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Eric Darlow

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Tribute to Professor Ronald Harling Maudsley

ERIC DARLOW

It is a great privilege for me to be allowed to contribute something about Ron Maudsley to this special dedication of the *San Diego Law Review*. When he died in 1981 we had been friends for over forty years, meeting for the first time in the western desert of Libya as amateur soldiers, volunteers "for the duration of the emergency," in legal terms. Without World War II we might have met in Oxford; it would have been more comfortable, even in those austere days. Instead, we shared a pup tent in the supply and transport Headquarters of the 7th Armoured Division ("the Desert Rats") for the first year of that part of the war; he was Ammunition Officer, and I was the Adjutant. He tackled his task as he tackled everything—vigorously, intelligently, and with meticulous accuracy—and we both had the satisfaction of sharing in the early victories of the desert war. Other postings followed, and then we both went to teach at the Staff Colleges in Palestine. He subsequently served in Europe and Australia before leaving the army at the end of the war to come to Oxford. I became a professional soldier at that time; he opted for an academic career. We nevertheless managed to keep in touch through the years; our families grew up and met, and it was with enormous pleasure that my wife and I saw our son choose King's College, London, England, as the place to study law and to receive the immeasurable benefit of Ronnie's guidance both in the law and as a moral tutor. Both my son and Ronnie's own children clearly show the impact which his qualities had on their achievement in varied and successful careers.

I observed with great interest the development of his work in

the law schools of the United States, his significant contribution to the strengthening of the links between our two countries, and his eventual migration to the University of San Diego. It was the happiest of days when we once again became colleagues in the arrangements for establishing the University of San Diego Summer Institute on International and Comparative Law at Magdalen College, Oxford, where I was then Home Bursar, having retired from the army. It was a particular pleasure for me to be in touch with some of his San Diego colleagues, including Professor Herbert Lazero in his capacity as Director of the Institute on International and Comparative Law, and organizer of the summer school.

Unhappily, we all saw Ron falter in health in the years which followed the setting up of the school at Magdalen. For me it was a great sadness to see a man, whose talents were so varied and qualities so highly graded, fighting a brave but losing battle against a deadly disease.

In those far-off years of 1939-1945 he personified the total commitment of the British nation to winning the war together with their allies; he was one of the many men and women of outstanding ability who came to the service of their country in a spirit of true patriotism. His friends remember him for the pleasure of his company in war and peace, his fund of stories, his fine sporting record, and his immense capacity for organizing work and play over a wide variety of interests. He went too soon, and we miss him the more because he did.