



Oaksey

Geoffrey Lawrence

3rd Baron Trevethin, 1st Baron Oaksey, DSO, TD, KC, PC

2 December 1880 – 28 August 1971

Geoffrey Lawrence was the youngest son of Lord Trevethin, whose family came from Built Wells Radnorshire, and who was briefly Lord Chief Justice of England.

Following education at Haileybury and New College, Oxford, he was called to the Bar (Inner Temple) in 1906. Upto 1914 he specialised in taking appeal cases to the highest courts, the House of Lords and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

During World War I he served in France with the Royal Artillery. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order in 1918 and was mentioned twice in despatches.

On returning to the Bar, Lawrence continued to take cases to the Privy Council.

His appointment as Attorney to the Jockey Club in 1922 was very much influenced by his interest in horses. In 1927 Lawrence was made a King's Counsel and appointed Attorney General to the Prince of Wales and served as such until 1932 when he was appointed as a Judge of the King's Bench Division, also becoming a knight bachelor. He succeeded Lord Goddard as Lord Justice of Appeal in 1944.

1945 saw him chosen to lead the British delegation to the Judicial group in the Nuremberg trials where he was elected as President of all the Judges. His conduct of trials was praised by many who appreciated his striving to understand the relevance of each piece of evidence and willingness to stop long-winded counsel. Lawrence also won acclaim for delivering a very clear Judgment that expressed the moral sense of the Court's conclusions.

A Peerage as Baron Oaksey followed in 1947, and in 1959 he inherited the Barony of Trevethin from his brother, although he was always known as Lord Oaksey.

In the House of Lords he served as Lord of Appeal in Ordinary and on the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council until he retired in 1957. He also acted as Vice Lieutenat of Wiltshire from 1949 to his death in 1971.

In 1919 he purchased Hill Farm, Oaksey which became, and still is, the family home. Here he went on to breed championship Guernsey cattle.

On 22 December 1921 he married Marjorie Frances Alice Robinson with whom he had four children. Mary Elizabeth was born in 1922, Enid Rosamund in 1924, Anne Jennifer in 1926 and John Geoffrey Tristram in 1929.