

MR. LEONARD JOSEPH DWYER

Mr. Dwyer's death on May 16th 1962 came as a profound shock to members of the Bureau and to the numerous friends he had made not only in Australia but in most countries of the world.

Born on December 1st 1907 in Geelong, Mr. Dwyer was educated at St. Kevin's Christian Brothers College and Melbourne University. He graduated a B.Sc. in mathematics and physics and obtained the Diploma of Public Administration. He also studied accountancy and was an Associate of the Australian Society of Accountants. He was an Associate of the Institute of Physics, a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Public Administration and a Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society.

Early in his career he worked as an accountant, as a teacher and as a journalist. He joined the Bureau in 1937, and in 1940, when it became obvious that a greatly increased training scheme must be undertaken by the Bureau to meet wartime demands for trained personnel, Mr. Dwyer took charge of the training section and planned courses of instruction for weather officers, weather observers and meteorological charters as well as writing some of the manuals for the courses. He also laid down plans and specifications for the Mobile Meteorological Flights which were later to play an important role in allied landings in the south-west Pacific.

In 1942, he was transferred to the duties of Meteorological Staff Officer, L.H.Q., South West Pacific, where he served until 1946. In this post he was liaison officer for the Directorate of Meteorological Services and L.H.Q. and representative of the latter Headquarters at the Interforce meteorological conferences. In addition, he laid down specifications of data to be supplied to anti-aircraft defence officers for ballistic wind correction and participated in the work of the Chemical Defence Board.

He resumed civilian duty with the Bureau after the war and in 1952 was promoted to the position of Assistant Director (Administration). He was appointed Director of Meteorology in March 1955.

Mr. Dwyer's appointment coincided with the beginning of a major reorganisation of the Bureau of Meteorology. At this time the problems which had confronted meteorological administrators during and after World War II had been largely overcome but the tremendous advances in technology, particularly in the fields of electronics and aeronautics, were having a strong impact on the science and application of meteorology, while the relatively new science of management was revolutionising older ideas of administration.

A mission in 1953 to study meteorological institutions overseas, particularly in the United Kingdom and the United States, had equipped Mr. Dwyer for the problems which he now had to face, and his qualities of imagination, foresight and driving power, tempered by the patience for detailed negotiation where this was called for, made him an outstanding and inspiring Director.

A list of the achievements of the Bureau under Mr. Dwyer's directorship would fill many pages. They range from the provision of many new services and warning systems to the utilisation, both in atmospheric science and applied meteorology, of the information obtained from artificial satellites. In the field of management, Mr. Dwyer was quick to realize the value to the Bureau of bringing members of its widely scattered staff together at yearly or more frequent intervals to attend seminars and conferences on such subjects as Tropical Meteorology, Forecasting, Fire Weather, Rain, Management, Services and Facilities. In addition, he organised two international symposia - those on Tropical Cyclones in Brisbane in 1956 and on Antarctic Meteorology in Melbourne in 1959 - which afforded the opportunity for distinguished overseas meteorologists to visit Australia, with far reaching benefits to the Bureau of Meteorology.

The Antarctic Symposium was held under the auspices of the Australian Academy of Science, and was only one outward sign of the increasingly close association between the Bureau and scientific institutions, such as the C.S.I.R.O., which Mr. Dwyer did much to foster.

A list of his achievements in domestic affairs would not be complete without reference to his membership of the Australian Atomic Weapons Tests Safety Committee. But his reputation as a scientific administrator does not rest solely on his domestic achievements. He recognised the

essentially international nature of meteorology and devoted much time to the World Meteorological Organisation and other international bodies.

He was President of W.M.O. Regional Association V, Member of the Executive Committee, Chairman of the Technical Committee of Third Congress of W.M.O. and participated in the work of many W.M.O. Technical Commissions.

He was also active in other international scientific fields, which included the Pacific Science Association and SCAR, and played a prominent role in the formation of the International Antarctic Analysis Centre in Melbourne.

The impact of his international activities has been eloquently demonstrated by the numerous cables and letters of condolence received from all parts of the world.

His untimely death is a great loss to meteorology in Australia and to international meteorology.

