

Brig Oscar Jameson
(Daily Telegraph, 6th April 1989)

BRIGADIER Oscar Jameson, who has died aged 83, had the remarkable distinction of winning both the Army Squash Racquets and Lawn Tennis Championships four times each.

He continued actively with both games until he was 82 even playing vigorous games of squash after the onset of motor neurone disease. In earlier life he had also been a proficient golfer, athlete and footballer. He skied until he was 76.

At squash he was once ranked No 2 in the world, (he No 1 being the phenomenal Amr Bey – though Jameson even managed to take two games off that amateur champion of champions in 1931.

Jameson, who was a beautiful stroke-player, had an almost incredible staying power: he won the Army Squash Championship in 1931, 1932, 1936 and after various exacting military postings abroad, again in 1946.

At lawn tennis the spread was even longer: the first singles championship came in 1930, the last two in 1952 and 1953. He played at Wimbledon six times but was knocked out by such opponents as champions Fred Perry and Gottfried von Cramm.

The son of an engineer captain in the Navy, Guy Oscar Mayston Jameson was born in 1905 and educated at Portsmouth Grammar School and Woolwich.

He was commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1925 and was one of the first batch of Sappers to be sent to Cambridge where he obtained his degree at Trinity Hall, and won a half-blue for tennis.

In the 1930s he was particularly successful in training recruits in military skills, instilling into them the confidence and belief that they could all attain the highest standards.

After a posting to Malta he won a competitive vacancy at the Staff College, Camberley, in 1936, and subsequently served in India.

From 1941 to 1942 he was Assistant Quarter-Master General with HQ 10th Army, which had been sent to safeguard Persia and Iraq against a sudden German occupation.

Here Jameson found himself responsible for the survival of 100,000 Poles whom the Russians had taken prisoner earlier, and had now decided to dump at Azerbaijan; they included a number of women.

On arrival, they were almost dying of starvation, but Jameson managed to find food and accommodation, so that only two eventually succumbed. His efforts on their behalf earned him a mention in despatches.

His next posting was to the 14th Army in Burma, where he was organising supply routes and casualty evacuations before returning to the War Office to work with SHAEF in the planning of the invasion of Normandy on D-Day and afterwards.

Jameson stayed at the War Office until 1947 and then he was posted to the military staff of the United Nations at New York, where his brief was to organize peace-keeping forces, a concept then in its infancy.

From 1950 to 1951 he was with the Control Commission in Germany, after which he worked for a year with the Nato Standardisation Committee, making sure that equipment was mutually compatible - that is, that American bolts would fit European nuts,

His next assignment was organising the British Emergency Mobilisation Plan before returning to Germany.

On leaving the Army he became bursar - and later a Fellow - of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, a post in which he remained for 13 years. He was appointed CBE in 1946.

Jameson was a born leader, who was a superb example of his own theory that success depends largely on one's own effort and willpower.

His greatest pride was not his own spectacular games career, but the achievements of the soldiers he trained.

He is survived by his wife, Olive, three sons and a daughter.

BRIGADIER GUY JAMESON

Staff officer and college bursar

(Times, 6th April, 1989)

Brigadier Guy Jameson, who has died at the age of 83, was one of those able Second World War soldiers with a second career afterwards as bursar of an Oxford college.

He was also in his day a prominent squash player: he was runner-up in the Amateur Squash championships in 1933 and was Army champion at both tennis and squash racquets several times.

During the Second World War Jameson served as Brigadier in charge of Administration, 14th Army fighting in Burma. Thereafter he held appointments at the War Office, on the Military Staff Committee of the United Nations, and in West Germany. When he retired from the army in 1956 he was DAQMG, 1st British Corps, Germany.

Guy Oscar Mayston Jameson was born on December 29, 1905, and educated at Portsmouth Grammar School and the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, where he was Prize Cadet. He went on to Trinity Hall, Cambridge, as an Open Scholar in the first intake of engineering students from "the shop".

After passing the Staff College in 1937 he was employed almost continuously there on the staff.

Leaving the army he became Bursar of Corpus Christi College, Oxford. Here, as in his staff appointments, his intellectual and personal qualities brought him success. From the first he was at home in an Oxford common room.

His lucid memoranda helped convince his colleagues and he was made responsible for much modernization in the college, including the conversion of the President's Lodgings and the addition of a storey to the Fellows' Building. He was elected to a fellowship in 1958.

Jameson was a squash and tennis fanatic. In addition to his army successes at both games, he played squash for Kent for many years, and was a member of the Jesters' Club, an international racquets club. Even in his eighties he was still playing tennis in club tournaments in Kent.

He is survived by his wife, Olive, three sons and one daughter.