



**CHRISTOPHER HOLBOROW (1926–1998)**

Always distinguished looking with a twinkle in his eye, Christopher Holborow will be remembered for his early work on the eustachian tube in children and his contribution to the deaf through his service to the Commonwealth Society for the Deaf. He was a true gentleman and even his death from a ruptured aortic aneurysm occurred sadly in style at Reid's Hotel in Madeira.

Born in Suffolk he was the second son of George Holborow, a regular soldier who took holy orders after the First World War becoming a somewhat unconventional parson. Christopher Holborow was educated at Repton and Caius College, Cambridge where he was a scholar. He won a half-Blue for sailing and rowed for his college. His clinical studentship was at Middlesex Hospital and he subsequently did his National Service in the RAMC as an Ear, Nose and Throat surgeon mainly in Germany. This was to give him a taste for army life which he continued to enjoy as he joined the Territorial Army and was medical officer 296 (City of London) Field Regiment RA. He remained the regiment's medical officer for some 20 years and it was the affiliation of the regiment to the Tallow

Chandlers Livery Company which gave him another long association culminating in the appointment of Master in 1996.

His training was at Great Ormond Street, Addenbrooke's and Guy's and he was appointed to the Westminster Hospital group in 1964 principally as an otological surgeon. The problems of the National Health Service and in particular of this group in the 1980s frustrated him and he retired early from the Westminster Hospital in 1985 but continued to practice privately until his death.

The cause of the deaf was always close to his heart, whether at home as president of the South East Region of the Association for the Deaf (SERAD) or abroad in either the Caribbean or West Africa. For his work in particular with the Commonwealth Society for the Deaf he was appointed OBE in 1989.

In 1960 he married Wanda Nickels who predeceased him in 1982 and in 1984 he married Caroline (*née* Woollcombe) with whom he shared a happy life principally in Somerset. She survives him together with the two daughters and the son and two grandsons from his first marriage.

NEIL WEIR