

Colonel Patrick C. Mitchell

Born 26.10.1914 – Died 13.07.2006

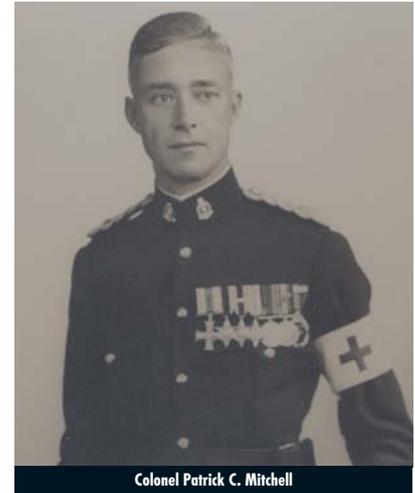
Colonel Patrick C. Mitchell – Patrick to all who knew him – died a little over a year ago. He was an Aberdeen graduate who joined the OTC at University and later served in the TA. He joined the RAMC in 1939 and served with distinction throughout the war, being mentioned in despatches at Monte Cassino and later winning a Military Cross for exhibiting great courage and leadership under heavy fire.

After the war he remained in the army and specialised in dermatology, rising to become Senior Specialist Dermatologist. He retired from the army in 1961 and came to Carlisle where the beneficiaries of his extraordinary clinical acumen and vast experience – he had seen all the “canaries” at least twice- were the patients of Cumberland, North Westmorland and the South of Scotland. Seeing a patient with Patrick was an occasion not to be missed for those lucky enough to hold out patient clinics at the same time as he did.

He was a countryman at heart and it is whispered that he was seen on at least one occasion conducting a ward round on a Saturday morning resplendent in the attire of the local otter hound hunt. He was also known to have ventured a sound opinion on a dermatological problem in a bull terrier – a problem which had baffled the local veterinary experts.

Sadly, Patrick suffered from a hearing problem which progressed to the stage where he had difficulty communicating with patients and medical staff meetings were a real trial to him. Ultimately he had to retire early because of this and he was greatly missed as a friend and colleague.

About 5 years or so after Patrick retired, we were down from Cumberland for the 3 day event at Badminton when we spied the kenspeckle figure of Patrick, up from Devon for the day, striding over the cross country course. He hadn't changed; his eyes were still twinkling and there was a broad grin on his face



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when he recognized us. It seemed that the day had suddenly brightened and the years had fallen away as we caught up with all the news. Patrick was a lovely man whose humanity touched all who met him. It was a privilege to have known him. It was an even greater privilege to have counted him as a friend.

Johnnie Black

Retired ENT Surgeon, Carlisle