

GUTHLAC WILSON, D.Sc.(Eng.), S.M., who was killed in an air crash near Dar es Salaam on the 29th March, 1953, was born in London on May 21st, 1902, the son of the late Henry Wilson, architect, sculptor, and art metal worker. He was educated privately and at East London College (now Queen Mary College), London.

From 1921 to 1923, he served under articles as Junior Assistant Engineer with Sir Robert McAlpine and Sons. He then worked for a number of years in India, starting in the Bombay office of Braithwaite and Co. (Engineers), Ltd. As an Assistant Resident Engineer, and later as a Resident Engineer, with this firm, he was responsible for the design and construction of a number of bridges and other works.

In 1935, he was placed in charge of the Design and Estimating Department of the Braithwaite, Burn and Jessop Construction Co.

In 1938, Dr Wilson resigned from Braithwaite & Co. and went to Harvard University, where he spent a year studying soil mechanics and obtained his Master of Science degree. He was awarded a fellowship at Harvard which he subsequently resigned at the outbreak of war in order to return to England. He was the outstanding student of the year and was selected by Professor Terzaghi to act as his personal assistant on consultant work that the Professor was undertaking at the time in connexion with rolled-fill earth dams.

After his return in 1939, he was employed by Sir Alexander Gibb and Partners as a Divisional Superintendent, Designs Division, and was engaged on the design of a Royal Ordnance Factory. Subsequently, in November 1940, he became Director of Constructional Design for the Ministry of Works and Buildings, and represented the Ministry on numerous Research Boards and Committees.

From 1944, he practised privately, specializing in soil mechanics and foundation design. A year later he joined the late W. L. Scott, M.I.C.E., to form the firm of Scott and Wilson, Consulting Engineers, Westminster, and became the senior partner after the death of Mr Scott in 1950.

In the course of his practice, Dr Wilson was responsible for the design of many large structures in Great Britain, for a number of interesting works in Nyasaland comprising roads, airfields, and earth dams, and for other works in Cyprus, the Middle East, and India. During the last few months of his life he had twice visited Hong Kong in connexion with the scheme for a new airport at Kai Tak. He was consulted on many difficult problems in connexion with foundations and by the time of his death had achieved international recognition as an authority on the science of foundation engineering.

Dr Wilson was elected an Associate Member of the Institution in 1928, transferred to the class of Member in 1938, and became a Member of Council in 1949.

He was awarded a Telford Premium in 1942 for his Paper on "Calcula-

tion of the Bearing Capacity of Footings on Clay,"¹ and another, in 1943, for a Paper written in collaboration with Mr Henry Grace, A.M.I.C.E., on "The Settlement of London due to Underdrainage of the London Clay."² The most recent Paper that he presented to the Institution was on "The Bearing Capacity of Screw Piles and Screwcrete Cylinders."³ Dr Wilson was the Author of many other Papers on soil mechanics and foundation engineering.

He was also a member of the Institution of Structural Engineers, and of the American and French Societies of Civil Engineers.

¹ J. Instn Civ. Engrs, vol. 17, p. 87 (Nov. 1941).

² J. Instn Civ. Engrs, vol. 19, p. 100 (Dec. 1942).

³ J. Instn Civ. Engrs, vol. 34, p. 4 (Mar. 1950).