

Doctor's Long Association with local Hospital

Folkestone and Hythe Herald

Saturday May 25, 1974

DR. REX (Jimmy) Fletcher, formerly physician and cardiologist for south east Kent, died on Saturday. He was 84.

(Frank) Rex Fletcher, first born of the family of six children of Frank Fletcher, professor of music, was born on January 9, 1890, at 6 Brockman Road, Folkestone.

He was educated at Dover College, where he gained his 1st XV rugger colours and was a member of the college shooting VIII, which won the Ashburton Shield at Bisley in 1906.

He went on to study at the London Hospital Medical College in 1907. There, as a member of the hospital's boxing team, he won the united hospitals' heavyweight boxing championship.

In 1913 he qualified as M.B., B.S., London, and was commissioned into the Royal Army Medical Corps (Territorial Forces) in 1914.

He became medical officer to the 2nd / 3rd. County of London Yeomanry (The Sharpshooters), with whom as a student, he had served as a trooper.

In 1917 he was drafted to Mesopotamia (Iraq) where he served as adjutant to the River-Sick Convoy Unit.

After World War I he was granted a regular commission in the R.A.M.C. and served in India, Aldershot, West Africa and Tidworth, (returning to university and qualifying as M.D., M.R.C.P. in 1928, before retiring in 1931 to take up general practice in Folkestone.

It was at this time that, initially as surgeon, his long association with the Royal Victoria Hospital, Folkestone, began - an association destined to be disrupted by World War II, when he rejoined the R.A.M.C.



Jack and Jimmy Fletcher – Cairo, WWII

During the war years he served in France, the Middle East, Aldershot and West Africa - ending up as an acting-colonel in Gambia.

In 1945 he was demobilised and returned to general practice and as physician to the Royal Victoria Hospital in Folkestone, being appointed physician and cardiologist for south east Kent in 1948.

In 1956 he retired, on reaching the age limit of 65, from the National Health Service, but continued to work as a member of Pfizers, initially at the old Majestic Hotel in Folkestone and subsequently at Sandwich, until 1962.

His wife, Ethel, who he married in 1915, died in 1968.

He is survived by his son, Michael, who, with his daughter-in-law, joined him at his home in Folkestone in 1969 - and by four grand-children, a great-grand-child, two sisters and two brothers.

Dr. Fletcher will be remembered with respect and affection by a wide circle of friends - particularly by his old patients and the staff, past and present, of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Folkestone.