

standing services in furthering the sale of British scientific instruments abroad he was awarded the O.B.E. in 1968.

It was in this post-war period while living in the vicinity of Cambridge that Bill Storey was able to make a thorough survey of the lepidoptera of that area and he published several notes in the 1950s in this Journal on his more interesting and unexpected records. The Stout Dart (*Spaelotis ravida*) was one of his local specialities. He did not seem to collect much far afield nor on his visits overseas. It was on his retirement from his professional duties in 1969 that he went to live at Great Bealings, in Suffolk. This proved an ideal spot for him to run his mercury vapour trap and sample the insects of a new area which he did to great advantage for the next five seasons. During this period he obtained a good many species which were scarce in that part of England, including the White Speck (*Leucania unipuncta*) and in 1974 probably the only Striped Hawk (*Celerio livornica*) recorded in Britain that year. But his most remarkable capture taken there in 1971 was a halved gynandromorph of the Barred Red (*Ellopiia fasciaria*).

He joined the then South London Entomological Society as far back as 1924 and was about to be made an honorary member on his completion of fifty years of membership. He also latterly belonged to the Suffolk Naturalists' Society of which he became a keen supporter.

His untimely end has indeed robbed the entomological world of one of its most enthusiastic adherents. Of the most happy and kindly nature he will be greatly mourned and missed not only by a large number of colleagues in the scientific sphere, but also by a great many friends with similar interests in natural history. It is certain that the whole-hearted sympathy of this large company will have gone out to his widow, four daughters and other surviving members of his family in their irreparable loss. — C.G.M. de W.

CHARLES ALBAN WILLIAM DUFFIELD, M.C. (1887-1974)

There must be many collectors of our lepidoptera who used to visit Alban Duffield at his home with its superb setting beneath the downs at Brook, near Wye, in Kent and most of them will probably have sampled or observed the rich fauna and flora of those wonderful surroundings where he passed away on 9th December, 1974 at the advanced age of 87. For for half a century he had studied all branches of nature around him there and in particular entomology.

He was born in June 1887 at Cranleigh in Surrey, his father being a schoolmaster in Holy Orders. He went on to Cambridge University in 1908 and then as a student to the Agricultural College at Wye where he joined the staff in 1919 as a lecturer and expert entomologist after serving in the Royal West Kent Regiment during the latter part of the 1914 War. He was awarded the Military Cross in 1917. In 1931 he left the

College to join a commercial firm interested in the production of derris powder as a pesticide. During the 1939-45 War he threw himself wholeheartedly into the activities of the Home Guard, eventually commanding his local battalion.

His great interest in most things entomological never flagged and it was probably while serving under Prof. Theobald at Wye College that he began to collect the Frog-hoppers (Cercopidae) of which he made a life-long study and brought together a first class collection on which he wrote quite a number of papers. In his latter years too he became keenly interested in bumble bees, also in the vagaries and theories of melanism. But not least among his many pursuits was that of the lepidoptera, mainly those species to be found on his own home terrain of which he built up a most comprehensive and valuable assemblage of insects. For many years after the war he ran a mercury vapour trap which brought in quite a lot of unexpected visitors, one of which was the small noctuid, the Pretty Marbled (*Lithacodia deceptor* Scop.), a very choice and rare migrant to our shores. Several local species were a source of attraction to visiting collectors to his home, not least sometimes used to abound there in mid-November. Alban Duffield was for a long time a member of the Folkestone Natural History Society. On one hot day in June 1948 he entertained a number of its members after a field meeting on the downs near his house, Pickersdane. When they sat down to tea, little did they realise that over their heads was a huge nest of nearly full-fed larvae of the Large Tortoiseshell feeding on a weeping willow. Perhaps providentially their host only spotted it after they had left.

East Kent was his dedicated home from which he seldom travelled far afield, though he used to survey the country around, especially Dungeness. It was fortunate that he was able to negotiate for the Nature Conservancy to take over his downland which is preserved as a heritage to his memory. It is also a happy thought that his fine collections are going to Maidstone Museum. He joined the then South London Entomological and Natural History Society in 1949 and lectured to it on several occasions. He was also a Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society. His wife predeceased him by a few years.

His cheerful presence will be greatly missed by entomologists who used to visit him annually and derive much pleasure from discussing the insect orders in which he specialised, for he was a real savant on the subject and above all on the natural history of his surroundings.

All sympathy goes out to his son and daughter from all who were privileged to be numbered among his friends. —
C.G.M. de W.



Worms, C. G. M. de. 1975. "Obituary Charles Alban William Duffield, M.C. (1887-1974)." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 87, 127-128.

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