

Obituaries

Obituaries should be submitted by email to Jonathan Coe at jonathan.coe@nature.com.

All submitted obituaries should be 400 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*.



Albert Adeline

1914–2018

My father Albert Adeline, passed away recently, just a few weeks short of his 104th birthday. His longevity was a bewilderment to him, but a delight to his family, with great-grandchildren more than 100 years his junior.

Born to become the eldest of three sons, and academically gifted, his medical studies were dramatically truncated after two years when his father died from peritonitis while undergoing surgery. Suddenly there was no money, but a bursary and a benefactor funded a change to the shorter dental course. An unexpected enthusiasm developed, which was in time matched by an enthusiasm for the NHS when it was launched in 1948. He rejected the lure of private practice in favour of providing improved healthcare to those whom it might otherwise have been denied.

As World War II developed he enlisted, barely qualified, and served mostly with the 8th Army in a desert field hospital. Routine dental work was augmented by an intermittent stream of battle casualties, often with major facial trauma. In quieter times he would repair broken spectacle frames in the dental workshop, an invaluable service. With the Allied advancement post-Normandy landings he found himself billeted in provincial Belgium. The daughter of the house became his wife, Josette. He was, I believe, in the first cohort of students to gain a formal surgical qualification in dentistry.

At 41, he developed meningitis. I remember waving at him through the window of his isolation ward. I learned later that he thought this was the last time he would see me as he was not expected to survive.

Survival, though, came with total deafness in one ear and frequent bouts of severe vertigo. In those days dental chairs had a high vertical back, and he would steady himself against it until the nauseous wave passed, while his patient waited in blissful ignorance.

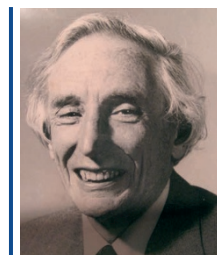
He would have been exposed to much larger doses of gamma radiation than is the norm today. Mercury was another hazard – an early practice of mixing amalgam in the palm of his hand, to bring it up to body temperature before applying it, manifested in the tarnishing of spectacle legs as the mercury was excreted through his hair.

Ever sensitive to his patients' anxieties and well-being, a reputation developed as 'the magic dentist whose patients felt no pain', and people sought him out. In later years he served as Dental Officer at Harefield Hospital, attending to the needs of patients preparing for thoracic surgery.

He retired to the south coast and re-kindled an interest in sailing, but his greatest joy in later life was pottering in his workshop.

He is survived by myself and my family.

Peter Adeline



'Johnny' Dennis Vero

1921–2018

Johnny died on 23 January 2018 aged 96 years. He was born in Leeds in 1921. At 14 he was apprenticed as a dental mechanic (technician). During this time he cycled from Leeds to Bradford to attend night school in order to gain further qualifications. At 19 he was called up into the RAF. Because of his qualifications in physics he was sent to work under the direction of Robert Watson-Watt, pioneer of radar. He was a junior assistant to M. G.

Scroggie and worked on the network of radio masts around the south and east coasts of Britain. He was trained in servicing the new mobile radar units, armoured vans engaged in advanced direction finding. After D-Day his unit followed the front line, sometimes into enemy territory to guide the bombers onto their targets. He had to identify and change the radio valves when they blew. He was invited into the Buchenwald concentration camp by the US troops who liberated it as a witness to the atrocities.

After the war he applied to Leeds Dental School to do the LDSRCS course as this was more widely recognised than the BDS at the time. After working in general dental practice he commenced training in dental surgery (later oral surgery and then oral and maxillofacial surgery). He did a number of oral surgery jobs most notably with Alan Moule in Manchester. He subsequently obtained the FDSRCS (Eng) qualification. In 1960 he was appointed a Senior Hospital Dental Officer in Preston under Eric Cooper, who had been the dentist in Colditz. He was subsequently promoted to consultant a few years later. This enabled the splitting of the very large patch, with Eric Cooper covering Lancaster, Kendal and Barrow, leaving Johnny to cover Preston, Chorley and Blackpool.

He was very innovative in his work, when the discipline of oral and maxillofacial surgery was just starting in the early days of the NHS. He pioneered orthognathic surgery with his orthodontic colleague Donald Timms. In particular, he developed a technique for surgically-assisted rapid maxillary expansion. He was also the first postgraduate dental tutor out in the region arranging Section 63 courses for general dental practitioners. He was always very helpful and supportive to his colleagues. He retired in 1984. Among other things he was a keen and intrepid sailor and talented artist. He was married to his theatre sister, Audrey, who predeceased him.

R. A. Dendy and M. J. Trenouth.