From there, Bartlett and an Inuk succeeded in crossing Long Strait to the