

**Tribute at memorial service for the Late Joseph Ernest Alexander Le Roy Aikins
at the Central Methodist Hall, Westminster, London**



By Mr Walton Shooter



Late Mr Joseph Ernest A Le Roy Aikins 4643

At the funeral of Joseph Le Roy Aikins on the Thursday 19th September, a colleague of mine gave a tribute on behalf of the Sierra Leone Grammar School Old Boys Association UK. This therefore is a very short follow-up to that Tribute.

Le Roy, as he was fondly known entered the Sierra Leone Grammar School in January 1952. The school have competing house named in Latin and he was in Quintus House.

After school he worked as a nurse at the Connaught Hospital before coming to the United Kingdom.

I first met him about 25 or so years ago here in London at the house of a friend who had just passed away. After I had entered the house and paid my courtesies, I sat in a corner listening to a conversation about our schools in Sierra Leone. There he was arguing passionately in favour of the merits of attending the Sierra Leone Grammar School. I said to myself, not joining the conversation, who is this man speaking so passionately in Krio about the merits of my school but with an accent from another country.

It was about a month later that I found out, when I joined the association, that he was the Social Secretary of the association.

Since then whenever we met and whatever the conversation, we will end up saying something about the school or the association.

He was a very charitable man who did not hesitate to support the school either through the association or directly. His charitableness did not stop with his alma mater but extended to other schools and individuals.

He was a man of principle who did not mince his words; he will tell it to you the way he sees it. This sometimes brought about friendly heated arguments in some of our discussions.

His dress sense was always immaculate, making sure that every item of his clothing matches in terms of colour and style like an English gentleman, from head to toe; making sure that every item of his clothing is in place. As was his dress sense, so was his sense of going all out to make sure that correct procedures were followed in whatever was done.

He was pro-active. If he saw that something needed to be done, he would initiate it, and sometimes finance it himself.

For his passion and devotion to the school, he will surely be missed

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He was indeed a true Regentonian and a gentleman.

May his soul continue to rest in peace.