

## COMMANDER CHARLES MONTAGU DAMMERS 1878 — 1956

Charles M. Dammers passed away at his residence on Victoria Avenue in Riverside, California, on October 16, 1956.

For many years he was a member of the Southern California Academy of Sciences, and of our affiliated organization, the Torrey Entomological Society.

Commander Dammers was born in Symondsbury, Dorset, England, May 3, 1878, the son of Alfred William Housell Dammers, and Hebe Julia Annette Templer Dammers. His grandfather, General F. Dammers was personal aide to King George of Hanover.

Charles Dammers had a colorful and very active career which led him into many corners of the globe. He joined the Royal Navy at the age of twelve years, on HMS Britannia, and eventually became an authority on mine sweeping, attaining the rank of Commander. After retirement from the navy he took up ranching in Argentina. His properties there embraced 27 square miles, including one of the highest mountain peaks in South America. There he raised cattle, grew oranges, and for recreation, hunted and played polo.

At the opening of World War I, he reentered the Royal Navy, and served through the conflict, being awarded the D.S.O. and the Legion of Honor. Thereafter, he and his wife, Ethel Agnes Dammers came to the United States and eventually to Riverside.

The avocational interests of Charles and Ethel Dammers in California, were many and varied. They were experts in rearing and producing new varieties of pelargoniums, and at one time had 32 species of violets in their garden. They were also very active in British war relief.

Charles Dammers special interest was the study of Lepidoptera. He corresponded widely with specialists, and a number of butterflies, moths, and other insects were named for him. In association with Dr. John Adams Comstock, he published numerous papers, dealing with the life histories of Lepidoptera many of which were illustrated by his own drawings, executed with skill and fidelity.

Some time after the death of his wife, which occurred February 18, 1945, he presented his original paintings and drawings to the Los Angeles County Museum, where they now form a valued addition to the Division of Entomology.

Commander Dammers is survived by two brothers and one sister, i.e.; Captain Robert William Dammers, of Catesbury Farm, Lapworth, Warwickshire, England, — Edward Maximilian Dammers, Esq., of 28 Church Street Herriot Somerset, England, and Mrs. Beatrice Margarethe Howard, of Downe Hall, Bridport, Dorset, England. He also leaves two children in the United States, — Carlito Dammers, and Mrs. Esther Dammers Edgar.

— J.A.C.