

Abdel Halim Mohammed Abdel Halim

Distinguished physician before and after Sudan's independence

Abdel Halim Mohammed Abdel Halim was born in colonial Sudan and became the first Sudanese doctor to occupy senior medical roles at home and abroad. He was a senior physician before and after Sudan gained independence from Great Britain, and he was the first Sudanese doctor to become a member of the Royal College of Physicians, in London, in 1948, and 14 years later its first Sudanese fellow. He maintained his friendship with his British teachers and colleagues long after their retirement to the United Kingdom, after Sudan's independence in 1956, and he rarely missed his annual visits to Britain.

Father of medicine

Halim was one of few Sudanese people to occupy senior positions in Sudan during British rule. He was the first Sudanese person to become director of Omdurman Hospital, the second largest hospital in Sudan, in 1953. A year later, under British rule, he became the first Sudanese person to hold the post of senior physician of the Sudan Medical Service and director of Khartoum Teaching Hospital.

After Sudan won independence he continued as a visiting professor at Khartoum University faculty of medicine and was made chancellor of the university in 1953. On retirement in 1964 he continued as a visiting professor as well as an honorary senior consultant to his many former trainees, who became the mainstay of the medical services in Sudan. He had earned the title of "father of medicine."

In the 1930s Halim was one of the leaders of the literary and political activities of the time and a member of the influential liter-

ary groups Hashmab and the Dawn. He was a regular contributor to *Dawn* magazine and coauthor of a book, entitled *Death of a Life*. His groups together with others gave rise to the Sudan graduates' congress, of which Halim was a founding member. From the congress sprang the main political parties, which led the movement towards Sudanese independence. As the first president of the Sudan Medical Association, Halim took a leading part in drafting the political memorandum that sought autonomy from British rule.



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Doctors were always in the forefront of movements that resisted dictatorship and injustice in Sudan. Despite his position as a senior civil servant he had an active role behind the scenes in fighting the first military dictatorship of General Ibrahim Abboud, and its eventual overthrow in 1964.

Halim became one of the members of the Sudan presidential council, which presided over the interim coalition government and which conducted one of the few free general elections. Although a political adviser and confidante of Al Imam Abdel Rahman Al Mahdi, the guardian of the Umma party, Halim distanced himself from partisan politics, gaining the respect and confidence of politicians of diverse political affiliations.

Inspirational teacher

Halim's diverse achievements were gained despite chronic pulmonary disease, subsequent thoracotomy, and the collapse of one lung in his youth. He was a connoisseur of poetry, music, vocal arts, and Sudanese folklore. Apart from being a notable intellectual,

Halim was a brilliant medical diagnostician in the days when investigative procedures were rudimentary, and he was an inspirational teacher. His medical ward rounds were a stage for rigorous medical teaching, poetry, high flown prose, Sudanese proverbs, and verses from the Koran. It was all delivered in perfect English and perfect classical Arabic with panache and humour.

The top of his class, Halim qualified from Kitchener School of Medicine, Khartoum, in 1933. Soon after his internship he was appointed a medical tutor. He trained medical students, house officers, and medical registrars from then until well after his retirement from the ministry of health.

In 1953 Halim became mayor of Khartoum and president of the Sudan Football Association. He was a founding member and president of the African Football Association, the president of the Sudan Olympic Committee, head of the medical department of the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA), and member of the executive committee of the International Olympic Committee and later an honorary lifelong member. These offices entailed travelling all over Africa and the world.

Behind a deceptively hard exterior, Halim was a modest, caring, and warm hearted man who befriended his students as they became his colleagues. He was a liberal, who tolerated the youthful misguided behaviour of his students and young trainees. And he enjoyed the spontaneous boisterousness of sportsmen as well as the sophisticated erudition of intellectuals and academics.

Until two years before his death he retained his remarkable memory and zest for life. He endured the last two years of increasing infirmity and impaired mobility with courage and resolve.

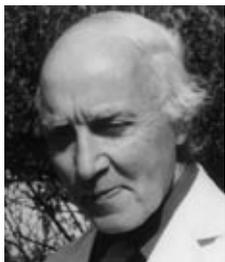
His wife died in 1987. He leaves five sons and two daughters.

Farouk Fadl

Abdel Halim Mohammed Abdel Halim, doctor and statesman (b 1910 Omdurman; q 1933 Khartoum), died 16 April 2009 from bronchial pneumonia.

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Albert Harold Davies



Former medical superintendent Jane Furse Hospital, Sekhukuneland, South Africa (b 1917; q St Andrews 1951; FRCPath), d 16 July 2008.

Albert Harold Davies enlisted at 18 in the Royal Army Medical Corps and trained as a laboratory assistant. On active service with the British Expeditionary Force from 1939, he was evacuated from Calais after the fall of France and lost his right eye. On demobilisation in 1946 he started medical training. He was medical superintendent in Sekhukuneland for 20 years. He set up a blood bank and histological and diagnostic laboratory and started training African technicians, as well as widening the training of African nurses. In retirement he worked part time in pathology at Edendale Hospital, Pietermaritzburg. He leaves a wife, Grace, and a son.

Edith Waldmann

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James Russell Dickson

Former consultant surgeon Princess Elizabeth Hospital, Guernsey (b 1922; q Guy's Hospital, 1946; FRCS), died from prostate cancer on 2 January 2009.

After qualifying, James Russell Dickson ("Jim") did national service as a general medical officer in the Royal Air Force before specialising. He became consultant surgeon in Guernsey in 1956. He rapidly increased the range of operations performed on the island, tackling almost anything from head and chest injuries, caesarean sections, and internal fixation of fractures to abdominal and genitourinary surgery. He played a large part in enabling the island to keep up with the many developments in surgery. A keen wood turner, creating intricate miniature dolls' furniture

for exhibition, he was also a church warden. Predeceased by a son, he leaves a wife, Pat; two children; and seven grandchildren.

John Toynton

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Peter Forrester



Former general practitioner Wimbledon (b 1922; q Glasgow 1952), died from dementia on 26 December 2008.

Peter Forrester's first position was in Kilmarnock, where he was in practice for 12 years. He particularly enjoyed his position as a police doctor for the local area. He moved to England with his wife and eight children, where he became a popular partner in a large group practice, retiring in 1994 at the age of 70. He was an active member of the Hurlingham Club and Westside Lawn Tennis Club. Predeceased by a son, he leaves a wife, Jeanette; seven children; and eight grandchildren.

Geoff Pollock

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Miriam Grace Hackman



Former general practitioner, Sawtry, Cambridgeshire (b 1936, q Bristol 1962), died from a cerebellar haemorrhage on 13 March 2009.

After house jobs in Bristol, Miriam Grace Hackman trained in obstetrics and gynaecology in Birmingham and Reading, at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, and in Bristol. After moving to Peterborough in 1972 and having locum positions in general practice, she decided to become a general practitioner. She took a

partnership in Sawtry, where she had an encyclopaedic knowledge of all her patients. She quickly became the senior partner, retiring in 1996. A GP trainer and keen teacher of medical students, she was also president of the local St John Ambulance and became a magistrate in Peterborough. She leaves a husband, Brian; three children; and two grandchildren.

Ian Williams

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David Hunsley



Consultant psychiatrist Cherry Knowle Hospital, Sunderland (b 1945; q Newcastle 1980; BSc, PhD, FRCP), died from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis on 7 June 2008.

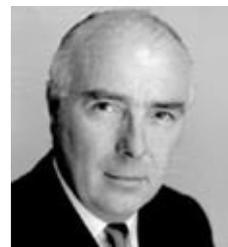
David Hunsley qualified in botany in 1966 and got his PhD in mycology in 1971 both from Newcastle. He pioneered enzymatic dissection at Glasgow and Oxford, where he was junior fellow at Wolfson College. Aged 30, David returned to Newcastle to read medicine. After qualifying and jobs in Newcastle he became consultant in Rosslynlee Hospital in Edinburgh in 1988 and in Sunderland in 1990. Active in the Royal College of Psychiatrists, he was crucial in rewriting the standard job description for consultant old age psychiatrists, so influencing the work of psychiatrists throughout Britain. He leaves a wife, June; two sons; and one granddaughter.

Iain Cameron

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Philip Paton-Philip

Former senior consultant urologist Epsom and St Helier Hospitals (b 1922; q Cambridge/St Bartholomew's Hospital 1946; VRD, MChir, FRCS), died on 2 March 2009 after a stroke. Philip Paton-Philip was for more than 50 years a respected consultant urologist, at Epsom District Hospital



and St Helier Hospital in Carshalton, Surrey, and in Harley Street. He published several articles in the *BMJ* and was a registered Law Society expert witness and a member of the Garrick Club. He was commissioned in the Royal Naval Reserve during the second world war. An accomplished horseman throughout his life, he regularly competed in amateur cross country and show jumping championships, and sponsored two of his sons to play polo for Eton College. He leaves a wife, Christina, and three sons.

Charles Paton-Philip

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John Francis Webb



Former senior physician Royal Army Medical Corps, Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot (b 1917; q Durham 1940; MC, MD), d 5 April 2009. After house jobs, John Francis Webb ("Jack") saw active service in North Africa and was awarded the Military Cross. While posted to Hong Kong, he researched tropical sprue, describing its onset, findings, and successful treatment, and gained his MD. As the senior physician at the Cambridge Military Hospital, he was physician to Field Marshall Montgomery, who would communicate his symptoms by letter. In 1995 Jack developed a dissection of the ascending aorta. After heroic surgery he recovered to play golf and fish into his 88th year. He leaves a wife, Mary; three children; and nine grandchildren.

A Kevin Webb

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