

combatant service.

Hainsworth served in the Royal Army Medical Corps as a stretcher-bearer. During the North Africa campaign he was accorded the unusual - for a pacifist - accolade of being granted a commission; he left the RAMC in the rank of captain.

Prior to his release from military service in 1946, he spent five weeks at Haifa, in what was then Palestine. There, he studied his chosen faith first-hand with the then leader of the Bahá'í faith, Shoghi Effendi Rabbani, the great-grandson of its Prophet-Founder.

Returning to England, Hainsworth moved to Nottingham to help to establish the first Bahá'í group there. His mother, Lizzie, who had also become a Bahá'í, moved there with him. As the faith's British community grew, so did Hainsworth's prominence as an enthusiastic and capable administrator.

He was appointed to a number of national committees and in 1947 elected to its national governing body. There were further moves to Oxford and Blackburn where again he helped to establish Bahá'í communities.

In 1951, responding to a call to take the Bahá'í teachings to the African continent, Hainsworth joined a small international group which travelled through North Africa to Kampala, in Uganda. Within two years, some 300 Ugandans had become Bahá'ís, representing 29 tribes; today the Bahá'í faith has around 105,000 members in Uganda.

Hainsworth served on the first local Bahá'í governing council of Kampala in 1952 and the Bahá'í Regional Assembly for Central and East Africa in 1956. That year, he married Lois Houchin, a PA at Rank Films and an aspiring opera singer who turned down a job at Glyndebourne to join him in Uganda.

Their eldest son, Richard, and daughter Zarin were born there. They returned to England in 1966, for the children's education. Another son, Michael, was born and Hainsworth was re-elected to the national Bahá'í governing body, a post he held for three decades.

In the 1980s Hainsworth published a number of works, including *The Bahá'í Faith* (with Mary Perkins) [online here], which became an established textbook in schools. He was the author of *Bahá'í Focus on Human Rights* and *Bahá'í Focus on Peace*, and editor of *Unfolding Destiny*, a 500-page collection of Shoghi Effendi's letters to the British Bahá'í community.

From the 1970s through to last spring, Hainsworth was a familiar and well-loved figure at national Bahá'í events. Though often forthright and brusque in public discussion, he was, on a personal basis, a generous and kind-hearted man whose experience and knowledge inspired many. He was always reliable, never failing to deliver on promises and honouring engagements.

Only a few months ago, Hainsworth returned to Uganda with his family to mark the 50th anniversary of his work there.

He is survived by his wife and their three children.

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