



OBITUARY

Ronald Thexton

Ronald Thexton died on March 6, 2002 aged 86. Ronald was Consultant Dental and Oral Surgeon to the Princess Margaret Hospital Swindon until his retirement in 1977 in which year he was also honoured by the award of the Queen's Jubilee Medal.

Having qualified from Birmingham in 1937, the following year Ronald joined the Navy and was posted as Surgeon Lieutenant aboard the cruiser HMS Edinburgh in 1939 escorting convoys to Malta and Murmansk in North Russia.

In 1940, Ronald married Barbara Stevens with whom he enjoyed many happy years until she died in 1990.

While still a serving officer he qualified as HDDRCS (Edin) and was appointed Surgeon Lieutenant-Commander in 1944. The following year he was released from Naval service and took up the post of Lecturer in Operative Dental Surgery at Edinburgh University Dental School. In 1950, Ronald was appointed Consultant Dental Surgeon to the Oxford Regional Hospital Board and set up the Department of Oral surgery at the Princess Margaret Hospital Swindon, then the first new hospital of the fledgling NHS.

In his long Consultant career Ronald enjoyed the staunch support of colleagues Norman duPlessis and Bob McGowan and was an enthusiastic participant in many of the developments of the day including advising on the first UK pilot of a Centralised Sterile Instrument Supply operating theatre system. He was part of the founding organisation of the British Association of Oral Surgeons (now BAOMS) and of the Hospitals Group of the British Dental Association. An astute administrator and manager, Ronald always found a way of achieving his objectives and his department and patients benefited greatly from his efforts.

In the 1940s, Ronald began painting in oils under the guidance of a Scottish Royal Academician James Cowie RSA and studied at Edinburgh College of Art. Painting became a life-long obsession that he pursued in his retire-

ment. Many friends, colleagues and former patients benefited from the informal teaching sessions he held in his studio. He exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1983, 1988 and 1994 and his paintings were hung and sold in a number of galleries. His works are prized possessions of many of his friends, frequently received as gifts, or purchased at exhibitions he held to support local charities.

Ronald's achievements and expertise extended on to the rugby field and he was also an accomplished musician playing the classical guitar with acclaimed sensitivity. Whilst a student he had also played piano, trumpet and drums in a jazz band.

To his daughter Nicola and son Michael, his many friends and grateful past-patients extend their sympathies. He will be fondly remembered.

