

Donald Herron Young

OBE TD FRCSEd

Reference and contact details:

GB 779 RCSEd GD/44

Location: RS R4

Title: Donald Herron Young OBE TD FRCSEd

Dates of Creation: 1942-1945

Held at: The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh

Name of Creator: Donald H Young

Language of Material: English.

Level of Description: fonds

Date(s) of Description: 2008



Administrative/Biographical History:

This bequest from the estate of Donald Herron Young FRCSEd, presented by his widow Mrs Marjorie Young in June 2006, contains Donald Herron Young's wartime diaries and his handwritten dictionary of foreign terms, a certificate signed by the internees at the camp at Hospital Fayed, and a brass candlestick. The diary gives a detailed account of a surgeon's experience of war and includes numerous photographs, a map and other documents.

Donald Herron Young was born in New Liskeard, Northern Ontario, 5th September 1906 and died in Windsor, Ontario, 7th November 2002. Having gained his Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 1932, he joined the Manchester Territorial 12th (2nd Western) General Hospital as its surgeon in 1935. Following the outbreak of the Second World War, he was sent to Egypt in July 1940 to the base hospital at Fayed in the Canal Zone.



In August 1942, he joined the 8th Army with No 5 Field Surgical Unit, where he learned how to transport wounded soldiers long distances more comfortably, and was mentioned in dispatches. His hobby in Egypt was languages, and the compilation of a phonetic dictionary with over 100 medical words and phrases in a dozen languages - which forms part

of this archival holding. With this he could examine a patient, diagnose a problem, and reassure the patient in his or her own tongue. In 1944, in Normandy, Young received the OBE given to the 108 British General Hospital for its work in caring for 5,000 wounded in two weeks during the Battle of the Falaise Gap.



After the war, he returned to Warrington as a surgeon and became consultant surgeon under the NHS in July 1948, remaining there until his retirement in 1971. He rejoined the Territorial Army in 1947, was awarded the Territorial Decoration in 1949, and retired after commanding the 8th (Liverpool) General Hospital in 1954.

In 1948 he joined Professor TNA Jeffcoate's Liverpool Infertility Clinic and ran the male side for 23 years as an unpaid clinical assistant. He found and published the first case of bilateral absence of the vas deferens in 1949 and wrote several other papers on male infertility. He

discovered a congenital link between obstructive epididymitis and lung disease; published in 1972, it is now known as Young's syndrome.

Young joined the QE2 as ship's surgeon and in January 1975 became principal medical officer on its first round the world cruise. He then returned to Canada in May 1977 to work in the emergency department at Grace Hospital, Windsor, Ontario. He learned new skills and worked as an emergency physician for seven years. He subsequently worked as a part time general practitioner until the end of 1994, when he finally retired at the age of 88.



CV of Donald Herron Young

Born New Liskeard, Ontario -September 5, 1906

Educated at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario B.A. 1925; M.D., C.M. 1930

Locum Pathologist, City of Windsor -July and August 1931

Resident Medical Officer, Eden Hall Ministry of Pensions Hospital, Musselburgh, Scotland -September 1932 to June 1933

Casualty (Emergency) Officer, Ashton-under-Lyne Infirmary Resident Surgical Officer, Manchester

Royal Children's Hospital, Pendlebury -November 1933 to April 1934

Resident Surgical Officer, Ashton-under-Lyne Infirmary, May 1934 to March 1935 Honorary Surgeon, Warrington Infirmary and

Medical Practitioner in Warrington, Lancashire -March 1935 to September 1, 1939

Joined the Territorial Army June 1935; Lieutenant, R.A.M.C. (T.A.)

Licentiate of Medical Council of Canada 1930

Richardson Fellow in Pathology -July 1930 -July 1931

Post Graduate study in London and Edinburgh -September 1931 -September 1932

Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh -September 1932

July 1933 -October 1933

Called up on the outbreak of war and served with the British Army as a (Surgical Specialist) from September 1, 1939 to September 1944

Made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire, October 1944

Lt. Colonel, Officer Commanding Surgical Division, 108 British General Hospital, Brussels -September 1944 to September 1945.

Awarded the Territorial Decoration -1949 Officer Commanding, 8th General Hospital, R.A.M.C. (T.A.) April 1951 to April 1955.

Honorary Colonel, R.A.M.C. (T.A.) Liverpool -1960 to 1971. Surgeon, Warrington Infirmary -September 1945 to June 1948

Consultant Surgeon, Warrington Infirmary, in the National Health Service July 1948 -September 1971

Assistant Senior Medical Officer, Liverpool Regional Hospital Board Chairman of the Commissioning Team, Fazakerley Hospital, Liverpool October 1971 to June 1974

Ship's Surgeon, Queen Elizabeth 2 -July to December 1974

Principal Medical Officer, Queen Elizabeth 2 -January 1975 to July 1976

Ship's Surgeon, Cunard Adventurer -July 1976 to September 1976

Locum General Practitioner in England November 1976 to May 1977 Returned to Canada May 1977

Locum General Practitioner-; Tilbury, Ontario -May 1977 to July 1977

Physician in Grace Hospital (Windsor) Emergency Department July 1977 to August 1984

Part time General Practitioner in Windsor September 1984 to December 1994.

List of Publications of Donald Herron Young FRCSEd

1931 Canadian Medical Association Journal: "Essential Haematuria."

1945 21st Army Group: the Penicillin therapy and control, Two articles treatment of wounds with Penicillin,

1946 The Lancet: "Cavernous sinus thrombosis treated with Sulphonamides and Penicillin."

1949 British Journal of Surgery: "Bilateral Aplasia of the Vas Deferens."

1951 Proceedings of The Society for the Study of Fertility: Problems of the Vas Deferens.

1951 Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology .of the British Empire: "Hernia Uteri Inguinalis in the Male."

1952 Proceedings of The Society for the Study of Fertility: Spermatocele."

1953 Proceedings of The Society for the Study of Fertility: The effect of Mumps on Male Fertility."

1954 Royal Army Medical Corps Journal: "The Thoraco-brachial Plaster."

1955 British Journal of Surgery: "Cholelithiasis simulating pyloric neoplasm."

1955 British Journal of Surgery: "Chondrosarcoma of the pubic bone."

1956 British Journal of Urology: "The influence of varicocele on human spermatogenesis."

1958 Studies on Fertility: "Spermatogenesis developing in an adult following operative cure of bilateral undescended testes."

1961 Journal of The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh: "Repair of Epigastric Incisional Hernia."

1961 Studi Sulla Sterilita: "The effect of ligation of the spermatic vein on Male Fertility."

1961 British Journal of Surgery: "Repair of Epigastric Incisional Hernia -a review of 15 cases."

1962 Fertility and Sterility: "Varicocele -a study of its effects on human spermatogenesis, and of the results produced by spermatic vein ligation." (Joint paper with L. Stuart Scott)

1969 The Lancet: "An accessory in Varicose Vein Stripping."

1970 Proceedings of The Society for the Study of Fertility: "Surgical treatment of male infertility."

1974 British Journal of Surgery: "Repair of Burst Abdomens."

1976 British Journal of Surgery: "Repair of Epigastric Incisional Hernia."

1966 "Human Ecology": "Temperature and the production of Spermatozoa." (Joint paper with T.D. Glover)

1967 "Scientific Foundations of Surgery": "The Testis -Exocrine Function."

1978 "Scientific Foundations of Family Medicine": "The Testis".
