John Edwin Horton

1931–2012

John was born in London, England in 1931. His father was a New Zealander and a member of the family associated with the NZ Herald. His mother was part French. The family returned to New Zealand in 1939 at the outbreak of the War and John’s schooling continued as a boarder at St. Peters in Cambridge where he gave great service in subsequent years culminating in his appointment as Chairman of the Board of Governors, a position which he held for many years.

In 1945 John entered Kings College as a boarder in School House where he was well liked by his peers. He was academically smart and made steady progress through school before proceeding to University in 1950 and a career in Medicine. John Horton graduated from the University of Otago in 1955 followed by 2 years as a House Surgeon in Auckland.

Deciding on a surgical career, John travelled to the United Kingdom for postgraduate study and subsequently obtained Fellowships in Surgery from the Royal Colleges of Surgery of Edinburgh and England.

John returned to New Zealand in 1964 and was appointed Surgical Tutor Specialist at Green Lane Hospital (a full-time surgical position) plus teaching 6th year medical students attached to the Auckland sub-faculty of the University of Otago. John was an excellent colleague and as a surgeon very competent, showing good judgement and looking after his patients very well.

Completing this appointment in 1968, John joined the New Zealand Services Medical Team in Vietnam at the Bong Son 100-bed hospital in Binh Dinh province. The primary role of the team was the provision of medical and surgical care to South Vietnamese civilians but they also treated military casualties. 1968 was the height of the Vietnam War and the unit was extremely busy.

After completing his tour of duty John returned to Auckland and an appointment to the part-time visiting staff of Green Lane Hospital. After retirement from Green Lane he continued his private practice at St. Marks Clinic in Remuera where he invited the writer to join him in the mid-1980s. He retired completely in the early 1990s.

For many years he was a member of the Northern Club and the Auckland Golf Club, where he played regularly.

John married twice, firstly to Margaret (nee Ross); 3 children. In 1976 he married Judith (nee Turner) who survives him; 2 children.

John: Rest in Peace my friend.

R. G. Kay (a friend since Kings College and colleague of John) wrote this obituary.