



Dr Geoffrey Lee Williams

On 18 February 2020 Geoffrey Lee Williams died peacefully after a happy, full and eventful life. He could well be described as a man of many parts: an academic, an inspired lecturer, a raconteur, a cricketer, a walker, and a great friend to many, not only to his colleagues and students in both the UK and the USA, but to his twin brother Alan, his son Jeremy, his stepson Andrew, and of course to Janice, his wife for over forty years.

As the founding Academic Director of the Institute of Economic and Political Studies (INSTEP) in Cambridge, Geoffrey always enjoyed teaching INSTEP students, 'his Americans', as he so often called them. They unfailingly responded to his enthusiasm for his subject and to the tales he told, not only in his classes, but particularly in his speeches at the INSTEP Farewell dinners in Jesus College at the end of each semester.

Geoffrey was born and grew up in southeast London. His childhood is well documented in the book he wrote 'A Couple of Duffers go to War' which describes his and his twin brother's experiences during the second world war 1939-1945. From the age of 8, to the twins' delight, the war disrupted their education but engendered in Geoffrey the seeds of what would later prove to be his academic interest in International Relations, Strategic Studies, and Defence.

After the war, both boys worked as apprentices to their father at the Company of Watermen and Lightermen; however, after a couple years Geoffrey got the chance to join Kent County Cricket Club which he thought preferable to working on the River Thames which often required starting at 5.00 am. Two years of National Service with the Royal Air Force was followed by a scholarship to study at Ruskin College Oxford to which Geoffrey had aspired as he had seen his admired elder sister, the author, Gwendoline Butler, flourish there at Lady Margaret Hall. Subsequently he undertook undergraduate work at Keele University, a Masters at Birkbeck College London and finally by his PhD from the Open University – reportedly the first to be awarded in the Social Sciences.

Geoffrey joined HM Treasury as Assistant Commissioner for National Savings for northeast London leaving to become Senior Research Assistant to the Rt. Hon. Lord Noel-Baker in the capacity of Disarmament Secretary for the United Nations Association in the UK. He then embarked on his academic career in the fields of International Relations and Strategic and Defence Studies. A NATO Defence Fellow and consultant to the Ministry of Defence, he held academic posts at Southampton and Portsmouth Universities during which he also conducted evening classes for the WEA (The Worker's Educational Association) in and around Hampshire and taught the course 'War and Society' for the Open University. He travelled to the United States several times during the 1960s including family trips to Massachusetts when he visited Syracuse University and attended the 1964 Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City, New

Jersey at which Lyndon B. Johnson was confirmed as the Democratic Presidential candidate. In the 1970s, Geoffrey took part in an academic exchange programme with Eastern Illinois University.

In 1979 he became Head of the School of Social Sciences at the Western Australian Institute of Technology, now Curtin University. While in Western Australia he also chaired the weekly PBS Radio 6NR programme, Insight, which focused on topical international issues and he was regularly interviewed by the ABC (The Australian Broadcasting Corporation) when he found himself defending the presence of US military bases in Australia - a rather controversial topic at the time. He also liaised with representatives of the US Navy based in Perth so both he and Janice enjoyed some great American hospitality onboard visiting US submarines.

On his return to the UK in 1982 Geoffrey was Senior Assistant Director for the London region at the Confederation of British Industry before joining the Department of Linguistics and European Studies at the University of Surrey, becoming Head of International Relations there. Subsequently, as a Visiting Professor, he continued to contribute to the work of the Surrey European Management School and he was also the Senior Research Fellow at the Atlantic Council of the UK.

While at the University of Surrey, Geoffrey was offered the chance to teach a course in Defence Economics for INSTEP London, and when a second INSTEP centre in Cambridge was being planned, he accepted the opportunity to found the INSTEP Cambridge programme. Supported by Tom Roberts and David Gray he and Janice, moved to Cambridge in 1987 which coincided with the years that both their sons were attending the University of Cambridge, at different colleges, to read for their undergraduate degrees.

Once established in Cambridge, Geoffrey became an Associate Lecturer in Strategic Studies at what was then known as the Centre of International Studies at the University of Cambridge. A number of INSTEP students, after graduating from their home universities or colleges, returned to Cambridge to enrol for their M.Phil. or Ph.D. degrees and one such, Barclay Jared Jones, was the joint author with Geoffrey of the book 'NATO and the Transatlantic Alliance in the 21st Century' published in 2001. Geoffrey also contributed regularly to the courses run by the Board of Continuing Education at the University of Cambridge.

Geoffrey was a master Freeman of the Company of Watermen and Lightermen and a Freeman of the City of London and was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters by the University of Redlands in California for his work and publications in the field of International Relations and in recognition of his academic leadership and contribution to the annual lecture course, run by INSTEP Cambridge, for Business students from that university.

Throughout his 30 years in Cambridge, Geoffrey travelled extensively, often with Janice, not only throughout Europe where his favourite places were the Italian lakes and Venice, but also to the USA. Often with Tom Roberts and latterly with Steve Seaworth, Geoffrey and Janice visited numerous US universities and colleges where they were invariably warmly welcomed and from which they both gained a real insight into American study abroad programmes and higher education in the United States.

He is greatly missed, not only by his wife, Janice, his twin brother, Alan, his son, Jeremy, his stepson, Andrew, and his three grandchildren, but by all his family and his many friends in Britain, Europe and the USA.

Throughout his life Geoffrey wrote prolifically and his publications, listed below, form an important part of his memory.

Books and Publications:

<i>Denis Healey and the Policies of Power (with Bruce Reed)</i>	<i>Sidgwick & Jackson 1970</i>
<i>Europe or the Open Sea (with Glyn Mathias, Lord Ivor Richard, Alan Lee Williams)</i>	<i>Charles Knight & Co 1971</i>
<i>Crisis in European Defence (with Alan Lee Williams)</i>	<i>Macmillan Palgrave 1974</i>
<i>The Permanent Alliance: the Transatlantic Relationship 1945–1984</i>	<i>Sijthoff 1977</i>
<i>Global Defence: Strategic Motivation in the Nuclear Missile Age,</i>	<i>Vikas 1981</i>
<i>The European Defence Initiative – Europe’s Bid for Equality (with Alan Lee Williams)</i>	<i>Palgrave Macmillan 1986</i>
<i>Labour’s Decline and the Fall of the SDP (with Alan Lee Williams)</i>	<i>Palgrave Macmillan 1989</i>
<i>Europe in Turmoil – The Struggle for Pluralism</i>	<i>ed. J. Frost 1991</i>
<i>NATO and the Transatlantic Alliance in the 21st. Century (with Barclay Jared Jones)</i>	<i>Palgrave Macmillan 2001</i>
<i>A Couple of Duffers go to War</i>	<i>UK ed Amberley 2011</i>
<i>Evacuees: Growing up in Wartime Britain</i>	<i>US ed Amberley 2013</i>

Monographs:

<i>The Natural Alliance for the West</i>	<i>Trade Policy Research Centre 1968</i>
<i>The Cold War as History</i>	<i>Political Studies, Clarendon Press, 1968</i>
<i>Crisis in Procurement: the Cancellation of the TSR2</i>	<i>RUSI 1969</i>
<i>The Politico-strategic implications for British membership of the EEC or NATO,</i>	<i>RUSI 1969</i>
<i>Frequent contributions to the Western Australian Institute Journal of International Affairs 1980-1982</i>	
<i>Western Australia and the Threat of Terrorism</i>	<i>WA Centre for Strategic Studies 1982</i>
<i>The SDP and the Labour Party</i>	<i>IEDS 1985</i>
<i>The Neutralist Tendency</i>	<i>IEDS 1987</i>
<i>Coming in from the Cold</i>	<i>IEDS 1989</i>
<i>The Logic of Diversity</i>	<i>IEDS 1992</i>
<i>The Interface between the EU and NATO</i>	<i>Atlantic Council 2000</i>
<i>The Challenge of International Terrorism</i>	<i>TUCTU Publications 2001</i>
<i>Can Terrorism be Defeated?</i>	<i>TUCTU Publications 2002</i>
<i>Terrorism: the next phase</i>	<i>Eurofacts 2006</i>

Reports:

<i>Defence and the Left in Britain and Germany</i>	<i>IEDS 1987</i>
<i>The Future of NATO</i>	<i>Atlantic Council 1996</i>
<i>Submission to the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Commons: UK Policy on Weapons Proliferation and Control in the Post–Cold War era. HMSO 1995 (with Alan Lee Williams)</i>	
<i>Submitted recommendations to the MOD for the Strategic Defence Review on behalf of the Atlantic Council of the UK, 1998</i>	
<i>Member of Lord Chalfont’s Missile Proliferation Study group</i>	
<i>Report: Coming into Range, 2001</i>	
<i>The US and Europe in the 21st. Century</i>	<i>Atlantic Council 1996</i>

Terrorism: the Failed Response

IEDS 1996

NATO: How & Why and Who & When

NATO Review, May 1998

The Triumph of Air Power over Serbia

Atlantic Council 1999

The Atlantic Alliance: NATO's 50 years of Peace

Atlantic Publications, 1999

The War that never was

Atlantic Council 2000

NATO: the next 20 years

TUCTU Publications 2000