

## Obituary



**PATRICK HUNTER JOBSON (1913–1998)**

Patrick Hunter Jobson devoted his professional life to the relief of suffering in ear, nose and throat disease and deafness in particular. He was the son of a Guildford ENT surgeon and was proudly the third great grand nephew of John Hunter, the father of modern surgery and distinguished surgeon and anatomist of the 18th century, upon whose principals modern day surgery is based.

He was born in Ilford, Essex on 19th December 1913. His father, a doctor, was Captain Thomas Battersby Jobson, known as 'Tappy'. Apart from being brought up in the war years, Pat's childhood was somewhat marred by his mother's serious disability from rheumatoid arthritis which left her bed bound for many years.

Pat was educated at Edgeborough. He then went to Robinites, at Charterhouse where it is recorded that he was generally top in 'Stinks and Maths'. He enjoyed games and was particularly keen on hockey, eventually captaining the United Hospitals hockey team. In October 1932 he started as a medical student at King's College Hospital in London. There he excelled academically gaining the Rabbeth Scholarship of the University of London. He

graduated MB BS in 1938, and become a Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians and a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in the same year.

When Pat first went to London in 1932 he also joined the Territorial Army and was commissioned into the 5th Queen's TA Division which explains why he was called up so early. World War II severely interrupted Pat's medical career but provided a new experience to his life. Throughout the tragedies of war, of which he saw more than his fair share, he distinguished himself during his six and a half years of service. With the 8th Army in North Africa he commanded the 131st Field Ambulance. In 1943 he took part in the amphibian landings in Salerno in the invasion of Italy, and was promoted to Lieut-Colonel in 1944 before being sent to Normandy shortly after D-Day. On the 13th January he was gazetted as unmentioned in despatches' for distinguished service.

With the war over, he had to pick up the threads of his medical career and returned to King's College to complete his specialist training. He had the good fortune to work with Sir Victor Negus, the doyen of

laryngology, and to be an assistant to Sir Terence Cawthorne who was to become Britain's most distinguished ear surgeon in the post-war era.

After leaving the RAMC he returned to Guildford where his father was Ear Nose & Throat Surgeon to the Royal Surrey County Hospital. Pat worked with his father in the true sense of the meaning of apprenticeship and in time assumed the responsibilities of his practice. On the 8th April 1971 his contribution to surgery was recognized by his peers and he was elected an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

During his years as consultant he provided a first class ENT service to the people of Guildford and surrounding villages of Surrey. His wide interests, coupled with his innate concern for his patients, meant that he was never short of friends who thought highly of him. His fundamental quality which he richly deserves to be remembered by, was his exceptional personal integrity. He always stood up for what he thought was right and could no more be false to what he believed in than pretend to an emotion he did not feel. He would have abhorred the fudged non-judgmental moral attitude so apparent today and although his idealistic views sometimes brought him into conflict they were also the source of that strength of character which allowed him to achieve so much, both in his professional and his personal life.

Pat retired from ENT surgery in 1978 but became one of the first Consultant Audiological Physicians in the UK and continued with this appointment until 1981. He set about his new role with customary vigour and soon gained the admiration and respect of fellow colleagues at large, to whom he set an outstanding example of principle and resolution.

Pat always saw himself first and foremost as a practising surgeon but he was also to do excellent work on the development of audiological services and to inspire those who were involved with the rehabilitation of the deaf. This awareness of the special needs of the deaf during his latter years stimulated him to direct his energies into the Thomas Wickham-Jones Foundation.

William Mayo of the renown Mayo Clinic said 'At the close of a man's life, to estimate his worth it is wise to see him in relation to his life surroundings, to know not only the part he played as an individual, but also as a component part'. And it is with the TWJ Foundation that Pat's worthiness will be most remembered by future generations. The Foundation is now an internationally recognized charity dedicated to research into deafness and the education of otologists, and with a commitment to improve the plight of the deaf.

Overall one million pounds have now been invested by the TWJ Foundation into the training of British ear surgeons and audiological workers since the inception of the Trust, and in 1991 Pat was awarded an Honorary Membership of the Section of Otology of the Royal Society of Medicine for his contribution to promoting further education in otology and audiology.

Pat married Gulie Malins on the 18th March 1944 in Compton, Berkshire, just before D-Day and with no end to the war in sight. They enjoyed 50 years of a quite exceptional happy and stable marriage. They had two children, a daughter Anne and a son David who is a GP and continues to carry the Hunterian name and remains closely involved with the work of the TWJ Foundation.

DAVID WRIGHT