

## MEMOIR

## NORMAN JOHN PAGE

The Chief Executive of the Institute over the years has been variously called Assistant Secretary, Secretary and latterly Secretary General. It is an appointment in which the last three holders have served the Institute in that or another capacity for a period of more than 100 years, since there have been only three holders of that office since 1899, when S. H. Jarvis was appointed Assistant Secretary and served in that capacity for 40 years. A. D. Dale joined the Institute in 1929 and succeeded Jarvis as Assistant Secretary in 1939, retiring in 1962, thereby serving the Institute for 33 years. Norman John Page was the third Chief Executive of this trio and he was seconded to the Institute from the Prudential Assurance Co. Ltd. in 1952 on a temporary basis to help out at Staple Inn when Dale had suffered a heart attack. His temporary secondment lasted until his final retirement in 1985, again a period covering some 33 years, although he gave up the post of Secretary General in 1983. He was appointed Secretary when Dale retired in 1962 and became Secretary General in 1977.

Norman John Page was born on 11 June 1920 in Hampstead and later the family moved to Kenton. His father was a Civil Servant within the London Telephone Service. After attending primary school in Kenton he went to Harrow County Grammar School, where he remained until he matriculated, as it was called in those days, in 1937. He then left school and joined the Port of London Authority and after a short time he moved to the Prudential Assurance Co. Ltd. In 1941, after the outbreak of War, he joined the R.A.F. Regiment and served with that Regiment until the end of hostilities, being commissioned and attaining the rank of Flight Lieutenant. He saw active service in North West Europe, India, Singapore and Sumatra and it was in Holland that he was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous bravery in the face of the enemy. He was proud to be a member of this Regiment, in which he served with distinction and he never lost touch with his war-time friends.

In 1946 he returned to the Prudential in the Cashier's Department, later being transferred to the Trustee Department, where he was employed when, because of shortage of staff at the Institute, Kenneth Usherwood arranged for him to be seconded on a temporary basis, which in the event turned out to be for a period of no less than 33 years. When he joined the Institute in 1952 the total membership was 2017 and on his ultimate retirement in 1985 it had grown to no less than 6458. This is a measure of the tremendous increase in activities of the profession during Norman Page's service and also to the ever increasing responsibilities which began to fall upon him on assuming the appointment of Secretary in 1962. During his early years at the Institute he qualified as a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries & Administrators and also as a Fellow of the Association of Certified Accountants. In 1965 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society.

His service to the Actuarial Profession was of the very highest order and with the extreme loyalty which he had to all whom he served, and also to his friends, he threw himself wholeheartedly into the work of the Institute during the whole of his service and no person could possibly have given better service over that very long period of time. He was an enthusiast and he was a perfectionist in everything he did and his knowledge of the profession was encyclopaedic; one had only to ask him for some information about actuarial matters, not only in this country but in the world, and he invariably came up with the answer without having to refer to any books or records. As a result of this he made very many friends in the profession and became extremely well known nationally and internationally and very popular wherever he went. His service to the profession was recognized in 1981 by his appointment as an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. He also received the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal in 1977.

The esteem in which he was held is indicated by his membership of many actuarial dining clubs, membership of which is normally open only to actuaries, and this included the senior club of all, the Actuaries Club itself, of which he was an Honorary Member. Some six years ago the Worshipful Company of Actuaries, a Livery Company in the City of London was established, and shortly afterwards he was made an Honorary Freeman.

Another area of his activities was Masonry. He was throughout his life a very keen Mason and

supporter of the cause in every way. He was a Past Master of his Lodge and he found in Masonry a brotherhood in the true sense of the word.

He was in his private life a devout Christian and closely connected with his Church. A keen tennis player, gardener and latterly he thoroughly enjoyed his bridge. He was also a great family man and was constant and unfailing in his devotion to his wife, Valerie, and to his two daughters, Mandy and Penny. He had suffered from bad health in recent years but had recently appeared to have greatly recovered. It was a great shock when he died very suddenly while out walking on Sunday, 13 October 1985.

GEOFFREY HEYWOOD