

# HUGH HERBERT STUDENT, SERVICEMAN, PHYSICIAN

4.2.1922- 18.6.2012



Guy's Hospital – Hugh a student  
From 1940-1946



2<sup>nd</sup> Yr Students at Guys 1941,  
Hugh Herbert Seated 2<sup>nd</sup> Left.

The Dean, TJ Evans was from Llanddewi Brefi and in a letter to D. L Herbert, explained that he was going to postpone his son Hugh taking his first MB examination for a few months. He understood more than anybody how difficult it would have been for a young man brought up in the heart of Cardiganshire, barely speaking English and never having been to London. Hugh Herbert told his daughter Helen that TJ Evans told him that he would not be speaking Welsh to him anymore as his English was not good enough.

As it was during the war, the Guy's students were evacuated out to Tunbridge Wells from London. An entry in Hugh Herbert's diary notes that he passed his MB (2yrs preclinical) on 6/3/1942. Another entry showed that he spent 24hrs guard duty with the Home guard



After qualification, he joined the air force to undertake military service, spent some time training in Moreton in the Marsh and his diary entry stated that he did not know until the day before that he was to embark to Ceylon the following day. He travelled on a war ship – empty apart from a crew and five other doctors. I think that they were bored and seeking something to do, offered to strip his varicose veins. Needless to say, he never let these enthusiastic young doctors close to his legs. He worked as medical officer in Ceylon.



In Ceylon – Seated 3<sup>rd</sup> left next to Matron



Hugh then returned to this country – unemployment amongst doctors was high, many seeking work after being discharged after the war. He worked as a locum in Neath, prior to 1948 when the NHS was introduced and people had to pay for the doctors service. He used to tell a funny story of a doctor who was caring for a dying man who said to his wife: “ Mari, make sure that you pay the doctor what we owe him”. She replied “Doctor Bach, he’s already beginning to ramble”.

After Neath, he returned home to Llangeitho where he “put up his plate”. He had no patients but with his father’s help, he soon began to build up a list of patients to care for. Many people claimed to be his first patient, but in fact it was Mari Lewis, who cut her finger. Hugh was called in from the field where he was helping with the hay and he began to stitch the wound. Mari said to him “Paid pansio gormod Hugh Bach”. (Don’t be too fussy).



Marriage to Edith Jones in 1948  
She had been a sister in Guy's



Tanyfron

In 1955 they moved to Tanyfron, Aberaeron to join the practice of Dr Ernest Davies – one of 16 children brought up in Tanyfron. He held branch surgeries in Tregaron, Llangeitho, Llanon, Talsarn – and in the beginning there were many more as people had little means of transport to Aberaeron. He was later in partnership with Dr.Geraint Hughes and his daughter Helen joined in 1984. Hugh and Edith were to have four children: Rhydian Helen Miriam and Ruth



L-R Miriam Ceinor, Ruth seated with Grandmother Glwadys Ceinor, Rhydian and Helen



During his career Hugh Herbert developed a friendship with David Synnet Jones. David had lung cancer surgery and only had one eye following a racing car accident. During one of David's voyages sailing single handed around the world, Dr Herbert was contacted by the press about David. As the crowds gathered on the harbour walls in Aberaeron to greet David home after his epic voyage, my father was a bit reticent and he said to David that he was afraid that he might have broken his code of confidentiality by telling the press too much about his medical condition. David laughed and said: you think that you are worried. I was interviewed when I stopped in the Azores and the press asked me what my doctor thought of me undertaking the voyage, to which he replied "He's bonkers too".



Another great friend of Hugh Herbert was Dr William Evans, the famous London Cardiologist. Dr Evans retired to Tyndomen and later Bryndomen of Tregaron, Every other week, after Tregaron Surgery on Dydd Mawrth Bach, when there was no mart, Hugh would visit William Evans and shared the rock cakes and trifle that Dr Evans had made. When no other GP had an ECG machine, Hugh Herbert bought one and would take the readings to Dr Evans for his specialist opinion. Dr Hugh Herbert was also interested in computers and was the first in the area to buy one to print prescriptions



Dr HUGH HERBERT retired from practice when he was 66 years of age but continued to carry out DHSS medicals until he was 70years. Ceinor his twin sister was his nurse during this time, a job which she loved.

He had also been keen photographer, interested in technology and gardening. He had a particular interest in the history of Cardiganshire. He served his community throughout his career and well into his older years

### **FAMILY LINKED TO DR HUGH HERBERT**

Thomas Herbert born in Cleveland Ohio a descendant of John Herbert born in Wales in 1806  
**56<sup>th</sup> Governor of Ohio**



**Thomas J Herbert (circa 1921)**

He enlisted in the army at the outbreak of World War 1. He was shot down in a dog fight over France while flying with the British Royal Flying Corps. He was awarded the U.S. Distinguished Service Cross, the British Distinguished Flying Cross and Purple Heart. He graduated in law but later decide to enter politics. His ancestors are still living in the USA



**1894- 1974**

## Reverend, Doctor Evan Morgan Baptist Missionary



Young Evan in Chinese Clothes



Evan in middle of front row with Chinese Officials

Doctor Evan Morgan born 1894 was one of ten children born to David and Dinah Morgan, the Post Office Llangeitho. . He spent 50 years as a missionary in Shansi and Shensi territories of China and later Shanghai..Gwladys Ceinor Jones was related to this family, and she was looked Evan's sisters. Miss Jannie Morgan donated Evan's works, books, articles, correspondence to the National Library of Wales.

*With especial thanks to Dr Helen Herbert for providing me with the information and images of her family. (Elinor Gwilym 2024)*