

Eric Esmond Warburg (H '39)

Born in Sussex in 1921, Eric was the youngest of a family of five. Whilst his father died when he was only 21 months old, his mother, a Wimbledon semi-finalist, moved the family to the South of France, where they lived for some 10 years, returning in time for him to go to prep school and then to Bryanston (with two terms at Zuoz College in Switzerland).

He went up to Jesus College Cambridge as an exhibitioner in 1940, where he was captain of tennis. He also played rugby for the university in 1941. After just four terms he was called up into the Royal Signals. After landing on D-Day with HQ I Corps, he was operating in Normandy when he was drafted as a liaison officer to the Belgian Brigade, which was then at the Front in southeast Belgium. A short while later he was transferred to Brussels to set up the Belgian Army School of Signals as Chief Instructor. He later worked in technical personnel selection in German Prisoner of War Camps.

After demobilisation he joined British European Airways and in 1948 moved to International Aeradio Ltd (IAL), a subsidiary company of BOAC and BEA and ten other international airlines. IAL provided aviation technical services around the world, mainly in the less developed territories, where these had previously been provided by the Royal Air Force. In the 32 years of his service with IAL he was mainly involved with the marketing of the group's activities. From 1952 to 1965 he specialised in the promotion of technical aviation systems and airport equipment throughout the communist states of Eastern Europe. From 1960 to 1970 he was closely associated with the development of IAL business in the Middle East and Africa. Besides serving on the Executive Management of IAL for 20 years, he was also a Board Member of IA (East Africa) Ltd, IA (Zambia Ltd), IA (Far East) Pte, & Comtech Ltd, Jamaica. In the 1970s he visited China three times and was a regular visitor to the meetings of IATA and ICAO in Montreal.

He was a member of the South East Asia Committee of the London Chamber of Commerce and the Middle East Association. In 1953 he married Lotti Smith an Austrian ski champion and teacher, with whom he built a chalet in Verbier in Switzerland and with whom he spent some very happy years before she died of cancer in 1977. In 1979 he married Netty Bout, a Dutch-born lady with three children. She had been an Olympic equestrian rider and was still much involved with Riding for the Disabled. She was a great supporter and fundraiser for the Royal Marsden Hospital and was awarded an MBE for her work there.

Eric Warburg travelled extensively in every continent of the world and was bilingual in English and French and fluent in German and Spanish. He contributed articles on aviation and travel in the more remote parts of the world to various international journals.

After the war he went to live in London, first in Holland Park and then in Fulham, where in 1953 he joined the Hurlingham Club, and over the years participated to the full in the club's activities, including tennis, cricket, squash,

gym and swimming. He also served for a number of years on the main committee.

Julia de Waal (Eric's daughter)