



G. A. WALTON NEAR G.B. CAVE ABOUT 1939

GERALD ARMITAGE WALTON (1916–1987)

Dr Gerald ('Deri') Walton, M.Sc., M.B., F.R.E.S., died in Cork on 12 May 1987, following a stroke.

Deri was born in Aberystwyth on 4 June 1916. He qualified in medicine at Bristol in 1942 and soon specialized in tropical medicine. He then spent two years as Medical Entomologist to the Sierra Leone Government and was very successful in controlling the ravages of malaria which was decimating the population, and the economy, of the region. From 1949 for about 12 years he studied tick-borne relapsing fever in East Africa, and from 1962 until his retirement in 1982 he was a lecturer in zoology at University College, Cork.

While a medical student at Bristol he was an active member of the U.B.S.S. and was involved, with Francis Goddard and others, in the exploration and survey of G.B. Cave. He was already doing entomological research—his first paper was published when he was 17—and his paper on 'The natural history of Read's Cave' in *Proceedings* for 1943 was the first comprehensive study of the entire fauna of an English cave. In it he described the discovery of a species of springtail (*Arrhopalites pygmaeus*) that was new to Britain. During the difficult period of the early years of the war he contributed much to the Society's healthy survival, including the refurbishing of the Hut, and the building of the fireplace and the bath.

Those who knew Deri will remember him as a most likeable, if somewhat unpredictable, character, and one to whom the Society owes much for its present status as a scientific as well as a sporting institution.

His later years were well spent as a senior lecturer in zoology and entomology at University College, Cork. He was supported by his wife, Mary, and two daughters, also with academic qualifications, and his research was continued up to the final decline in his health.

Rodney Pearce