



Fig. 10—Variations in the gold price

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Obituary: A.R.O. Williams, O.B.E.

Arthur Robert Owen Williams died on 18th May, 1989, at the age of 84. ARO, as he was known, was educated at Malvern in England, and graduated from the Royal School of Mines in 1926. He went to South Africa as a Learner Miner with Consolidated Gold Fields at Robinson Deep.

From 1930 to 1937, he worked at Kansanshi Mine in what was then Northern Rhodesia, and then returned to England as Assistant to the Chief Engineer at the London Office of Consolidated Gold Fields. In 1938 he was seconded to Gold Fields American Development Company Limited, and he took up residence in Toronto.

During the war, he served with distinction with the Royal Engineers, rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in command of military tunnelling operations at Gibraltar. Later he served in France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany. He was mentioned in Despatches and was awarded the Order of the British Empire.

After the war, he returned to Consolidated Gold Fields as Resident Engineer in London and, during the next 20 years, became a director of many of the companies in the Group, including the parent company, from which he retired as Managing Director in 1970.

He was President of The Institution of Mining and Metallurgy in 1961-1962, and was awarded Honorary Membership of that Institute in 1973. He joined The South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy in 1948, and was a Corresponding Member of Council of The South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy from 1962 to 1970. He was made a Life Fellow of The South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy in 1975.

ARO is survived by his wife and a daughter. He will be sadly missed by many friends throughout the mining world.