

OBITUARIES

Obituaries should be submitted by email to Laura Pacey at l.pacey@nature.com. All submitted obituaries should be 450 words maximum in length (apart from obituaries for past presidents of the BDA where the length should be 800 words). Content of the obituary is down to the individual author, and the approval of the family should be given for the obituary prior to submission to the *BDJ*.

ROY HOWELL

1924–2014



Roy Howell died peacefully in a residential home on Saturday 7 June 2014, aged 89.

Roy was born in July 1924 in Upper Park Place near Marblebone in London. He was the eldest of four siblings, his

two sisters both emigrated to America and his brother eventually moved to Toronto.

Roy trained as a navigator and served in the RAF during WW2 before studying dentistry at the Royal Free in London, where he graduated in 1950. Roy's academic prowess emerged during his undergraduate years when he was awarded many prizes, so it came as no surprise that after working in general practice for a year and then as a registrar in London, he decided on academia and teaching. Roy was appointed to a lectureship in operative dentistry in Newcastle and, when Professor Hopper moved to Leeds in 1959, Roy assumed responsibility for Lead in Periodontology. He was instrumental in setting up and developing the School of Dental Hygiene at Newcastle.

Roy was Senior Lecturer and Honorary Consultant in Periodontology at Newcastle Dental School until his retirement in 1985. He was also Treasurer of the British Society of Periodontology Society for many years and President of the Society during 1983–1984.

I have special reason to remember Roy both as a teacher when I was an undergraduate at Newcastle and then as President of the Society when he held his Spring Meeting at the Gosforth Park Hotel. Roy invited some of periodontology's 'big hitters' to the Gosforth Park Hotel with Professors Ainamo and Page being 'top-of-the-bill'. Roy Page, in particular, was a massive 'signing', and as a junior academic attending his first BSP meeting, it was inspiring to hear Professor Page giving his lectures on early and established lesions.

Roy Howell retired from academia in 1985 to care for his wife, Margaret, who had Parkinson's disease. They moved to Devon where, until his death, he remained totally independent and very active in his pursuit of steam (and other kinds of) trains around the UK and other parts of the world – camera always at the ready. Indeed, I recall many night-time journeys on the (now) East Coast line between King's Cross and Newcastle with Roy, Robin Seymour and Ian Macgregor. Roy would often announce that we would be arriving 'wherever' in a few minutes, not from having seen landmarks from the window, but from his extraordinary knowledge of the camber of the track at specific places along the line. A truly remarkable talent!

Roy is survived by his three daughters Elizabeth, Jane and Louise.

Peter Heasman

GEOFFREY LESLIE HOWE

1924–2014



Geoffrey was born on 24 April 1924 in Harringay. Due to personal circumstances he attended a number of schools but did well at Newquay County Boys School and studied dentistry at the Royal Dental Hospital and medicine at the Middlesex.

A bright Geoffrey gained several prizes. As he was under-21 on finishing his course he could not take finals so he worked as a student house officer at Stoke Mandeville with Desmond Greer Walker, a pioneer in war injuries care. Geoffrey qualified LDS in 1946. In December, Lieutenant Howe joined the Army, beginning a long association with the military. Following demobilisation in 1949 he joined orthodontic and oral surgery training schemes, working with Clifford Ballard, John Hovell and John Hooper. He qualified LRCP, MRCS in 1954 and FDS in 1955 and joined Sir William Kelsey Fry and

Frank Wilkinson, dean at the Eastman.

Geoffrey became the first Professor of Oral Surgery at Durham University in 1959. In 1961 he received the Cartwright prize of the Royal College for research into surgical aids to prosthetics. In 1967 Geoffrey was appointed Professor of Oral Surgery at RDH. Five years later he became dean. He was a fellow of the British Association of Oral Surgeons and of the BDA's Central Committee for Hospital Dental Services (Chair 1971–73). He chaired the BDA's Council for 5 years and was president of the European Economic Community's Dental Liaison Committee.

Geoffrey helped Hong Kong to plan a new school, becoming Dean of the Prince Phillip Dental School (1978–83). Whilst there he was president of the International Association of Oral Surgeons. In February 1987, Geoffrey became Professor of Oral Surgery and Medicine at Jordan's University of Science and Technology; dean in the following year.

Howe examined for Newcastle, Belfast, Dublin, Baghdad, Singapore, Malta, Melbourne and London universities. He published several books and numerous articles and gained many awards from abroad.

For many years Geoffrey undertook the dental work at London Zoo. He belonged to the Savage, Gents and Travellers Clubs and enjoyed sailing. Howe was a Royal Army Dental Corps (RADC) officer with the Territorial Army General Hospitals, consultant dental surgeon to the RADC and the first RADC officer to command a general hospital. He was also the first honorary colonel commandant of the RADC. Geoffrey was awarded the Territorial Decoration (1962) and bars (1969, 1974); and the TAVR Decoration (1975).

On 8 April 1947 Howe married Heather Hambly, at St Paul's Church, Harringay. Their son Timothy James died just before Heather in 1997. In 2003, Howe married Mrs Margaret Samuel (née Hall), but she died in 2010. Geoffrey died on 17 July. He is survived by his younger brothers John and Alan, and stepson Peter.

Stanley Gelbier