

Mortimer Francis Howlett Kelleher



Former brigadier Royal Army Medical Corps (b 9 June 1908; q University College Cork 1933; OBE, MC, FRCP Ed, DTM&H), died 23 June 2006.

Mortimer Kelleher, having been educated at Castleknock College, Dublin, obtained his medical degree at University College Cork in 1933. He then joined the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1936 and served with distinction until his retirement 32 years later. In 1938 he was awarded the MC, in Palestine, in recognition of gallant and distinguished service there.

Apart from his service during the war years, his many postings and appointments thereafter varied between Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Egypt, Cyprus, Germany, and the United Kingdom. He was appointed consultant physician and promoted to the rank of colonel in 1955 and to brigadier in 1966. He was a fellow of the Royal College of Medicine, a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (Edinburgh 1963), a fellow of the Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, and a fellow of the Academy of Medicine, Singapore. He was honorary consultant physician at three Singapore hospitals, and an external examiner in medicine for the University of Singapore. He was author or co-author of a number of papers on leptospirosis in Malaya, tropical medicine, and new antimalarial drugs for the Medical Research Council. He was appointed OBE in 1959 and honorary physician to Her Majesty The Queen in 1966.

After his retirement from the army in 1968, he was physician in charge of the diagnostic unit at the London Clinic for a while.

Outside the world of medicine, Mortimer Kelleher was a keen and accomplished golfer, who maintained a single figure handicap for many years, enjoying his golf wherever he went in the world. He is survived by his wife, Dame Joanna Kelleher. [A J M Blumer]