

OBITUARY



JOHN WILLIAM WOOD 1919 - 8 January 2013

The only Legion life member in our branch sadly died on 8th January, under a month short of his 94th birthday. John Wood studied chemistry at Merton College Oxford, a talented and keen sportsman as well as gifted academic, who played rugby and cricket for his college, while also representing the Oxford University chess and bridge teams. At the outbreak of the Second World War he was called up as second lieutenant with the Cheshire Regiment as machine gunner. As part of the Allied evacuation from Dunkirk in 1940 he spent 18 precarious hours getting his soldiers off the beach and on to destroyers, and later served in Sierra Leone and Burma.

Having farmed from 1946 to 1952 he became landlord of the Fox and Hounds pub in Syston for two years before beginning his teaching career in 1954 as assistant lecturer at Leicester College of Science and Technology, later becoming headmaster of a mixed Greek and Turkish secondary technical school in Cyprus: in 1959 he joined King Edward VII Grammar School, Melton Mowbray and later moved to Hertfordshire and St Edmund's College, becoming head of maths, master in charge of sport and careers master, before his retirement in 1984. He became horse racing correspondent for the Hertfordshire Mercury in 1967, and is remembered by friends and former pupils for his eccentricity and humour and for being "a genuinely good chap and a perfect gentleman".