

Great Ormond Street **NHS**
Hospital for Children
NHS Foundation Trust



Great Ormond Street Hospital in World War II

GOSH at the outbreak of war

Great Ormond Street Hospital was founded in 1852, only offering treatment to children—the first hospital in the UK to specialise in paediatrics. As well as the site in Bloomsbury, where the hospital is still based, it also had a Country Branch at Tadworth Court in Surrey, which allowed children to recuperate in much fresher air than in central London.



During hostilities and the years following, GOSH also worked in partnership with other organisations to offer convalescent facilities outside of London. Hempstead House in Hemel Hempstead had formerly been the Union Workhouse but by the outbreak of war, housed a children’s home (a second was opened during war time and additional buildings were erected). Other locations were used as well: Cuckfield Hospital, followed later by a converted country house called Elfinward, Arlesey in Bedfordshire and Runabouts in Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire.

The Emergency Medical Service at GOSH

Planning of emergency services started in the late 1930s but negotiations between the Ministry of Health and the many different voluntary hospitals took time. The overall aim was to develop first aid and casualty clearing stations backed up by advanced base stations further out of harm’s way. Finally, less well equipped hospitals would serve as convalescent facilities.

Nine sections radiated from Central London to the home counties—GOSH was located in sector IV along with University College London Hospital

(UCLH) and Charing Cross Hospital (then based on the Strand). The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) went live at the outbreak of war, with existing patients discharged or evacuated out of central London to make room for the vast numbers of air raid casualties expected within days. However, the EMS was never overwhelmed, despite the number of bombing casualties.

GOSH was designated a casualty clearing station for all ages of patients (not just children and young people) under the leadership of Robert Skeoch Frew as Chief Medical Officer, supported by Dorothy Lane as Matron and Herbert Rutherford as Hospital Secretary (equivalent to an administration manager).

On 3rd September 1939 the Hospital had been designated a "casualty clearing station" (CCS) (all ages). Seventy five beds on the first floor were reserved for children, and outpatient clinics continued normally. Long stay patients were sent to Tadworth Court and Cuckfield Hospital in Surrey, and to the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Base Hospital and the West Hertfordshire Hospital, both in Hemel Hempstead. [Black JA Great Ormond Street in 1941 and 1942 Archives of Disease in Childhood 2000;82:84-87.]

The Management team during the war

Robert Skeoch Frew was a Canadian, born in Newfoundland 22 August 1881. His parents were William Frew (1843 to 1924) and Mary Syme (1856 to 1924). He sailed from St John's, Newfoundland, on the Allan Line ship Corean, landing in Glasgow in 1900. He described his occupation as Student (Medical) on the passenger list.

The 1901 census recorded him as staying with his aunt and uncle, Margaret and Campbell Syme at The Lea, Gowkhouse Road, Kilmalcolm. Campbell was the brother of Mary Syme, and was a doctor. Robert completed his medical training in Edinburgh, followed by stints as Medical Registrar at the Royal Infirmary. He held the same post at GOSH from 1910, becoming Clinical Assistant in Outpatients in 1913 and Outpatient Physician in 1919. The 1939 register showed him as a Physician at GOSH.

He had married Marjorie James in 1916 in Barnes, and had two



children: Garth Campbell (born 1917) and Joan Margaret (born 1921). Garth served in the 12th Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve as a Pilot Officer (Observer) but was killed in action in 1941 when his Wellington bomber crashed. His obituary from his school reported:



Garth Frew

W5379 got airborne at 0020 on October 11th, but suffered engine failure and crashed at 0325 at Haamstede, Zeeland, in Holland.

He is buried in the Bergenop-Zoom War Cemetery in the Netherlands.

Robert died 30 May 1955 at St Catherine's Cottage, Park Road, Chipping Campden in the Cotswolds. He left his effects to his widow, Marjorie, and daughter, Joan, described as 'married woman', having married Hubert Parkinson in 1946. His obituary in the British Medical Journal in 1955 described him during World War Two as:

Tall, erect, meticulous in dress, quick in action and speech. A skilful teacher, popular with students despite the many odd and unorthodox views elaborated in his 1936 publication Disorders of Children.

Marjorie died in 1960, when she was living at Manor Cottage, Yarnton. She left her effects to her daughter, Joan.

Dorothy Annie Lane was born 24 November 1894 in Southwark, with her twin Florence Mary. They were baptised at St Peter's, Southwark two weeks later. Their parents were Thomas William (working as a Traveller at the baptism) and Annie Eliza Poupard, who had married in St Saviour's, Walthamstow in 1878. Annie was the daughter of Edwin (a Grocer on Commercial Road) and Sarah. As well as Dorothy and Florence, they had three sons: Thomas Vincent (born 1880), Walter Henry (born 1881) and Gilbert Ernest (born 1888). At their baptism, Thomas William described his occupation as Musician and in the 1881 census, as a Professor of Music, although little further detail has been located.

Thomas William died in Ilford in 1897 at the age of 50, when they were living on Blackfriars Road, Surrey. He left his effects to his widow, Annie, totalling £62 10s 9d.

The 1901 census recorded Dorothy and Florence as resident at Wanstead Infant Asylum (which now houses Snaresbrook Crown Court). Their mother died in 1905 in Southwark at the age of 49 years. She left her effects to Rev William Arthur Corbett and William John Poupard, a scale maker, presumably her brother. Her sons seems to have made their own lives by that point, either working away from home or married raising their own family, so presumably were not in a position to take in Dorothy and Florence. In 1911, the census records the twins as 16 year old pupils at Holland House, a 'high class boarding school for young ladies' in Beverley, Yorkshire.

According to the Guy's Hospital Nursing Guide, Dorothy worked as a nurse probationer at the East London Hospital for Children from 1914 to 1917, then at Guy's from 1917 to 1920. She completed her nurse training and worked as a Staff Nurse at Guy's.

She then returned to the East London Hospital for Children as Ward Sister for four years. This hospital had been founded in 1868 and merged with Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Hackney Road in 1942, before closing in 1963. Dorothy worked in similar posts at Guy's. The Nursing Registers of 1928 to 1934 record Dorothy as living at St Andrew's Vicarage, Wakefield, although presumably this was a correspondence address.

She joined GOSH in 1935, following stints as Matron at East London and the Royal Buckinghamshire Hospital. In the meantime, she had also trained as a Midwife, joining the register in 1928. The 1939 register showed her as Matron of the Voluntary Hospital (at GOSH).

Dorothy Lane was the Matron; a small woman, she wore an elaborate lace cap precariously balanced on thinning grey hair. Dorothy Lane had a great presence and was held in awe and affection by the nurses. [Black JA Great Ormond Street in 1941 and 1942 Archives of Disease in Childhood 2000;82:84-87.]

Dorothy died in Gerrards Cross in 1989.



Herbert Francis Rutherford was born in 1893 in Chesterton, Cambridgeshire, son of a University Librarian at Cambridge. The 1901 census showed Herbert as seven years old, living at York House, Victoria Park, Chesterton, Cambridgeshire. The 1911 census showed him as assistant to the Secretary Superintendent at Addenbrooke's Hospital.

He married Blanche Oxenford Preston in 1920 in Chesterton. She was the daughter of Callan (a retired Brewer) and Florence Preston, who lived in Cambridge. They seem to have spent all their married life living in Esher, according to the electoral rolls for Surrey. They had two children: Brian (born 1926) and Joy (born 1931).

Herbert joined the Freemasons in 1921 and was given the freedom of the City of London in 1924. He succeeded the long-serving James McKay as Hospital Secretary of GOSH in 1932, having previously held the same post at the Metropolitan Hospital at Dalston.

Herbert was recommended for honour (alongside William Pendle) following the boiler house incendiary bomb but does not appear to have been awarded an honour.

Herbert retired from GOSH and died in the Garth Nursing Home in Dorking in 1953. Blanche died in 1971 in Bognor Regis. Their son Brian had married Rita Senior in Yorkshire in 1951 and Joy married Derek Povey in Kensington in 1970. Brian died in Leatherhead in 2017 at the age of 90 years.



Matron Lane and H Rutherford meeting the Indian Minister of Health in 1948

Everyday life at GOSH during wartime

In 2000, JA Black remembered his time at GOSH during 1941 and 1942, published in the Archives of Disease in Childhood journal:

I was therefore delighted to be asked, in the summer of 1941, to join the team of UCH students resident at Great Ormond Street. In exchange for helping with air raid casualties (there were none during my period of residence) and conducting a weekly blood donor session, we were given free board and lodging and were allowed to attend the work of the hospital. Our other duty was to organise the Christmas show, which

enabled us to lampoon the consultants and other staff in a series of comic sketches.

We lived on the top floor of the nurses' home, overlooking the remains of the bombed Indian students' hostel at the junction of Guilford Street and Grenville Street. We shared the nurses' sitting room (now the dining area) and had our meals in the doctors' dining room in the hospital. This was run by Ellen Dowling, a stout motherly Irish woman whose special care was her "boys", and by Lavinia Watson, a forthright young woman from Maltby in Yorkshire, who enjoyed teasing us about our posh accents. These two were more important to our welfare than anyone else in the hospital.

Ward rounds at Great Ormond Street were formal affairs. Starting at 09:30 or 10:00 in the morning or at 14:00 in the afternoon, the consultant, accompanied by his registrar and houseman, combined the examination of his patients with informal discussion and teaching.

At the end of the ward round the consultant and his retinue retired to sister's sitting room for coffee and biscuits or tea and cake.

[Black JA Great Ormond Street in 1941 and 1942 Archives of Disease in Childhood 2000;82:84-87.]



A typical ward in the 1940s. Dr Frew's daughter, Joan, can be seen on the left of the picture.

Boiler stoker awarded George Cross

William PENDLE

Born in 1873 in Bow, East London, William was the son of William, a navy, and Hannah, a charwoman. The 1881 census showed eight year old scholar William as living at 13 Wendon Street, Bow, with his parents and two older sisters, also sharing the house with three other families. By the 1891 census, the family had moved to 3 Jodrell Terrace, in the parish of St Mary, Stratford le Bow, when William had joined his father working as a General Labourer, and was aged 17 years.

William served in the Royal Navy from 1894 to 1919 as a stoker on numerous ships. His register entry describes him as 5'6" tall, with dark hair, brown eyes and a fresh complexion. The 1901 census recorded William as 20 years old, working as a rope maker and living with his wife Lottie aged 22 years and their one year old daughter Charlotte. By 1911, the family were living in Abbey Lane, Stratford. William was still recorded as a rope maker. The family had been growing, with their daughter Charlotte joined by siblings Ada Mary (aged 9 years), William Thomas (aged 7), Thomas Frederick (aged 4) and James (aged 1 year).

He was working as a boiler stoker at GOSH as recorded in the 1939 register. In 1941, he was awarded the George Medal for his actions in dealing with an incendiary bomb that fell on the boiler house roof. The citation published in the London Gazette read:

When this hospital was bombed, the explosion shattered the furnaces and burst gas and water mains. Pendle was in the stokehole when the explosion blew the burning coal from his furnace into the rooms. Three water mains and a gas main were burst, the gas catching fire.

Through the openings into the stokehole flames could be seen rising to a height of 70 feet and water in enormous volume burst into this part of the building, filling up the coal bunkers below and then rising rapidly in the stoke-hole itself.

Through all this inferno Pendle calmly proceeded to draw his fires, shut off steam and made all as safe as possible, not leaving until this was done. By this time the water was

swirling up to his waist and he then had to struggle to the narrow staircase through floating debris to reach ground level.

William also described what happened and how he dealt with the fire:

As soon as I went up the stairs to the back of the boiler room, I could see what had happened. The bomb had busted the lot, broken the water mains and fired the gas. Seeing what was going on, and the water coming along like a river, I went back to my boiler to draw the fire and get the pressure down. It was lucky I only had one of the three boilers working. It was summer time, and also not working to full strength on account of the war. The pressure being steady at 36lb, I began to rake out the fire and I went on raking until the pressure dropped to nothing.

The aftermath of the incident was also described:

I walked through the wards and corridors. The lower ground floor was like a deep river. From the first to the fifth floors all was dark and forlorn. On the sixth there was utter devastation. Battered and twisted cots mingled with shattered telephones, children's toys, story books, fallen masonry and rubble ... There had been no children recently in this shattered ward, but a toy cupboard had burst open giving an added and authentic horror to the scene.



William died at the age of 78 in Hackney, East London in 1951.

The GOSH war memorial

There is an entry in the Board minutes in February 1947 that the Hospital's architects, Stanley Hall, Easton & Robertson (designers of the Southwood Building, Nurses' Home and 1954 Outpatient Wing) were to be consulted about the design of the war memorial, so it was probably designed in-house by their staff.

The Board Minutes record that the memorial was formally unveiled on 27 July 1949 by senior surgeon Sir Lancelot Barrington-Ward. Prayers of dedication and thanksgiving were offered by the Hospital Chaplain, Rev R Mercer Wilson.

At that point, the WW1 (upper) part of the memorial only included the names of three members of staff—Austin Breton seems to have been added a later date but it is unclear when.

When the Variety Club Building was opened in 1994, the main entrance to the hospital (where the memorial had been located) in the Southwood Building was closed. It is likely that as part of this redevelopment, the memorial was moved to the lobby of the basement lecture theatre in the Barrie Wing.

When, in turn, the Barrie Wing was demolished, the memorial tablet was thought to be lost. In 2018, the tablet was confirmed as safely in a storage area and was re-located in time for an Armistice Day re-dedication service.



The GOSH War Memorial in its original location inside the main entrance in the Southwood Building

Remembering those named

The GOSH war memorial commemorates members of staff from GOSH and its country branch at Tadworth Court from both world wars—details of those who had lost their lives in the First World War are recorded in a separate booklet. Following are brief details of those whose ultimate sacrifice during World War II.

Kathleen Margot DAWE

Kathleen was born 8 January 1912 and christened a few weeks later on 3 March at Holy Trinity Church, Sutton, Surrey. Her parents were Edward Arthur Dawe, employed as a clerk at the time of the baptism, and Edith Madeline. They were living at 67 Montague Gardens, Wallington. The records suggest that Edith died in 1917 and Edward remarried in 1925 to Rosamund Ethel Dowse in Chelmsford.

The electoral roll of 1933 records Kathleen living at 42-46 Great Ormond Street, presumably when she was studying to be a Registered Sick Children's Nurse (RSCN). The following year, she was recorded as living back in Wallington at 15 Maldon Road, living with her father and step-mother. The 1939 register recorded her father as a retired civil servant still living at 15 Maldon Road.

Although Kathleen is recorded as RSCN on the GOSH memorial, she does not appear to be named in the Nursing Registers. It is not clear whether she completed her training at GOSH or not, or whether she did not continue with her registration, preferring to work instead 'in the community'.

By 1939, she was living in Peckham next to the 'girls' settlement' on Staffordshire Street. She seems to be involved in the settlement movement from this point as the 1939 register records her as 'Club Leader (Social Secretary)' at the Food Factory Settlement in Camberwell.

The settlement movement started as a joint venture between universities and deprived areas with the aim of tackling chronic urban social problems. It

brought undergraduates to live in poorer areas to both socialise and learn. The movement was replicated throughout London and other British cities, providing a range of welfare and education services, commonly focused on children and young people.

Kathleen was one of 13 people killed at Paddington Station on 17 April 1941 when a parachute mine was dropped on the Eastbourne Terrace side of the station, next to Platform 1. A further three people were killed in the street outside. She is buried in Paddington Old Cemetery in Kilburn.



Katharine Margaret FORBES

Katharine (who was known as Margaret) was born on 24 October 1914 in Shunde, Guangdong, China where her father, Donald, was a banker with the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank. He had married her mother, Mary Christina McLean, in China around 1913. She had two younger sisters, Christine Dorothea (known as Winkie) and Isabel, who were also born in China in 1916 and 1917 respectively.

The family sailed from Yokohama in Japan on the P&O ship Kalyan arriving in London on 8 June 1924. They gave their proposed address in the UK as Corriemount (pictured right), in Muir of Ord.



Margaret trained at GOSH for her RSCN registration between 1933 and 1936, In the 1937 nursing register she is recorded as living at Sundown, Birchwood Road, Parkstone, Dorset.

She seems to have spent her working life at St Thomas', as the electoral roll recorded her as living in the nurses' home there from 1937 to 1939. The 1939 register however recorded her as a 'hospital nurse' living on Guildford Road, Chertsey, possibly at Tadworth Court.

Katharine was killed on 15 September 1940 when a bomb fell on the nurses' home at St Thomas' Hospital. Many contemporaneous accounts exist including the following from Frank Crockett writing to relatives in Australia:

The amazing thing was that only five nurses were killed ... one was pinned under the ruins for hours before she died.



Katharine's body was returned to Scotland, where she rests in the Urray Burial Ground. When probate was proved, she left £3022 17s 7d (£118,939 in today's money) to her father.

Her father died in 1958, with her mother following him in 1974. Isabel died in 2011 and Winkie died in 2015. They all seem to have remained in the Muir of Ord, where they were pillars of the local community.

Donald Scrimgeour BATEMAN

Donald was born in 1904, the son of Dr William Hirst Bateman and Ethel Jane. They had married in 1903 in Bolton. Donald seems to have had one younger brother, Geoffrey Hirst Bateman who also trained to be a doctor.

Their father worked in various roles in Lancashire—in 1905, the medical register recorded him as the Medical Officer for Health in Nordan. He was also Honorary Medical Officer at Rochdale Infirmary. By 1915, he was also the Honorary Surgeon at the Rochdale Memorial Cripples Home. He continued to practise medicine throughout his life, later combining it with the role of Justice of the Peace.

Donald studied medicine at Oxford, starting 22 October 1922, qualifying 27 November 1930. He spent a year in the USA after qualifying, sailing to New York from Southampton on the White Star Line ship *Majestic*, arriving 23 September 1931. He was a hospital physician in the Children's Medical Division at Belle Vue Hospital, New York. He returned to the UK on the WSL ship *Minnetonka* arriving at Southampton 17 July 1932.

In 1934, he married Elsie Tweedale (born 1913 in Rochdale) in Middleton,

Lancashire. They lived in Central London for the next six years or so, as shown in the electoral rolls for this period. The 1935 medical register had him working as House Physician at GOSH. He was also in charge of the Outpatients department at GOSH. However, in the 1940 and 1942 medical registers, he is living at 13 St John Street, Manchester.



Donald Bateman—
resident medical staff

Donald joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve (72748) on 16 April 1939, serving with 4 Squadron. He was killed on 14 March 1944 aged 39 while working as Physician in Charge of the Medical Division of overseas RAF hospitals. He was a passenger in a plane, along with Sister Elena Cassie, when the pilot hit a wireless mast after a short take off and crashed, killing all on board. Donald rests in the Benghazi War Cemetery, Libya. As well as being named on the GOSH war memorial, he is also recorded in the Roll of Honour at St Thomas' Hospital. He left £5367 11s 10d to his widow.

Obituaries in the British Medical Journal (8 Apr 1944) to Donald describe him as:

Unassuming but quietly efficient and of an original turn of mind

He took a deep personal interest in all his patients, an interest ... that extended beyond their medical condition into the broader aspects of their individual and personal problems.

Roy CLARKE

Roy was born in Brigus, Newfoundland in Canada on 18 October 1905 and baptised a month later on 18 November. His parents were John Victor who was born in 1864 in Brigus and Lydia Chalker (born there in 1869).

His parents had married (also in Brigus) in 1894. The 1921 Canadian census recorded John as a master mariner. Roy seems to have been their youngest child, following Ralph Lancelot (born 1894), George Rankin (1897), Victor Nathan (1900) and Florence Lydia (1903).

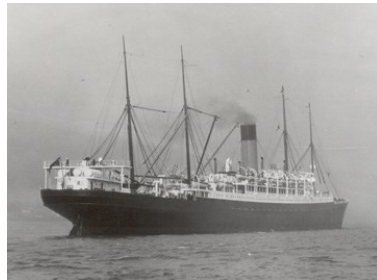
Roy sailed from St John's, New Brunswick on the Furness Line ship Newfoundland arriving in Liverpool on 2 October 1928. He lists his occupation as 'medical student' and indeed starts his medical training at Exeter College, Oxford in 1929. He gained his MRCS and LRCP in 1934 and his MRCP in 1937. He spent time on the resident medical staff at GOSH until 1939.



Roy Clarke—resident
medical staff

The 1939 register recorded him as living at 192 Reservoir Road, Birmingham, working as a Consultant Physician. The medical registers of 1940 and 1942 recorded him as Medical Registrar at Dudley Road Hospital, Birmingham.

He joined the Royal Army Medical Corps (230706) and was promoted to Lieutenant on 25 April 1942. He was sailing to Cape Town, South Africa on SS Ceramic when it was torpedoed on 6 December 1942 by a U515 submarine.



The ship sank following two more torpedoes and although many escaped in lifeboats, the stormy conditions meant that just one person survived and was taken prisoner.

Roy is remembered on the Brookwood Cemetery memorial. He appears not to have married or had children, when proved probate left £4141 4s to Lloyd's Bank. His father had died in 1937 and his mother died following her son's death, in 1944.

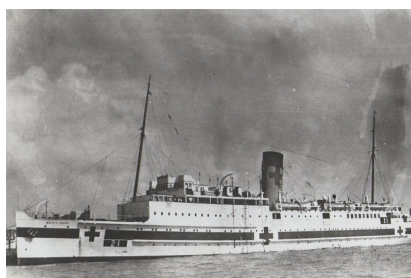
Peter Septimus DAVEY

Peter was born on 22 December 1917 and his birth was registered in Croydon in 1918. His parents were Henry, a labourer, and Rose Beckenham. They had married in 1898 and were living in Banstead in 1901 and Croydon in 1911 (as recorded in the censuses for those years). The latest available census of 1911 showed them as living with seven children already, so the origin of Peter's middle name is unclear (unless he was the seventh son).

The other children recorded in the 1911 census were Frank (born 1902), Albert (1903), Rose Elizabeth (1905), Ellen (1907), Ethel (1908) and Edmund (1910). Two further siblings have been traced through the birth records: Margaret (1912) and Reginald (1914).

The 1939 register showed him as living at 48 Westleigh Avenue, Coulsdon, working as an Under Gardener at a hospital, presumably at the nearby Tadworth Court. He joined the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) but was killed on 22 May 1940 on SS Maid of Kent, previously a cross channel ferry, which was collecting wounded soldiers from Dieppe.

The ship arrived at Dieppe, having survived a Luftwaffe attack en route but on its way back on 21 May at 5pm, a bomb was dropped into the funnel and exploded, killing 17 crew and 11 from the RAMC, including Peter.



He is remembered on the Dunkirk Memorial as well as on the Merchant Seamen memorial at Tower Hill [panel 66]. The entry in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission records him as married to DI Davey of Coulsdon but no record of her has been found.

Stephen Thomas FALLA

Stephen was born on 3 April 1910 in St Sampson's, Guernsey to Alfred John (a fruit grower) and Lizzie McCann.

He is recorded in the 1911 census aged 1 in St Sampson's. His father was born 15 November 1887 and served in the Royal Navy during World War I, dying 'of means other than disease, accident or enemy action' on HMS Princess Irene on 27 March 1915, when Stephen was aged four years. His older siblings were still young, Gerald aged 16 and Francis aged 9 years.

Stephen studied medicine at the University of London from 1 October 1928, qualifying in 1933. The 1935 medical register recorded him living at Les Effards, St Sampson's, Guernsey.

After qualifying, he seems to have travelled to the USA as he returned from New York on the French Line ship Normandie arriving in Southampton 5 October 1936, stating that he was due to work at the Royal Masonic Hospital, a private hospital for Freemasons in Ravenscourt Park.

In 1939 register, he was living at 71 Newmarket Road, Norwich, working as a Physician. The medical registers of 1940 and 1942 however record him as working as a House Physician at GOSH.

He joined the Royal Army Medical Corps (199336) and was killed on 16 September 1943. He was probably based at No 1 General Hospital in Kantara, Egypt in the lead up to the battle of El Alamein. As reported by Brenda McBryde in her book Quiet Heroines:

The hospital was cleared in readiness for casualties as Rommel advanced. Miss Miller (Matron) took to wearing an outsize hat pin [in case the Germans reached there]

He is remembered on Kantara War Memorial Cemetery. When probate was proved on 21 April 1944, he left £5318 0s 2d to the Westminster Bank and his solicitor.

Jack FIDDES

Jack was born on 29 November 1915, the son of Dr John Douglas Fiddes and Jessie Bunting, who lived at Rubislaw, Hutton, Essex.

His father was born 6 April 1884 and was a surgeon, according to the medical registers 1915 to 1942. He entered the R.A.M.C. in 1914,

...serving with the 89th Field Ambulance in Egypt, Gallipoli, France, Belgium, and Germany. He was awarded the MC and bar for gallantry in the field, and also the Belgian Croix-de-Guerre in 1918, and when demobilized with the rank of lieutenant colonel he was in command of the 89th Field Ambulance. [BMJ obituary 16 July 1966]

Jack had several younger siblings: Douglas (born 1920), Jessie (1921) and Alistair (1925). He qualified in medicine in Aberdeen in 1938. The 1939 register showed Jack as Resident Medical Officer at the Prince of Wales General Hospital in Tottenham, where the medical register of 1940 shows him as Senior

House Physician. The medical register of 1942 showed him as Physician in charge of the Asthma Clinic at GOSH.

Jack had joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve (89039) in 612 squadron who were based in Iceland 1941-2 where they were involved in anti-submarine and ice patrols (to stop icebergs blocking shipping lanes) in the North Atlantic.



He died on 25 December 1941 and is remembered on the Runnymede War Memorial. Presumably Jack was unmarried and childless as he left his estate of £271 8s 6d to his father.

George Mudie FOOTE

George was born in Onehunga, Auckland, New Zealand on 18 February 1912 to George Edward Gibbons and Helen Foote (nee Mudie). His father was born in 1870 in Manukau, Auckland and in the electoral rolls for the period is described as 'gentleman' with 'no occupation'. His parents had married in Onehunga in 1905.

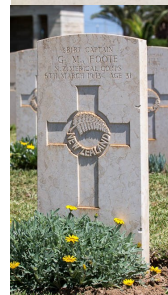
He studied medicine at Otago University, living at 42 Trafalgar Street in Onehunga, qualifying in 1936. On 16 March 1937 he married Myrtle Inez Thew (born January 1907) in Auckland. Myrtle was also a doctor, qualifying in 1946 in New Zealand although she appeared in the Medical Registers for 1940 and 1942 care of the New Zealand High Commissioner in London.

The 1939 register recorded George as House Surgeon at the Royal Northern Hospital in Holloway Road. The medical registers of 1940 and 1942 recorded him as House Surgeon at GOSH.

He enlisted in the New Zealand Medical Corps (38187) in Auckland on 15 November 1940, serving in 4 Field Ambulance. He may well have been involved in action at Madenine, Marith Line and Wadi Avarit. He died on 6 March 1943 aged 31 and is buried in Sfax War Cemetery, in Tunisia.



Captain G. M. Foote, of Wellington, killed in action.



Frederick Victor GRUIT

Frederick's birth was registered in Whitechapel district in 1909. His father, Frederick, was born in 1883 as was his mother Rosetta Crawley. They had married in 1906 at St Ann's Church, Hoxton.

In the 1911 census, he was living with his parents at 1 Napier Street, Shoreditch. The electoral rolls from 1931 to 1934 record them as living at 78 Westerfield Road, Tottenham. He subsequently moved to Wood Green and Edmonton.

In 1934, he married Ethel M Ayres (born 10 Feb 1909). They seem to have had one son, Brian, whose birth was registered in 1937 in Hackney.

The 1939 register showed Frederick as working at GOSH as a plumber's mate. He seems to have remained employed by GOSH until he joined up as he is recorded as living on site in the electoral roll of 1945. He still remained on the electoral roll as living at GOSH until 1948.

Frederick joined the Royal Scots Fusiliers (14659702) and died 6 February 1946 aged 36. He is buried in Brussels Town Cemetery.

His widow Ethel does not seem to have re-married. The records indicate that their son Brian married Cynthia F Jehan in 1959 and had four children (Sandra born 1960, Janette born 1962, Michael born 1965 and Linda born 1967). Ethel died in 1969 in Chelmsford.

John Richard Glanfield HARRIS

John was born on 8 September 1909 in Exeter to John and Ellen Geraldine Lillie Harris. The 1911 census records the family as living at 53a St David's Road, Exeter, with the father working as a Pharmacist and Optologist.

He started medical training in Cambridge on 11 October 1928 and qualified in 1937. The 1936 and 1938 electoral rolls recorded him at the Royal London Hospital but by 1939, the register showed him working as an anaesthetist living at 18 Cobden Hill, Watford.

John married Joyce Milliar (born 27 July 1913 to EG and BH Grover of Radlett, Herts) in the spring of 1939 in Watford. The



medical register recorded him as working as an anaesthetist at GOSH and the Royal London, living at 8 West Hill Court, Highgate.

While on holiday, John was killed by a bomb outside the Westminster Bank, Institute Road, Swanage on 17 August 1942. He is remembered on Swanage Urban District Memorial. His obituary stated he was a keen musician and rugby player throughout his life and was also a freemason.

The records indicate that they had one child, Judith whose birth was registered in Edmonton in 1943. Joyce died in 2005 in Dorset at the age of 91 years. She does not appear to have remarried.

George William James HAWES

George was born 8 March 1914 and christened 31 May 1914 at Holy Trinity Church, Canning Town. His parents were George and Sarah Mary Hadley . They had married at St Matthias' in Canning Town 9 March 1913.

George was their eldest child and was followed in due course by Frederick (born 1916), Thomas (born 1922), Winifred (born 1924), Gertrude (born 1927) and Ronald (born 1932).

In 1938, he married Lilian Grace Twort (born 26 January 1913 in West Ham) at St Nicholas' Church, Manor Park. George and Lilian seem to have had one child, Valerie (born 1939 in Ilford) who later married Leonard Smith in 1968 at St Albans.

The 1939 register recorded George as working as a Hall Porter at GOSH.

He joined the Queen's Own Hussars Royal Armoured Corps (3970348) and died on 4 July 1942 aged 28 in the first battle of Alamein. He is remembered on the Alamein memorial.

Lilian appears not to have married again, dying in 1994 in Blackpool.

Richard Edward Kenny LEVICK

Richard was born on 4 May 1910 in Havant, Hampshire to George Kenny and Florence Isabel. They were living at 21 East Street in Havant at the 1911 census.

He qualified in medicine from Cambridge University in 1934 and appeared in the medical register of 1935 as living at 121 Gloucester Terrace in Paddington. By 1939, he was recorded as working at GOSH as Medical Practitioner and Resident Assistant Physician.

He married Jessie Irene Phillips in 1940 in Windsor. Jessie was born 9 July 1902 and trained as a Registered Sick Children's Nurse (RSCN) at Guy's Hospital between 1927 and 1930. The 1939 register had her working at GOSH, perhaps where she met Richard.

Richard joined the Royal Army Medical Corps (236048) and died 3 October 1943. He is remembered on the Salerno memorial in Italy. When probate was proved, he left £3943 6s 6d to his brother Percy George Levick, Medical Practitioner.

Richard and Jessie seem to have had one child, Clare born in Windsor in 1942. The electoral roll of 1946 has Jessie based at the East London Hospital for Children in Shadwell. Jessie died 17 August 1973 in Kent. Clare seems to have followed in her mother's footsteps, qualifying as a nurse in 1965 from St Bartholomew's. She was awarded the Order of the Association of the Royal Red Cross Second Class as Squadron Leader in the Princess Mary Royal Air Force Nursing Service. After retirement, she seems to have moved to Ribchester, where she looks to have been very active in the community, certainly until 2011 when she is recorded as a bell ringer at St Wilfrid's in Ribchester.

Alexander SIMPSON SMITH

Alexander was born on 12 June 1900 to Thomas (born 1869) and Jessie. The 1901 census recorded Thomas as working as a Registrar of Births and Deaths. The 1939 register showed him working as a land agent. Alexander received serious burns when boiling a kettle for a dolls' tea party.

An accident in early childhood damaged his right hand. That with most people would jeopardise a medical career and certainly ruin all prospects of a surgical career. Not so with Simpson-Smith. While continuing his medical training, he underwent a series of seemingly endless operations on his right hand until finally he could not only operate perfectly with it, but he had also trained himself to use his left hand with equal dexterity. [Workshop College Magazine, 1946]

Training at Guy's Hospital, Alexander appeared in the electoral roll of 1924 and 1925 at Guy's Residential College on Great Maze Road. After qualifying, he went to the USA sailing to New York on SS Aquitania arriving there on 7 January 1931 but returned to Southampton that summer arriving on 15 July 1931. He had held the Richardson Research Fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston for this period.

From 1932 to 1934, he was living at 6 St Thomas' Street, Southwark but from 1936 onwards was living at 77 Harley Street. The 1939 register recorded him as living at Corydon, Williams Way, Watford. He married Margaret (in later years known as Marguerite) A Davis in Totnes in 1939 and lived in East Finchley.

Alexander joined the Royal Army Medical Corps (101028) and died 13 July 1942, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, at Tobruk. He had previously been reported missing after the fall of Tobruk in June 1942 but is known to have escaped once all the casualties had been dealt with. His obituary stated that he was shot after his third attempted escape from the Germans. He is remembered on Halfaya Sollum War Cemetery.



When probate was proved, he left £5815 5s 9d to Johanna Catherine Bluett and Lilian Bates. Johanna may have been his younger sister—she was born on 18 January 1908, married Donald Bluett (a doctor) in 1940. She died in 1960.

Arthur Ernest TICKNER

Arthur was born around 1923 to Harry (1885 to 1954) and Rosina (1891 to 1968), who had married in Epsom in 1914.

The electoral roll of 1932 showed him as living at Parkwood Road, Nutfield, Surrey and then in 1935 at West View, St George's Road, Horley. Presumably, he was working at Tadworth although no records have been located.

In the 1939 register, his father was recorded as an Electric Service Cable Layer, with his son Henry George working as a Wine Merchant's Assistant. There may well have been other members of the family registered, but their records have been officially closed, which precludes access.

Arthur joined the 2/6 Battalion of the Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) (6106693) and died on 12 September 1943 aged 20. He is buried in Salerno War Cemetery. His brother Henry George is also reported to have lost his life in battle in 1944 and is buried at the Beach Head War Cemetery in Italy.

Other GOSH members of staff who served

As well as those who died, a large number of staff either working at GOSH at the time or who later joined GOSH, fought in World War Two. Here is a selection of their stories.

David ASERMAN

Born in Bulawayo in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) in 1898, he moved to the UK as the 1901 census recorded him at 25 British Street, Bromley aged five years. He was staying with his mother, Mary aged 30 and his twin brother Cecil. His schooling took place in Brighton (1911 census) and he studied medicine at Cambridge University, qualifying in 1926.

He was an early proponent of flying, receiving his Royal Aero Club Aviator Certificate in 1918. In 1931, he married Estelle Jacobson in Hampstead. She had been born in Salford in 1905 to Bert (a blouse manufacturer) and Sallie. He appeared in the electoral rolls for the first years of their marriage in Holborn, living at 3 Princeton Street (1933) and Queens Court, Guilford Street (1936). They had one child, Susan, who was born in 1934.

By 1939, the electoral rolls recorded them as living at 25 St John's Wood Terrace.

David started his medical career as a General Practitioner in St John's Wood but also held clinical posts in paediatrics, orthopaedics and ear, nose and throat surgery at St Thomas' Hospital. He started at GOSH part time in the dental department but by 1940, the medical register recorded him as working at GOSH as an anaesthetist. He continued to work as an anaesthetist at GOSH when it was taken over by the Emergency Medical Service and from 1942, he was based at the Leavesden Emergency Hospital in Abbots Langley, Hertfordshire.



In 1932, Leavesden Hospital was assigned the special function of caring for 'mentally subnormal persons' described as 'adult idiots and low-grade imbeciles' The Second

World War saw the annexe designated as an Emergency Hospital and the patients were transferred back to the main building. Leavesden was also used to accommodate some patients from Saint Bernard's Hospital, Ealing following bombing in 1944 and children from the Fountain Hospital, Tooting. Hutted buildings were erected in the Annexe grounds and were used for the treatment of war casualties including French survivors from Dunkirk. [Leavesden Hospital archive collection held at London Metropolitan Archives]

After the war, he returned to GOSH as Consultant Anaesthetist, also holding posts at Atkinson Morley Hospital and the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery in Queen Square. He and Estelle were living in South London at 15 Hazelwell Road, SW15 from 1948 onwards.

David retired from the NHS in 1963 and died in 1972 in Wandsworth registration district. Estelle outlived him by 30 years, dying in 2002 in Kingston.

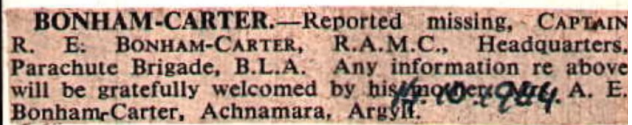
Richard Erskine BONHAM CARTER

Born in 1910 in Fortalloch, Argyll, Richard Bonham Carter was the son of Alfred and Margaret .

He studied natural sciences at Peterhouse, Cambridge University, before moving to St Thomas' Medical School for his clinical training. He served as House Officer at St Thomas' where he earned his MRCP in 1938. He then moved to GOSH as House Physician, only as a short term plan apparently although he spent the rest of his career in paediatrics.

The 1940 medical register recorded him as working as Resident Assistant Physician at GOSH. By 1942, he was the Assistant Director of Emergency Medical Services, moving to the Ministry of Health in charge of organising health care for London children evacuated to the country.

He joined the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1942 as Medical Officer to the First Airborne Division, rising to the rank of Major. He served in various theatres of war, including North Africa and Italy. In 1944, he took part in the Arnhem drop but was captured. He was reported missing and a plea was published for

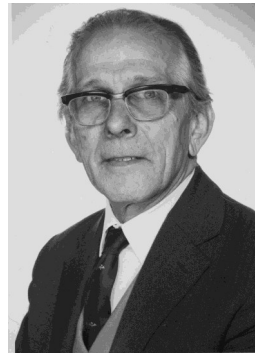


BONHAM-CARTER.—Reported missing, CAPTAIN R. E. BONHAM-CARTER, R.A.M.C., Headquarters, Parachute Brigade, B.L.A. Any information re above will be gratefully welcomed by his mother, Mrs. A. E. Bonham-Carter, Achnamara, Argyll. 10.984

further information.

After his release, he returned to the Ministry of Health to help re-commence medical training disrupted by the war. He married Margaret Stace (born 1910) in 1946 in Holborn.

He returned to work at GOSH in 1947 as assistant to Alan Moncrieff in the newly established Institute of Child Health. He specialised in children's heart disease, and was instrumental in developing cardiac services at GOSH, along with David Waterston (see later) — two wards in the Cardiac Wing (opened 1988) were named in their honour.



His obituary in the Independent newspaper (20 February 1995) described him as:

'the least pompous of men and disliked pomposity and pretentiousness in others. His most endearing traits were his wit and humour.'

He died in Knebworth, Hertfordshire in 1994.

Thomas Cradock HENRY

Thomas was born on 15 January 1910 to Thomas, a surveyor with the local council, and Rose. They were living at Moorgate Park, Retford, Nottinghamshire at the time of his birth, as reported in the 1911 census a few months later.

He completed his medical training at the Middlesex Hospital followed by training in dentistry at the Royal Dental Hospital. He served as Flight Lieutenant in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, initially at Cosford but then under Sir Archibald McIndoe at East Grinstead. This was the site of pioneering work repairing severely burnt airmen that led to the specialism of plastic surgery.



Following the war, Thomas worked as Consultant Maxillofacial Surgeon at GOSH where he pioneered the use of the various types

of Le Fort osteotomy to repair facial fractures and treat craniofacial disorders. He was known as “Uncle Tom” to generations of surgical trainees and was well known for his lecture style. He retired from practice in 1977.

He died at the age of 82 on 15 January 1993 while he was living in Cranleigh, Surrey.

Graham HUMBY

Born in 1909 in Hendon, Graham was the son of a dentist recorded as living in Finchley in the 1911 census.

He trained at Guys, qualifying in 1935. Humby invented a plastic surgery instrument for harvesting skin grafts during his time at Guys—known as the Humby Knife (or bacon slicer as he referred to it).

He was appointed as Outpatient Surgical Assistant at GOSH in 1938. When war broke out, he was working for the Emergency Medical Service based at GOSH, working alongside Thomas Twistington-Higgins and Denis Browne, the latter being in charge of the Casualty Clearing Station. Graham was:

A romantic figure with floppy fair hair, he ... was reputed to have been on the stage as a chorus boy before he took up medicine. [Black J] A Great Ormond Street in 1941 and 1942 Archives of Disease in Childhood 2000;82:84-87.]

He joined the Fleet Air Arm of the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve in 1943 as Temporary Acting Surgeon Lieutenant. He served mainly in the Pacific area, working at improving air crew survival, but was also involved in bringing prisoners of war from the Far East. He was released from military service in 1945, when he also received his Royal Aero Club Aviator Certificate.

Graham did not work in the newly formed National Health Service and instead set up the London Aeronautical Motor Services operating an air freight service from Stanstead. He emigrated to Australia in 1958 where he carried on his plastic surgery practice, specialising in aesthetic medicine. He died in Australia in 1970.

Maurice Henry KINMONTH

Maurice was born in 1917 in County Clare, Ireland, the son of George Henry Kinmonth, also a doctor, and Delia Agnes Daly.

Having qualified in medicine in 1939 from St Thomas' Hospital, he joined the Royal Air Force as a medical officer with the rank of Flying Officer. He was posted to the Far East, eventually based at No 1 Allied General Hospital in Bandung, Java. It was here that he was captured by the Japanese and remained a Prisoner of War for the rest of hostilities.

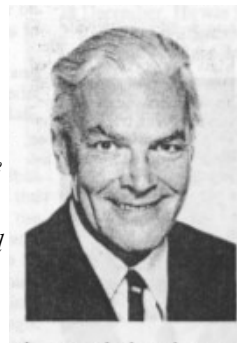
From April to June 1942, Kinmonth worked in the Japanese POW hospital at Tjimahi, before moving to the Tjimahi POW camp, again directed by Dunlop, where there were more than 1000 Australian and British prisoners. In old age he recalled the Japanese coming to inspect one of the hospitals in which he was working: "[They] walked round each bed and bowed to each wounded soldier - they thought they were absolute heroes. But we [the uninjured doctors and POWs] were absolute dross. Prisoners of war were all [considered] cowards." [Sydney Morning Herald 2010]

After his repatriation in 1945, he married Gwendoline Stella Phillips in London and continued his speciality training, including a stint at GOSH under David Matthews. He was the sole Plastic Surgeon at Leicester Royal Infirmary until the 1970s, specialising in cleft repair and hand surgery. He retired in 1983 and died in 2009.

George Charles LLOYD ROBERTS

Born in 1918, the son of Griffith (also a doctor) and the Honourable Gwendoline, George completed his medical training in 1942, having studied at Magdalene College, Cambridge and St Thomas' Hospital. He joined the Royal Army Medical Corps straightaway with the rank of Major serving as surgical specialist with the partisans in Yugoslavia and Italy.

There was another British doctor down at Vis town by the name of Captain George Lloyd Roberts ... the medical conditions were beyond belief ... the hospital was set up in an old school house at the end of the bay. Doctor Roberts was newly graduated and evidently this was his first assignment. The condition of the patients was unbelievable. They got the best care that could be given the circumstances ... Not much is written about Dr Roberts except that he was so new to the business that he had his school books with him to guide him in some of the more complex operations that he tried to perform. Dr Roberts even



set up a rudimentary blood bank.

Following demobilisation, he continued his training at St George's Hospital, specialising in orthopaedic surgery. He joined GOSH in 1955 as Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, where he was the only consultant in orthopaedics until 1972. Even after retirement from GOSH he continued to attend weekly ward rounds. He died in 1986 aged 67 years.

George Henderson MACNAB

George was born in 1904 and had his medical training at Edinburgh University, qualifying in 1926.

During the war, he had served with the Emergency Medical Services, based at Westminster Hospital, where as well as responsibility for administration, he was involved in the EMS Head Injury Service.

In 1946, he was appointed Consultant Surgeon at GOSH, where he pioneered treatment of hydrocephalus, in particular, introducing the Holter Shunt to UK practice. Following his experience as Dean of the Medical School during the war, he continued his interest in education, chairing the Academic Board at GOSH for several years.



George died in 1967. His obituary in the British Medical Journal described him as:

Tall and powerfully built, he had a commanding presence and a shrewd brain. He loved outdoor life, and was a keen fisherman and golfer.

David Napier MATTHEWS

David was born in 1911 and initially studied modern languages at Cambridge University before swapping to medicine. He qualified in 1935 from Charing Cross Hospital before moving to Westminster Hospital under Sir Stanford Cade who told him, "I make big holes: go and learn how to fill them." He did this under plastic surgery pioneers Sir Harold Gillies and Sir Archibald McIndoe, helping them establish the unit at East Grinstead.

He enlisted in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve in 1941 and ran a Plastic

Surgery Unit at RAF Halton. In her book, *Sisters: Heroic True-Life Stories from the Nurses of World War Two*, Barbara Mortimer quotes the ward sister describing David:

... the commander in charge was an absolutely wonderful man for whom I have, and had, the greatest admiration. Wing Commander D.N. Matthews, he was known as Dennis. He was not only a first-class plastic surgeon but a wonderful communicator. He would sit down at a patient's bedside and tell the man in terms that he could easily understand, exactly what he planned to do, and if that was successful, what he would go on to do ...

He was demobbed in 1946, having been awarded an OBE, and was one of the founder members of the British Association of Plastic Surgeons. He joined GOSH after the war in 1947, as a General Surgeon although he continued to specialise in Plastic Surgery.



David died in 1997, and his obituary in the British Journal of Plastic Surgery included:

Despite seriousness, he was full of fun, which could even creep into the operating theatre. I recall David having to retire from the operating table until he could control his laughter ...

It is not possible to write about David without mentioning his total ambidexterity displayed at every operation, and woe betide the assistant who changed hands to cut a suture.

Without David Napier Matthews, it is unlikely that the Plastic Surgery specialty would be as well-renowned as it is now—it was he that established Plastic Surgery as a specialty in its own right.

Harold Homewood NIXON

Harold was born in Newcastle in 1918, the son of a Chartered Accountant. He studied medicine in Cambridge and Durham, qualifying in 1941. The following year he joined the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve and spent 1942 to 1946 serving on Icelandic convoys and as Surgeon-Lieutenant on minesweepers in the Mediterranean and North Atlantic.

He joined GOSH in 1956, specialising in conditions of the lower gastrointestinal tract, especially Hieschsprung's Disease and anorectal malformation.

He retired from GOSH in 1983 and died in 1990 at the age of 72 years. His obituary in the British Medical Journal described him as

... immensely proud of being a Geordie, and common sense was his watchword. This quality he had in abundance, but it disguised a first class brain that produced a stream of clear, clean information over five decades.



Archibald Percy NORMAN

A native of Lancashire (born 1912) but growing up in Sussex, Archibald was the son of a radiologist and a nurse. He studied medicine at Cambridge and married a fellow doctor, Aleida Roosegaarde-Bisschop (born 1921) who had trained at Oxford. In 1940, he was a House Physician at GOSH.

He joined the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1940 and was assigned as medical officer to the 4th Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers. He was posted to Cyprus, Palestine, Libya and Syria and was based at a dressing station in the Western Desert when he was captured by the Germans.

He spent the rest of the war as a prisoner, mainly in Italy but then in Poland. It was from there that he:

led 150 troops marching on foot back through territory held by Russia living off the land, then by train to the Black Sea from where they were shipped back to Britain. For these actions, he was awarded an MBE.

After the war, he returned to GOSH under Alan Moncrieff working as a Resident Physician. It was then that he specialised in respiratory disorders, particularly cystic fibrosis, setting up clinics and research studies including a lung function laboratory.

Although he moved to Queen Charlotte's Hospital in 1953, his interest in cystic fibrosis continued and he was



instrumental in setting up the Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust in 1984. He was later involved in setting up the Children's Trust based at Tadworth Court (previously the country branch of GOSH). Alan Craft, in the obituary to Norman in the British Medical Journal described him as:

'a quiet determined man who got on and did what he thought was best.'

He died in 2016 at the age of 104 years.

Paul Harmer SANDIFER

The son of a doctor, Paul was born in 1908 and studied medicine at the Middlesex Hospital. Following qualification, he worked at the Brompton Hospital before returning to the Middlesex Hospital in 1936. He was then appointed House Physician at the National Hospital, Queen Square, before promotion to Senior Resident Medical Officer. In 1939, he married Sheila Anderson who had been working at GOSH as an anaesthetist.

At the outbreak of war, he was neurologist to the Emergency Medical Service (section 5 based at the Middlesex Hospital) but joined the Royal Air Force as a neuropsychiatrist, rising to the rank of Wing Commander. He continued his association with the RAF until 1951.

He was persuaded to join GOSH in 1953 when the Department of Neurology was created.

He died in 1964. In 1994, a specialist clinical area for neurology was named the Paul Sandifer Unit in his memory.



Robert Alexander STEPHEN

Robert was born in 1907 in Aberdeen, where he also undertook his medical training, qualifying in 1933. Soon after, he joined GOSH as House Surgeon under Sir Lancelot Barrington-Ward and Thomas Twistington Higgins but was then commissioned in the Royal Army Medical Corps. He remained in military medicine for the rest of his career.

At the outbreak of war, he was posted with the British Expeditionary Force to a field hospital in France. He also served as surgical specialist in various casualty

clearing stations in Europe and Africa. While he was based in North Africa, he refined the use of the 'Tobruk splint' method of immobilising an injured limb before transport.

All in the RAMC know the "Tobruk" splint, but few realise that in the Libyan campaign General Bob was one of the originators of this simple life and limb saving application to the Thomas's splint.

He died in 1983 aged 76 years.

David James WATERSTON

David was born in 1910, the son of the Professor of Anatomy at St Andrew's University. His medical training took place at St Andrew's and Edinburgh where he qualified in 1933. After a short while in Scotland, he came to London and started at GOSH, initially as House Surgeon then Senior Surgical Resident.

He enlisted in the Royal Army Medical Corp in 1938 and was stationed in West Africa before transfer to a Blood Transfusion Unit in the Western Desert. It was for this posting, and his service as Captain in the Field Ambulance, he was appointed an MBE in 1940. Later, he was posted to Vis, an island in Yugoslavia, as surgical specialist. George Lloyd Roberts also served on Vis but it is unclear whether they were both working there at the same time. In 1945, he was one of the first medics to enter Belsen concentration camp.

After demob, he returned to GOSH and specialised in surgery in babies and young children. He developed methods of managing tracheo-oesophageal fistula (an abnormal join between the windpipe and food pipe) and surgery to replace part of the oesophagus with a section of large intestine. He also carried out thoracic surgery, and with Richard Bonham Carter (see earlier) developed the service at GOSH. He also had a ward named after him in the Cardiac Wing. He retired from GOSH in 1975 and died 10 years later.



He was described in his obituary in the British Medical Journal as:

Always unperturbed, he had time to talk to, encourage, and counsel his colleagues, his junior staff, and, with especial concern, the parents of his patients.

David Innes WILLIAMS

David (known as DI) was born in 1919 to a medical family—his father was a surgeon at University College London Hospital (UCLH), where his mother had been a nurse. He trained at Trinity Hall, Cambridge and UCLH, qualifying in 1942.

He was called up in 1945 to the Royal Army Medical Corp and served in India until:

His posting came to an end with Indian independence in 1947, and he came home on a troop ship, sewing up a perforated duodenal ulcer in a storm in the Mediterranean.

He joined GOSH soon after demob, specialising in Urology Surgery. During his time at GOSH, he developed a classification system for children's urological conditions, which is still used today. This was ground-breaking as it predated development of the imaging scans on which we rely these days. He retired in 1978 to become Director of the British Postgraduate Medical Federation and appointed Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University of London in 1985, and was knighted the same year.



He died in 2013 aged 93 years, and his obituary in the British Medical Journal quoted that he:

got hooked on the idea of doing [paediatric urology] because it seemed to be exciting and nobody else was much doing it . . . and because Great Ormond Street is a remarkable place, and you only had to say you were interested in something and the patients came in.

In their obituary, the Royal College of Surgeons of England stated:

Many doctors make major contributions to their field but are then superseded by later specialists and later research. Such was Innes William's contribution that it still forms the basis of the study of the natural history of congenital genito-urinary anomalies and their surgical correction.

Otto WOLFF

Born in Germany in 1920, Otto had dual British and German nationality, due to his father being born in Manchester to a German father and British mother. Otto moved to England in 1936, with the rest of the family following a year later. He studied medicine at Cambridge, alongside his elder brother. He continued his training at University College Hospital, moving to Cardiff when it was evacuated during the blitz.

Otto enlisted in the Royal Army Medical Corps, with the rank of Captain, serving in North Africa in a smallpox hospital. He also served in Italy with responsibility for Italian Prisoners of War.

After the war, he moved to Birmingham for further training in paediatrics, before being appointed Nuffield Professor of Child Health at the Institute of Child Health in 1965.

Otto retired in 1985 but continued to visit regularly, especially to attend lectures named in his honour, until his death in 2010 aged 90.



