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SIR EDWARD (WEARY) DUNLOP A.C., Kt., C.M.G., O.B.E., K.S.J.,  
K.C.S.J., M.B., B.S. (1ST CLASS HONOURS) M.S. (MELB.) F.R.C.S.,  
F.R.A.C.S., D.Sc Punjabi (Hon). (1907 - 1993)

Ernest Edward Dunlop was born on 12 July 1907 son of James Henry and Alice Emily Maud Dunlop. His paternal grandfather and also great grandfather were both Presbyterian Ministers.

Between the ages of 7 and 12 he lived on his father's farm, Summerlea, about the Sheepwash Creek at Stewarton near Shepparton, Victoria.

He was educated at Stewarton Primary and Benalla High Schools.

This period coincided with the outbreak of World War 1. He saw four Dunlops join up and don Anzac garb to seek high adventure or death. To his bitter frustration his efforts were largely limited to the Young Gardeners League whilst in his heart he yearned for the romance of adventure in strange lands and the challenge of death. He joined the Cadets and later the Citizen Military Forces and trained with the Lee-Enfield Mark 3 rifle and Lewis Gun.

Later he was to reflect on the old Spanish proverb - "Never wish for anything too much. It might come true."

After leaving school he was apprenticed to a Benalla Pharmacist and topped his first year. He then moved to Melbourne and worked for another pharmacist. He studied at the Victorian College of Pharmacy and was a Gold Medallist in his final year in 1928. Then, inspired by the example of Sir Thomas Dunhill, who had begun like as a n apprentice pharmacist and lived to become surgeon to King George V, he decided to become a surgeon. He enrolled in Melbourne University's Medical School and gained a scholarship to Ormond College. He knew no Latin, then a must for medicine, but in six months cramming at Taylor's night classes he learnt his Latin while at the same time studying medicine. He qualified as M.B. and B.S. with 1st Class Honours and Exhibition in 1934 and M.S. in 1937.

After graduation he was commissioned as a Captain in the R.A.A.M.C. and attached to the Coburg-Brunswick Battalion. He took this rank to England in 1938.

Edward Dunlop, it appears that he no longer used the name Ernest, was tall, 192cm, solidly built and a natural athlete. Whilst at University he won the Universities Heavyweight Boxing Championship, was awarded a Blue in Athletics and Rugby Union. He was capped to play Rugby for Australia in 1932-34 and played against the All Blacks. Later whilst studying and working in England he played for the British Barbarians.

It was during his undergraduate days at Ormond College, Melbourne University, that he cheerfully acquired the non-sensical nickname "Weary" - a name that was to stick to him for life. It was an appalling example of undergraduate humour and came from his surname Dunlop - tyres - tired - weary. In later life it was said to be an apt name - slightly stooped, heavy lidded eyes, quietly spoken and an expression reflecting inner peace.

In 1938 he went to England to undertake postgraduate studies and qualified as a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons after a 10 week course at St Bartholomew Hospital, London.

At the outbreak of World War II he was on the Staff of the British Post-

Graduate Medical School at Hammersmith and the qualifications M.S. (Melb) and F.R.C.S. brought him a posting to St Mary's Hospital, Paddington as a specialist surgeon to the Emergency Medical Service. Here he served in a team of surgeons led by Mr Arthur Porritt, athlete and surgeon, who was later Lord Porritt, a Governor-General of New Zealand. Among his friends were the legendary miler, Jack Lovelock, and he played poker at times with Alexander Fleming.

The St Mary's Rugby Union team in which he played was unbeaten. He received invitations to play with the British Barbarians and also played for the British Commonwealth against Combined Services. At that time the leader of the Emergency Medical Service, West London Sector, was Sir Charles Wilson, Dean of St Mary's and later better known as Churchill's physician, Lord Moran. A great Rugby man he seemed reluctant to let Weary go in order to take up a commission in the British Services. However he really wanted to be with the Australian Forces.

In order to enlist in the A.I.F. it was first necessary for Weary to return to Australia - which he thought was a tortuous way to get to a war in Europe. Forever resourceful he sent off a cable to his old Children's Hospital chief who just happened to be Major General Rupert Downes, D.G.M.S. Australia. This resulted in an unorthodox and probably unique posting direct to Australian Overseas Base, which was later revealed as Jerusalem, Palestine. His commission to Second A.I.F. as Captain VX 259 was dated 13 November 1939.

He sailed from England on 1 January 1940 as the only serviceman on board S.S. Mantola, eventually arriving at Port Said from where her travelled by train to Palestine. There he was met by Col. H.C. Disher A.D.M.S. Australian Overseas Base who immediately appointed Weary as D.A.D.M.S. This posting involved staff work at A.O.B. (Jerusalem), H.Q. Aust. Corps (Gaza) and Second A.I.F. (Alexandria and Heliopolis). This staff work involved almost continual travel not only in what he termed the "wholly unholy Holy Land" but in Lebanon, Syria, the then Transjordan, Egypt and later Libya. He came to know the leaders of the A.I.F. from General Blamey down.

His greatest desire was to return to surgery but was prevailed upon to become Medical Liaison Officer to British Army H.Q. in Greece. This period in his Army career proved to be most exciting. Under chaotic conditions of communications he travelled by staff car and later by motor cycle between Athens and the hard pressed Australians and New Zealanders.

Eventually after running a personal ambulance service, Athens to the beach, Weary was evacuated from Nauplion, Peloponeous, by caique and HMS Calcutta to Crete from where he was once more evacuated, suffering the aftermath of hepatitis, his clothes sticking to him because of boils and carbuncles and with a throbbing middle ear infection. After recuperating he requested a posting as a surgeon and nominated a vacant post as a Major with 2/2 Aust. C.C.S. in besieged Tobruk. No competition!

After the unit was withdrawn to Cairo he was requested to raise a Mobile Field Hospital. He formed a 50 bed unit which used standard transport and could establish anywhere in tents and received casualties in the operating theatre just 20 minutes after arriving at a site. However, they were forgotten in the order of battle and stayed stranded in the Sinai.

Weary relinquished command in disgust and returned to 2/2/ Aust. C.C.S. preferring to remain in a surgical post as a Major rather than Unit C.O.

With Australia under threat from the Japanese the Prime Minister, John Curtin, ordered the withdrawal of Australian Forces from the Middle East in order to strengthen Australia's defences. On 20 January 1942 the main body of 2/2 Aust. C.C.S. totalling 87, joined the momentous departure of 1 Aust Corps from Suez. The unit embarked on HMT Orcades clad in winter battle dress with a pack for personal possessions and one first aid pannier for medical equipment. Weary acted as Unit Embarkation Officer and it was only his stubborn refusal to embark without packs, officer's valises, nurses trunks and a first aid pannier that ensured that when they disembarked in Batavia they at least had the benefit of these crumbs. The rest of the unit, transport and equipment were loaded in separate ships.

To quote Weary Dunlop "Months of patient work in organising stores to a high pitch of efficiency and sectionalised packing, to assist efficient and rapid unit function, foundered on the intricate bungling of 'movement control'".

The Orcades was diverted to Java as part of a desperate bid to stem the Japanese southward movement. Dunlop by then a Lieutenant Colonel was appointed to command the first Allied General Hospital in Batavia, Java. When it became obvious that capture was inevitable he decided to stay with his men rather than be evacuated.

On April 17 of that year he commenced writing a diary. It was not until 40 years later, and then only after much persuasion, that he agreed to publish "The War Diaries of Weary Dunlop".

When the Japanese invaded Malaya and later captured Singapore a total of 22,000 Australians were taken prisoner. During the next three and a half years almost one third (7,000) died, many from disease, starvation and beatings while working on the infamous Burma railway.

It was during this period that his fellow P.O.W.'s bestowed on Dunlop the title, Christ of the Burma Road.

He repeatedly confronted his captors defending the right of the seriously ill to be spared from tasks far beyond their strength. He suffered for his efforts at the hands of the Japanese.

Twice he was tied to a tree and informed that he was to be bayoneted, only to be taken back to a cell. Once he was made to stand for hours in tropical heat while passing guards kicked and struck him with rifle butts and even chairs. When he lost his temper and cried out angrily at one of his tormentors he was savagely beaten until he was lying face down in the dust, motionless and conscious of broken ribs and blood pouring from scalp wounds. He was then tied to a log in a position which produced excruciating pain. When he was finally released Colonel Dunlop managed to hobble to his hospital tent where he amputated the arm of a Dutch prisoner who had been waiting all day. In his diary he wrote "I wanted to make a point".

His surgical instruments were made from scrap material, some from knives and forks and intravenous drips were made from bamboo shoots. With these aids and an almost complete lack of drugs Dunlop and the other doctors battled cholera, dysentery, beri beri, jungle ulcers, malaria and malnutrition as well as the unpredictable savagery of the Japanese.

Despite his personal experiences at the hands of the Japanese and despite treatment he saw meted out to other prisoners of war, his nature was such that he bore no animosity to his captors. He said at one point "I never felt the ordinary Japanese had any inbuilt desire to be brutal. They just worked within a very ruthless and terrible system and on a couple of occasions my life was saved by Japanese intervention".

After release from Changi he was passing a group of Japanese P.O.W.'s and noticed one slumped down on the floor of a railway carriage and in danger of being crushed. He went to offer assistance and discovered the man was dead. He said "that at that moment all hate died."

In civilian life he became a surgeon of international standing, a medical researcher specialising in the treatment of tropical diseases, a campaigner for a host of organisations and charities.

Despite spending long hours working in a professional capacity he dedicated a lot of spare time helping fellow P.O.W.'s in trouble and was an advisor to the Federal Government Inquiry into Agent Orange. He was President of the Ex P.O.W.'s Association in Victoria and from 1969 to 1977 Chairman of the Commonwealth Trust Fund.

In 1969 the Queen conferred a Knighthood on Sir Ernest Edward Dunlop.

He worked tirelessly to forge links between Australia and Asia and also encouraged better relations between Australia and Japan. On a number of occasions he opened his home in Toorak to members of Japanese delegations and on one occasion to a Japanese Rugby team. He is quoted as saying "I suppose you run out of hate."

He was a Fellow of the College of Surgery in Sri Lanka, patron of the Australia-Thailand Association and of the Sri Lankan Association of Victoria and vice-president of the International Society of Surgeons. In 1969 he led a surgical team to South Vietnam to provide aid for civilians injured in the Vietnam War.

An ardent campaigner against drug and alcohol abuse he served as President of the Alcoholism Foundation of Victoria.

In recent years he made the strenuous trek back to Thailand to commemorate various World War II Anniversaries, including walking through the infamous Hellfire Pass.

On 8 November 1945 Weary married Helen Raeburn Ferguson, daughter of Mephan Ferguson, and they were the proud parents of 2 sons. Lady Helen Dunlop died in 1988 after a long illness. Apart from their lovely home at 605 Toorak Road, Toorak, they also had a small property north-east of Melbourne where they raised cattle.

His private passions, apart from Rugby Union and the raising of cattle, were travelling and golf.

He was a member of the Melbourne Club, Peninsular Golf Club, Naval and Military Club, M.C.C., Scots Club and British Barbarians Football Club (Lon).

Weary was very proud of his Scottish ancestry and liked nothing better than to don kilt and full Highland dress including lace at the wrist and throat.

Sir. Edward died suddenly, just 10 days short of his 86th birthday, from an apparent stroke following a bout of pneumonia. He collapsed late on the Thursday night in his home and was rushed to the Alfred Hospital, dressed in his Rugby Football jumper, and accompanied by his next door neighbour The Rev. Dr. James Donaldson who delivered the Sermon at his Funeral Service. He died at 3.30 am, Friday, 2 July, 1993.

He was accorded a State funeral with military honours at Melbourne's St. Pauls Cathedral at 11 am on Monday 12 July 1993 - exactly 86 years from the date of his birth.

Amongst the mourners were Australians from all walks of life - Parliament, business, medicine, charities and former P.O.W.'s some of whom owed their very lives to the skill and dedication of Sir Edward "Weary" Dunlop. It was the moving tributes that came from fellow P.O.W.'s who had suffered with him at the hands of the Japanese that best measured the loss of such a great man.

Vivian Bullwinkle, former nurse, and sole survivor of the 1942 massacre of Bunka Island said "A little bit of all of us has died with Weary. He never saw bad in anyone. He was always able to find something good, even in Japanese. He had a tremendous amount of love in him."

Tom Uren, former Federal Labour Minister, who served with Weary on the infamous Burma Railway said "Sir Edward's approach was 'There was no progress in hate' - He was not only a great Australian - he was a great citizen of the human race."

Ernest Edward Dunlop was initiated into Lodge Liberation No. 674 U.G.L.V. on 23 April, 1954. This lodge which was consecrated on 24 November, 1949, was conceived in the minds of a number of brethren who had met together in Changi P.O.W. Camp under the very noses of the Japanese Kampei Tai (Gestapo). He was passed to the Second Degree on 20 August 1954 and raised to the Third Degree on 28 January 1953. He remained a member of the Craft until 25 September 1992.

The Rt. Hon. Sir Ninian Stephen in delivering the Eulogy at St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral said in part  
'His long life was an inspiration to us all. In death the inspiration remains, inspiring us to try as best we may to follow his example of courageous and unflagging nobility.'



FROM "WHO'S WHO IN AUSTRALIA"

DUNLOP SIR ERNEST EDWARD (WEARY) AC 1987  
KT CR 1969, CMG 1965, OBE 1947, KSJ 1982,  
KCSJ, 1988 MB BS (1ST CL HONS) MS (MELB)

HON DSc (Punjabi), Hon LLD (Melb), FRCS, FRACS, Hon. FAMA, Hon. FPS, FACS, Hon. FRCS (Edin); Consultant Surgeon Royal Melbourne Hospital and Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital, Life Governor Frankston Community Hospital; *son of* JH Dunlop; *b* July 12, 1907; *ed.* Benalla H Sch, Vic, Coll. of Pharmacy, Melb Univ., St Bartholomew's (Lon); Weary Dunlop Aust Thai. Med Exc. Fell 1986 Edward Dunlop Med. Res. Foundn Heidelberg Hosp. 1986, Patron Aust. Thai. Assn Inc 1986, Sri Lankan Assn of Vic, 1985, Hon. Fell. Coll. of Surgery Sri Lanka 1985, firmr Spec. Surgn Repat. Dept, Consult Surgn P. MacCallum Clinic, Lectr Univ. Melb.; Pres. Scot. FE POW Assn 1991, Pat Thirty-Niners Assn since 1983, Pres. Melb. Cl for O'seas Students since 1982, Patron Vic. Anti-Cancer Cl since 1982, (Pres. 1980-81, Chrmn Exec, Cttee 1974-80), V-Pres, Internat. Socy Sur. 1981-82, Memb Adv. Cttee Aust Govt Inq. into Agent Orange 1981-84, Foundn Fell. Internat. Med. Scs Academy 1981, Foundn Memb. Internat. Socy Diseases of Oesophagus 1980, Memb, Gast. Socy Aust., Coll. Internat. Chirurgia Digestiva, Hon. Life Memb. RSL of Aust since 1979, G Taylor Lectr Malaysia 1978, Memb. Ormond Coll. Cl, CMO British Phos. Commn, Hon. fell. Indian Assn Surgns 1972, Chrmn Adv. Cttee Drug Educ. to Vic. Minr of Health

1972-77, Pres Aust Ex-POW Assn 1972-73 (1986-87), Memb. Titulaire Internat. Socy Surgns 1963, James IV Assn Surgns 1971, Pres Vic. Foundn on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence 1970-82, Vic. Del. Aust. Foundn on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Chrmn Cwealth Govt POW Trust Fund 1969-77, Team Ldr Aust. Surgical Team Sth Vietnam 1969, Pres. Asian Pac. Con. Gast 1968, Aust-Asian Assn Vic, since 1965, Cecil Joll Prize Lectr RCS UK 1960, Colombo Plan Advr India 1960, Thai, Ceylon 1956, Spec. Surgn Emergency Med Svces St Mary's Hosp. Padd. 1939, Pres Ex-POW Rel. Assn Vic. since 1946; Fell. Imperial Coll (Lon) 1991, Valiant Freedom Award 1990, St John Jerusalem Cross Merit 1989, Queens Univ. (Belfast) Dixon Medal, World Vets Fedn Rehab. Award 1988, Paul Harris Fell. Rotary 1988, Internat. Assoc. Lions Medal Merit 1988, Free. City Prehnan 1988, RACS Medal 1987, Hon. Fell. Royal Coll. of Sur. Thai, Bicen. 200 Aust Year 1977, Free. City Wanganui 1962; RAAMC Col MID 1939-45; *publications* The War Diaries of Weary Dunlop 1986, St Michael's School Biennial Sir Edward Dunlop Asian Oration 1987 *m.* Nov. 8, 1945, Helen, *d* M Ferguson, 2 s; *recreations* farming, travelling, golf Rugby Union football; *clubs* Melbourne, Peninsula Golf, Naval and Military, MCC, Melbourne, Scots, Briish Barbarians Football (Lon); *address* 605 Toorak Road, Toorak Vic. 3142.



Sir Edward at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne last year