

Tributes to Dr George Blair MBE by Friends of Millbank

E.E. Leeson, THE GUNNER, Issue Number 104, July 1979.¹

Doctor George Blair, M.B.E

I wish to record this appreciation of a man, who, though not a Gunner in the true sense of the word, was in every other respect a Gunner through and through.

Doctor George Blair died suddenly at Dishforth in North Yorkshire at the comparatively early age of 62. I first made his acquaintance when he joined our family practice in Middlesbrough shortly after the last war.

Although our relationship was the usual doctor/patient one, we found a common bond through the 'Gunner' connection. Doctor Blair was the Regimental M.O. of 5 Fd Regt. During the Malayan campaign, He was taken prisoner by the Japanese with others of his regiment. During his service with 5 Field and afterwards in captivity, his reputation was of the highest; indeed he was awarded the M.B.E. for his services as a POW.

There are anecdotes too numerous to mention of the compassion and care he showed to his fellow prisoners. One prisoner said of him: 'Did you know that Dr Blair nearly died but I am sure God kept him alive to look after us.'

Sadly his health failed in recent years and the world is the poorer for the passing of this very gallant Christian gentleman who had always been so proud of the fact that he had served with the Royal Artillery.

¹ Chairman's note: This epitaph by Dr E E Leeson, published in The Gunner, 1979, is referred to in the original dedication of the George Blair Prize and Memorial Lecture, 2010. It is fittingly included in our *Tributes to Dr George Blair MBE by Friends of Millbank*.