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Who let Castellani go? War and Medicine in the Life of Sir Aldo Castellani

Sir Aldo Castellani (1874—1971), Italian-British expert in tropical medicine and famous for his crucial contribution to the discovery of the pathological agent of Sleeping sickness, was personally involved in three wars: first and second World Wars, plus the second Italo—Ethiopian War (1935—37). This contribution will focus on the medical and scientific support he gave to different armies during such wars. From the development and subministration of effective multiple vaccines during WW1, to the impressive results he obtained through preventive measures for the health of Italian army in Ethiopia. His medical successes were such that a popular US magazine defined him “the man who won the war”. For this reason, when Italy entered the WW2 alongside the Nazis and Castellani hurriedly left London to join the Italian army, some British newpa pers worriedly outcried: “Who let Castellani go?”.

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