

## **Murder, medicine and WMD**

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Sir Jack Drummond, a scientist, is a forgotten hero of the Second World War. He deserves to be celebrated as a national treasure.

In 1939 Sir Jack published a work of scholarship, "The Englishman's Food, Five Centuries of English Diet". The conclusions were immensely prophetic. He also divorced his wife to marry his co-author. He used his knowledge as a nutritional scientist to design the food rationing, which recognised the vital role of the newly discovered 'protective' foods. He used his personality to make sure it happened. That the population of Britain was healthier after the war than before has been ascribed to Sir Jack.

Lesser known was his amazing bravery. He used his expertise to save thousands of lives. He dodged the guns to fly into Malta in 1942 and went behind the Nazi lines in 1944 on behalf of SHAEF (Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Force) to advise how to help the starving and malnourished peoples in the Netherlands. In 1945 he went to the hell that was the Belsen-Bergen concentration camp within a week of its liberation where his knowledge and drive again saved many lives.

As a bon viveur and a man who enjoyed the finer things in life, Jack was an active member of the Wine and Food society, and a close friend of the founder, Andre Simon.

In 1952, whilst on holiday in the south of France he was brutally murdered, along with his wife and young daughter. Is there part of his story that is still missing?

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