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## NEUROGNOSTIC QUESTION

### **From interned refugee to neuropathologist to psychiatrist**

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This neuroscientist was born in the period of the German Empire in 1917 into a middle-class Jewish-German family. His father was a world-renowned ophthalmologist, whose life and career served as an inspiration for his son to pursue a career in medicine. With the rise of Adolf Hitler (1889–1945) and the National Socialist Party to power in 1933, his parents sent their son to safety in Great Britain, first to boarding school and then to medical school in London. When World War II broke out, he and his fellow fourth-year medical students were recruited to treat soldiers from the war on the Continent. In 1940, while tending casualties from a pivotal battle of World War II, he was interned as an “enemy alien,” despite his official status as a refugee from Nazi Germany. He was shipped to Canada and spent nearly a year in internment camps, an experience that would shape the rest of his life and career. Upon release, he attempted to immigrate to the United States but instead was deported to Cuba, and he lived there in exile for nearly two years. In 1943, this neuroscientist settled in Boston and completed his medical education at Tufts University, specializing in pediatrics and its neurological conditions. He had an intense interest in neuropathology before the war, and because of this, he is seen as the first trainee fellow of neuropathology at a prestigious teaching hospital in Boston. However, changing circumstances and increasing blindness from a rare genetic disease, causing glaucoma, had prevented him from conducting further research in the field. Due to his blindness, he eventually retrained as a psychiatrist and conducted research in physiology and psychosomatics. In particular, he investigated various physiological, autonomic syndromes of psychiatric conditions, such as the “inhibited cold-pressor-response” and the effect of electroshock on the blood pressure of hospitalized patients. He also contributed greatly to the development of group psychotherapy. Following his loss of eyesight, however, he largely passed on his knowledge and findings to colleagues and students verbally. Our physician passed away in 2012, after devoting himself to sculpting and painting during his retirement years.

#### Questions

- (1) Who is the individual described here?
- (2) From which battle was this individual treating British soldiers before he was interned?
- (3) What is the name of the genetic condition that resulted in his glaucoma and eventual blindness?
- (4) At what American teaching hospital did this individual practice neuropathology?
- (5) What contributions did this individual make to the neuropsychiatric field?

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