

**FREDERICK CECIL WRAY CAPPS (1898-1970). O.B.E., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Eng.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.). – Distinguished Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon.**

*“His popularity with his ex house-surgeons can be measured by the dinner given in his honour on his retirement from Bart’s, when no less than 54 of them gathered together to pay their respects to him on leaving the active staff.”*

*British Medical Journal (1970).*

Frederick Cecil Wray Capps (1898-1970) [Epsom College 1913-1916] was the son of Fleet Surgeon Frederick A. Capps, who later lost his life in the Battle of Jutland. At Epsom College he was a prefect, a member of the Rugby XV, and winner of the Watts Science and Gardiner Prizes. He was awarded an Entrance Scholarship to St Bartholomew’s Hospital, where he won the Treasurer’s and Foster Prizes for anatomy, and the Brackenbury Scholarship in Surgery. By dint of extreme diligence he passed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Conjoint Examination in only nine months, a remarkable feat. This enabled him to join the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve in 1917 as Surgeon Probationer, and he served the rest of the war in minesweepers and destroyers. He was then appointed Demonstrator of Anatomy and Pathology at St Bartholomew’s Hospital. He had a distinguished career as a specialist in ear, nose and throat surgery. From 1947 until 1963, he was Senior Consultant Ear Nose and Throat Surgeon at St Bartholomew’s Hospital, the Metropolitan Hospital, Willesden General Hospital, the West Suffolk Hospital and the Luton and Dunstable Hospital. He was Chairman of the Medical Council, and Vice-President of the Medical College at St Bartholomew’s Hospital. He was Consultant Laryngologist to the Royal Navy, and the London County Council, Aural Referee to the Civil Service Commission, and the Treasury Medical Service, a Member of the Court of Examiners of the Royal College of Surgeons, and President of the Section of Laryngology, and of the United Services Section at the Royal Society of Medicine. In 1957, he was Semon Lecturer and Medallist, University of London. From 1951 to 1953, he was Vice President of the British Association of Otolaryngology, and in 1949, he was General Secretary of the Fourth International Congress of Otolaryngology.



Outside of his specialty, to which he contributed many papers, he was keenly interested in sport. A man of boundless energy, he had played rugby football for Epsom College, and was a member of the St Bart’s rugby team which played against Guy’s Hospital in the final of the Hospitals Cup in the 1919-1920 Season. Tennis, squash and skiing were among his numerous later hobbies. In his obituary it was stated that “Freddie Capps, as he was affectionately known, was a man of outstanding character and ability. Apart from his professional eminence he was a man of wide interests – family, social and cultural. He had a beautiful home in Regents Park filled with antique furniture....and when abroad was an assiduous visitor to the picture galleries and museums....Few can claim to have served their hospital and the world of otolaryngology with greater devotion and loyalty than Freddie Capps and with his passing, British Otolaryngology has lost one of its most distinguished practitioners.”