

MR ARTHUR DOUGLAS BERK

Mr Arthur Douglas Berk, the immediate past Chairman of Berk Limited, chemical manufacturers and merchants, died on 27th August. He was 85.

Born at Beckenham, Kent, and educated at the Abbey School, Beckenham, he joined, in 1905, the then F. W. Berk & Company Limited, which was founded by his father, Robert, and uncle, Frederick William. Douglas Berk was appointed to the Board in 1924 and became Chairman in 1942. He retired in 1960 after a record of 55 years of continuous service.

Both during and after the two World Wars he was deeply involved in the decisions of re-organisation and reconstruction. As a chemical manufacturer, F. W. Berk & Company Limited, as it then was, had a key role to play in the munitions industry and Mr Douglas Berk was active both in erecting new plant and finding alternative suppliers in liaison with the Government.

His engineering training was put to good use in both post-war periods. In the earlier period he designed and supervised at Stratford, East London, the erection of a new sulphuric acid plant incorporating one of the largest Glover

Towers in Britain—and certainly the largest Gay Lussac. At this time he invented what became known as the Berk Spray, the main feature of which was its impinging jets. In 1947 the first hydrochloric acid plant was erected under his supervision at London Colney, Hertfordshire.

His foresight in anticipating growing capital needs of the Group was demonstrated by his decision in 1949 to “go public”. The stock market quotation has enabled Berk Limited to continue its expansion into a wide range of profitable activities.

On a national scale he played a leading part in the representative bodies of the chemical and sand and gravel industries. At his death he was President of the National Sulphuric Acid Association. He was a founder member of both associations. He was responsible for the purchase of the Sand and Gravel Association's Headquarters in Park Lane, and on his retirement from this association in 1966 he was presented with an illuminated scroll in recognition of his “Service to Industry”. He was also a liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Horners.

He is survived by his wife Myfanwy.



OCT.	1st	Southern Section Quiz—Stirling Castle.
	9th	Midland Section v. Secretaries Match—Sutton Coldfield G.C.
	15th	Southern Section Greenkeepers v. Secretaries.
	16th	North-West Section Autumn Tournament—Bolton G.C.
	16th	Northern Section v. Sheffield Section Match—Halifax G.C.
	24th	Midland Section—Annual Dinner—Walmley G.C.
	28th	North-West Section Lecture—Brunswick Hotel, Piccadilly.
	30th	Sheffield Section Lecture—Brunswick Hotel, Haymarket.
NOV.	5th	Southern Section Lecture—Stirling Castle.
	27th	Sheffield Section Lecture—Brunswick Hotel, Haymarket.
DEC.	9th	Midland Section Lecture—Old Crown Hotel.