

## OBITUARIES

## Trevor Richard Walker Hampton

Fiona Hampton, David Baker, Chris Ankcorn

Surgeon rear admiral Royal Navy (b 1930; q Edinburgh 1954; DA, FRCP, QHP, CB), died from a pulmonary embolism after a stroke on 7 October 2012

At grammar school in Norfolk, Trevor Richard Walker Hampton won the King George VI gold medal for the best scholar in 1948. At the presentation the King discussed the difficult decision of whether to do military service before or after university. Trevor chose to go directly to medical school in Edinburgh where he also did his house jobs. After an initial short service commission in the Royal Navy he dedicated his working life to that service. Serving at sea and in naval hospitals in the UK and overseas, he progressed to flag rank before leaving active service in 1987.

At the beginning of his career, serving naval medical officers were required to be generalists and, training in anaesthetics in fixed wing carriers he qualified with the diploma of anaesthesia as part of his work with the busy surgical teams in such vessels at the time. He later persuaded the Admiralty that they should develop their own specialists, and, setting a lasting trend, he returned to Edinburgh to acquire his MRCP and became a consultant physician. Trevor was noted by his seniors to be an exceptional physician and a good team member, on the wards and in the medical mess. He was also renowned as a generous and entertaining host. As he progressed, his medical skills, leadership qualities, and diplomatic interactions with civilian services led him to be recommended for early promotion. He became a Queen's Honorary Physician and was made

Companion of the Order of the Bath in 1980. Trevor's qualities were also appreciated by his juniors, who regarded him as a wise mentor and role model. His final service posting was in charge of operational medical services, where he proved to be a highly effective leader and innovator, particularly in the area of nuclear, biological, and chemical defence. Returning to civil life, he continued part time work in assessing disability benefits.

Trevor was a talented after dinner speaker and thespian, taking an enthusiastic part in theatrical presentations and inter-base competitions throughout his naval career. These skills were used to good effect at home to entertain his children, and later his grandchildren, as well as visitors. He was thrilled to be able to return to the boards in local amateur dramatics in Plymouth for the last 10 years of his life, almost inevitably becoming chairman of the dramatic society, thanks to his administrative and diplomatic skills, as well as performing. Although his roles were always well reviewed by the press, the pinnacle was probably his highly acclaimed lead role in *Jeffrey Barnard is Unwell*, an extremely demanding part even for a professional actor, a career in which he could well have succeeded had he chosen.

He was married three times; his second wife, Jenny, predeceased him. He leaves his wife, Kate; three daughters from his first marriage to Rosemary; five grandchildren; and a great grandson.

Cite this as: [BMJ 2013;346:f1259](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.f1259)

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