

Sir Edward "Weary" Dunlop

1907 – 1993

Sir Edward "Weary" Dunlop (born Ernest Edward Dunlop) was not only recognised for his wartime efforts but also largely acknowledged for his commitment to community service nationally and internationally. Born in July 1907 at Majors Plain, Victoria, Dunlop was the second of two children to James and Alice Dunlop. Dunlop spent his childhood in Victoria and received a scholarship at the age of 23 to attend Ormond College in Melbourne to study medicine, where he graduated in 1934. This was also the place where he acquired his nickname "Weary" which was derived from Dunlop tyres.

Whilst in school Dunlop had been an army cadet but due to school commitments and pressure he left the cadets in 1929. In 1935 he was commissioned into the Australian Army Medical Corps where he was given the rank of Captain. During 1939 Edward Dunlop enlisted in the Australian Army Medical Corps (6th Division) while working in St Mary's Hospital Paddington. This division eventually withdrew from the Middle East and thus Dunlop was required to move to Java. When Java fell to the Japanese Weary was in Command of No.1 Allied General Hospital at Bandoeng and became a prisoner of war (POW) (Australian War Memorial, n.d.).

In the course of his time as a prisoner of war, Dunlop worked tirelessly in efforts to save the wounded, sick and malnourished men and many times he often stood up to the Japanese and their brutal methods which put his own life at risk (Australian War Memorial, n.d.). This adds to the community spirited man that Dunlop was' someone who stuck up for those less fortunate, even if it meant his life was at risk. He took chances to ensure a better outcome for those that required it.

Dunlop was very versatile within his community engagement; the numerous community organisations that he was a part of during his time seem almost endless and limitless. The Australian Asian Association, Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria, the Victorian Foundation of Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Melbourne Council for Overseas Students and the Friends of Vellore are all community groups that Dunlop was a member of during his life. Additionally Dunlop was a member of the James IV Association of Surgeons and the International Society of Surgeons.

Sir Edward "Weary" Dunlop can be seen as the most idealistic community minded and spirited human being who showed compassion to others whatever their circumstance. This is evident when he invited many international doctors into his home, some of which he had never met. One of these fortunate people was Dr Phillip Nathaniel during 1973 and he still remains grateful to this day, Dunlop even waited for an hour and a half for Dr Phillip Nathaniel to arrive at Melbourne Airport. (Geddes, 1996).

Whilst it is evident that Dunlop donated his time and efforts primarily to the Medical Profession, his legacy, community spirit and service to others remain in numerous charitable endeavours and scholarships including Swinburne University's *Sir Edward "Weary" Dunlop Scholarship*. Others endeavour's and scholarships include:

- Sir Edward Dunlop Medical Research Foundation
- Weary Dunlop – Boopong Exchange Fellowship (Boopong: A river-based trader that was a part of the Thai underground movement that assisted to smuggle drugs, food and money to POW (Geddes, 1996)).
- Asialink Dunlop Asia Fellowship
- Queen's Trust Sir Edward Dunlop Memorial Award.

There is no doubt that Sir Edward "Weary" Dunlop devoted his life to assisting those in his local community and internationally in order to provide a well minded and potentially more enjoyable community. Without Dunlop's community driven mind there may have been many more casualties from the Second World War. He had a strong impact on everyone he met and it is this trait that drove him to continually think of his surrounding community wherever he went.

Works Cited

- Australian War Memorial, n.d. *Biographical Note: Sir (Ernest) Edward "Weary" Dunlop*. [Online] Available at: <http://www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/dunlop/bio/> [Accessed 18 May 2014].
- Geddes, M., 1996. Remembering Weary. In: *Remembering Weary: Sir Edward Dunlop*. Australia: Penguin Books Australia, pp. 275, 282.