








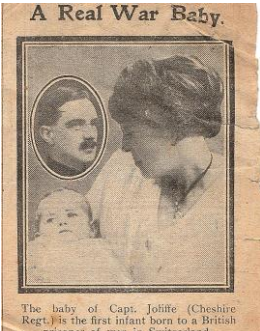



<p><u>The Thirty Two British Officers Interned in Switzerland that arrived on the First Train at Chateau d'Oex on 30th May 1916</u></p> <p><u>Details of their wounding and injuries that led to their internment and other related life events.</u></p> <p><u>Centenary Commemeration 29th/30th May 2016</u></p>	 <p>The first train arrives at 10.00am on 30th May 1916</p>
<p><u>1. Col Eden Vansittart CO 8th Service Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment which he raised 14th Sept 1914</u> Wounded 25th/26th Sept 1915 Hulluch 'Slight wound left hand then a bullet in right side, which shattered two ribs passed through my body close to my spine and completely paralysed me'. Statement Le Tour de Peilz 3rd Dec 1916</p>	 <p>Officer Commanding 8th Royal West Kent Regiment entered the Indian Army in 1876, and served in the Mahsud Waziri Expedition (1881); Hazara (1888) and on the North West Frontier; Samana and Tirah (1897-98). In 1902 he was specially selected to raise and command the 8th Gurka Rifles. Born 19 April 1857 died 17 Sept 1936 Age 59 years when wounded. Repatriated 13 Sept 1917</p>
<p><u>2. Col Maxwell Earle 1st Battalion The Grenadier Guards</u> Wounded 29th October 1914 First Battle of Ypres and was shot through the head and then the leg at Gheluvelt and taken prisoner. In Switzerland those married officers who could afford to have their wives join them in internment, were permitted this comfort provided the wives remained in the direct internment area. The Earle's rented a chalet, the Villa Myosotis ('Forget-me-not'), for themselves and their two daughters, Margaret 15 and Evelyn 12, their Nanny Dromey and Mary Elizabeth Tann, the cook. Col Earle was the senior officer and in charge of internees in Chateau d'Oex and surrounding villages No Statement</p>	 <p>Extracts from a letter to Butt's parents from Earle on 5th December 1914 read: 'the Germans were rushing over where I lay with your son and his orderly and we were not touched. I regained consciousness and found your son bandaging my head. His man knelt at my feet. I spoke to your son. I said "Look out, we are well in front, we shall get taken" he told me we were alright and begged me to keep quiet. Shortly afterwards two or three Germans came up to us. I heard a shot quite close to my head and I felt your son collapse. I distinctly saw a German fire down on the back of the orderly at my feet, the bullet having passed through the man entered my leg and the man fell on me. I don't think it was very long after my second wound that I again lost consciousness and when I came to I found myself in a hut in the hands of the Germans. Source Peter Martin</p>
<p><u>3. Lt Col Christopher Danby Christopher ASC - Army Service Corps</u> Wounded (no details) Reported missing on 16 September 1914, shortly after that date he was listed as a POW. So he spent over 1 ½ years as a German POW, before being sent to Chateau d'Oex. He was a bon viveur who would have been overwhelmed by the friendship and hospitality offered by the people of Chateaux d'Oex, after the austere conditions he would have experienced as a POW of the German Army. No Statement probably wasn't capable due to injury</p>	<p>Died 12th June 1924 At Westminster yesterday Mr. Ingleby Oddie concluded an inquest on the body of Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Danby Christopher, 53, formerly of the Royal Army Service Corps, who died from morphine poisoning at the Grosvenor Hotel, Victoria, on June 12. The coroner recalled that early in the war Colonel Christopher was wounded and taken prisoner, and had since been more or less a nervous wreck. He recorded a verdict of "Suicide while of unsound mind."</p>
<p><u>4. Major Hon RBF Robertson 21st (Empress of India) Lancers</u> Wounded missing 30.10.1914 later confirmed as Wounded & Prisoner of War 31.10.14. Repatriated to England 17.9.1917 On return to England he was attached to Military Intelligence section 7B (MI7B) at the War Office No Statement</p>	 <p>1900 Lt Hon RBF Robertson (right) 2nd Boer War SAfrica</p>
<p><u>5. Major Richard Archibald Birlev DSO CO 80th Battalion Royal Field Artillery</u> Wounded 26th Aug 1914 age 41 Le Cateau 'in the leg and chest, all on the left side'. Statement St Moritz 19th December 1916</p>	<p>Major Richard Birley, BC 80 Field Battery, was ordered to be a "Zones" Battery. He greeted the arrival of the 80 Field Battery teams with the cry of "What the hell are you doing here!" Before there was any chance to reply to him, Major Richard Birley was silenced badly wounded and silenced by a shell burst. [In 1917, Maj Birley was repatriated to UK because of a gangrenous leg wound. On arrival in Switzerland, his leg was amputated.] by Lieutenant Colonel Mike Watson</p>

<p><u>6. Major Ronald F Meiklejohn DSO Royal Warwickshire Regiment</u> Wounded 26th Aug 1914 Haucourt (Le Cateau) 'by a shrapnel bullet which passed through the front of my foot breaking three bones'. Statement Rossinières 19th Sept 1916</p>	 <p>Lieutenant Colonel Ronald Forbes Meiklejohn is on the LSE War Memorial erected in 1953. Meiklejohn, was an alumnus of the Army Class, who was taken prisoner at Mons in 1914. After the war he was repatriated and in 1919 served in the Northern Russia Expeditionary Force and then as an intelligence office in the Baltic. A keen ornithologist he warranted an obituary in IBIS published by the British Ornithologists' Union.</p>
<p><u>7. Capt Thomas Bromhead Butt 2nd Battalion Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry</u> Wounded 26th Aug 1914 Le Cateau 'a bullet passed through the outer side of the knee, cutting the top of the tibia and also the large tendon which encases the kneecap'. He was eventually repatriated on 11th Sept 1917. He was a keen cricketer and polo player representing the regiment on numerous occasions and went on to command 2 Bn KOYLI until his retirement in 1939. Statement 30th Sept 1916</p>	 <p>Capt Butt centre with 'Jorrock' the regimental mascot.</p>
<p><u>8. Capt Ian MacDonald Henderson 1st Battalion London Scottish Regiment</u> Wounded 31st October 1914. 'Hit in both legs, right leg only a small wound, and left a severe wound which paralysed the lower half for several months'. In charge of C Coy. The London Scottish was the first Territorial Infantry Regiment in action and it was in this baptism of fire that Captain Henderson was wounded and taken prisoner. Along with Capt. TKH Allsop, Henderson may well have been the first territorial officer taken prisoner in WW1. He finished his statement with these words 'It only remains to mention the wonderful and spontaneous reception the British POW's had right from the boundary of Switzerland until their arrival at their destination. No one who experienced it will ever forget it, and I always look upon it as the first and considerable step in steady return to health and strength' Statement not dated.</p>	 <p>CURLING AT VILLARS. <i>(Gift of "The Tattler.")</i></p> <p>A very amusing curling tournament was recently organised at Villars by the local sporting club, and the officers interned at Chateau d'Oex were invited to send teams to compete. They sent two—first, the Chateau d'Oex Ladies' Team, skippered by Colonel Stephenson, and the other, the Chateau d'Oex Officers' Team. The ladies' team won. In our photograph are seen the winners, runners-up, and other players. From left to right are: standing—M. Elmer, M. Kala, M. Fictus, Colonel Stephenson, Colonel Castan, M. Genillard, Captain Orford, Lord Stair, Captain Hill, and Captain Henderson (London Scottish, wounded and taken prisoner at Messines, now interned in Switzerland); sitting—Mrs. Zacharias, Miss B. de Castro, Miss L. de Castro, Miss Hill, Lady Stair, and Mrs. Henderson.</p>
<p><u>10. Capt Cecil Morley 2nd Battalion Manchester Regiment</u> Wounded 26th Aug 1914 Le Cateau 'I was shot in the left upper arm and shoulder, both of which were broken, also through the left lung and stomach'. Statement 10th Dec 1916 Chateau d'Oex</p>	<p>Repatriated 13th Sept 1917</p>
<p><u>11. Capt Arthur J G Hargreaves 1st Bn Prince Albert's Somerset Light Infantry</u> Wounded 26th Aug 1914 at le Cateau 'I was hit by a shell in right eye and unconscious for 3 hours. I did not suffer much as I was really only suffering from shell shock and blindness'. Moved to Torgau then Halle Saale when Capt Jackson would have been there. Statement 25th Sept 1916</p>	 <p>P. of War Torgau (WO list 09.10.16) Records 29.66. Transf'd to Switzerland 29.05.16. (Blind Right eye) List X17826 AG C 341/7 07.06.16.) Repatriated - arr London 11.09.17 (Shr.Head) (DDMS London Dist) W.O. List X57446 af 13.09.17. To be Major 01.09.15. (Lon Gaz Supp af 17.12.17)</p>

<p><u>12. Capt Charles Curtis Darley Royal Flying Corps (and RFA)</u> Wounded 25th Oct 1915 On patrol at 6500 feet attacked from behind.' The first burst of fire from the gun hit the engine or petrol tank, and the engine stopped. At the same time a bullet went through my right arm and nearly took off the right thumb. This did not inconvenience me much at the time. The machine a Fokker monoplane was above and we could not shoot at it, the gun mounting then in a Vickers fighting biplane not permitting of firing above at a machine. I landed in a field. I lay on the ground feeling rather sick. I then got my observer(2/Lt RJ Slade) to hold my right thumb which was half off below the second joint, while I sawed it off with my pocket knife, a new one. In the meanwhile Lt Immelmann in the Fokker landed close by and came up to shake hands with us, saluting in doing so'. Statement Chateau d'Oex 31st Oct 1916</p>	<p>Repatriated mid 1917 and serving as a staff officer for the rest of the war and commanding 88 sqdn in 1919.</p> <p>With his brother, Cecil Hill Darley, D.S.C, they were flying a Vimy to Egypt in 1919 but crashed en route in Italy where Capt CH Darley perished in the subsequent aircraft fire, Capt CC Darley went on to achieve Air Commodore rank in the RAF.</p> <p>He was awarded the Albert Medal for attempting to rescue his brother from the burning Vimy, and suffered burns that put him in hospital for 18 months.</p> <p>CBE 1931; G/Capt 1/1/35, Air Commodore 1/7/38. He was then injured in a crash in India, repatriated to the UK, and invalided from the RAF 14/9/39. Re-employed in Air Ministry WW2, died 1962.</p>
<p><u>13. Capt Edward Dudley Hanley (Hanley) 3rd Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers attached to and in charge of No 4 Company 2nd battalion Royal Irish Regiment</u> Wounded first time 18th Nov 1914 On recovery in Ireland he married, returned to the front and was wounded again and taken prisoner on 25th May 1915 at Weijje Ypres – after only five days in the trenches he was gassed and then 'hit by a sniper bullet in neck which came out through the shoulder blade, missing quite a lot of good things'. Statement not dated</p>	
<p><u>14. Capt Greville Irwin 2nd South Lancashire Regiment</u> Wounded 25th Aug 1914 Solesmes, Nord 'I was struck on the back by a shrapnel bullet and left on the field. I was paralysed from the waist down. Shortly afterwards I was again touched in the left ankle. Before losing consciousness I managed to roughly adjust my field dressing'. On 4th June 1915 was sent to Brussels for exchange to England but was rejected as was Capt C E Jolliffe. Statement not dated</p>	<p>At the outbreak of the Great War, Irwin was called up. Almost certainly, he was the Lieutenant H.G.W. Irwin, of the 2nd South Lancashires, who was wounded by shrapnel and later taken prisoner at the Battle of Mons, right at the outset of the War. It seems that this wound, probably in the spine, blighted his life, leaving him partially paralysed. Nevertheless, there are paintings, executed during the War or shortly afterwards, which reveal that Irwin was keen not only to convey something of the harsh realities of war, but was also still experimenting with new artistic ideas.</p> <p>At a small and marvellous exhibition of Irwin's work at the Panter & Hall Gallery, in summer 2012, there was a painting entitled, <i>Rearguard Action, French Cavalry Charging</i> - clearly a slice of battle at the outset of WWI. The indeterminate mass of figures and limbs – men, still dressed in red-plumed helmets and silver breast-plates, and horses, soon to become redundant on the muddy plains of northern France – surges across a field which is spotted with green, red, blue, ochre, beneath a sky rent by the startling colours of a great rainbow. It is not hard to see, in this remarkable picture, evidence of Irwin's encounters with Post-Impressionism and even Futurism.</p> <p>After the War, Irwin continued to travel. He worked in St. Ives, Mevagissey, Polperro; and also revisited Brittany, painting in Concarneau. He even went to study at the Académie Royale des Beaux Arts, in Brussels, in 1926 - a Brussels which, in the mid-'20s, accommodated a radical group of Surrealists who had established a critical distance from Paris and were exploring much more subversive ideas. There is little sign of this trip in any of Irwin's paintings that we have seen; but in this restless round, one does get a sense of an artist searching for a challenge, perhaps driven, still, by a painful awareness of his own disability and the black futility of war.</p> <p>In 1935, London hosted parades to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of King George V. Crowds of people – whether the milling masses or the martial troops – filled Irwin's canvases, which were usually relatively small, at 20" x 24". Again, the 2012 exhibition at the Panter & Hall Gallery included several of these striking images - pictures which, intriguingly, seem to herald the character and buoyancy of the post-WWII paintings of national pageants and celebrations, by Paul Maze. With the arrival, once more, of World War, Irwin went to live in Leamington Spa and also, in 1946, sent work to the RA from Porthmeor, St. Ives, where painting and teaching studios had first been set up by visiting artists in the 1890s.</p>

<p><u>15. Capt C E Jolliffe 1st Bn The Cheshire Regiment</u> Wounded 24th Aug 1914 Audregnies nr Mons Leg severely shattered in two places in thigh and then another bullet in the other leg. He was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry during the stand made at Audregnies in the famous 'Dyer charge', approx 30 men with bayonets (see opposite). He had twelve operations, eight as a POW in Germany including an appendix operation, before being transferred to Switzerland. He stayed Pension Morier. During his internment Cyril's wife arrived to visit, on one of a series of trains specially commissioned to bring prisoners' wives from England, and she stayed in Chateau d'Oex until the summer of 1917. Their son Geoffrey Jolliffe, born on 6 May 1917, was reported to be the first baby born to a British prisoner of war in Switzerland. Cyril was repatriated separately to the UK on 13th September 1917 and was described in the regimental magazine, The Oak Tree, as being 'in the pink'. He had two daughters in the following years, and was employed as Welfare Officer in an engineering Company near his home in Shoreham, Sussex. When he died of septic pneumonia on October 23rd 1931, at the age of 48, it was reported that he had never fully recovered from his wounds. He was buried at St Julian's Church, Kingston Buci cemetery in Shoreham-by-Sea, where his funeral was attended by Private W. Mayhew reported in the regimental obituary to have been a prisoner of war with him. His granddaughter Susie Kershaw was present at the centenary commemoration in St Peters Church, and in The Grand Salle Chateau d'Oex on 29th/30th May 2016. The venue for the original arrival celebration. Statement 19th Nov 1916 Chateau d'Oex</p>	<p>Lt Matterson's account of 'Dyers Charge' 2.30pm Capt Dyer then called out, "Advance and Enfilade the Enemy". I jumped up and left the road and led the attack. I was alone some 20 yards in front of the gallant little firing line of about 6 men who followed me. I had drawn my sword with scabbard on, the latter, I remember pulling off, and throwing away. There was a hail of bullets, and how I escaped I don't know. I made up my mind it was certain death. I was soon joined by Dyer and together we headed the little counter attack. We were followed by Jolliffe and Massey, and a few more men. We made two advances, and we raised a cheer when we heard the enemy were retiring, a thing I never saw and do not believe happened. The picture of this little counter attack I shall never forget. Men were falling all around us and their cries were dreadful. Dyer then said it was hopeless and we must get back. The retreat was almost worse, and the ground was covered with killed and wounded. One bullet hit the ground under my stomach as I raised myself on my elbows. My life, as someone said "was charmed". I don't think anyone could have had such near escapes. Dyer was hit twice on the way back, and I stayed with him, and persuaded him to make another effort to get behind the cottage. We went together and I got him back untouched. I found that Major Stapleton had ordered "enough", having discovered that we were completely surrounded, the men who tried to retire being shot down from the left rear. I bound up Dyers wounds, and then the Germans poured up and took us.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>
<p><u>16. Capt Herbert Master 2nd Queens Regiment Royal West Surrey (Lucens)</u> Wounded 19th Oct 1914 Ledegham- 'I was hit in the left leg. I lay in a turnip field for 10 or 15 minutes while firing was going on'. Statement not dated</p>	
<p><u>17. Capt Archibald Shotts Donald Baird-Douglas 3rd Battalion The Kings Own (Royal Lancasters Regiment)</u> Wounded 26th Aug 1914 Le Cateau took 'a rifle bullet in the left leg and twenty minute later by shrapnel in the right leg which owing to the loss of blood rendered me unconscious for 2 or 3 hrs'. Statement 16th Dec 1916</p>	<p>Died in Kensington, London., United Kingdom in 1956; the death was not war related. Poss Sholto not Shotts</p>
<p><u>18. Capt David Hill 109th Battery Royal Field Artillery</u> Wounded 24th Aug 1914 Frameries nr Mons. 'I was taken to a local hospital where my right arm was removed by a Belgium surgeon, and I was put to bed'. In the civil hospital in Mons he shared a room with Capt Jolliffe from 26th Feb – 15th apr 1915 Statement 29th Sept 1916 Chateau d'Oex</p>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <p>Capt Hill 2nd from right</p> </div> </div> <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 5px;"> CURLING AT VILLARS. A very amusing curling tournament was recently arranged at Villars by the local sporting club, and the officers attached to Chateau d'Oex were invited to send teams to compete. They were accompanied by the Officers of the latter. Teams composed of Colonel Douglas, and the other the Chateau d'Oex Officers. From left to right are standing: Mr. Smith, Mr. Hill, Mr. Jones, Colonel Douglas, Colonel Cairns, Mr. Graham, Captain Baird, and Mr. Green. The curling rink was situated in the village of Villars, and the teams were composed of British and German prisoners of war. The curling was held on the 15th of the month. The curling was held on the 15th of the month. The curling was held on the 15th of the month. </p>
<p><u>19. Capt Robert D. Alexander 2nd Bn 3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles</u> Wounded 13th November 1914 Richebourg L'Avouee 'My wound was caused by a bullet fired at close range which entered just above the boot on the left side and out through the ankle on the right side. The fibula was completely shattered and the end of the tibia carried away'. Statement 1st December 1916 Lausanne</p>	<p>He was lying on the parapet of a German trench with a shattered ankle but still able to shout instructions. He refused to be taken back to British trenches until some wounded Ghukas around him had been removed. He was discovered by the Germans and taken prisoner before he could be rescued despite two attempts to find him.</p>

20. Capt Earnest Orford The Suffolk Regiment

Wounded 26th Aug 1914

Severely at the Battle of Le Cateau; 'Hit in left shoulder about 2pm. The rifle bullet entered the shoulder about one inch from the point of the shoulder, passed diagonally through and came out through the shoulder blade smashing it up and causing complete loss of the use of my arm and hand'. Captured and sent to hospital in Cologne and POW camps at Torgau, Burg and Magdeburg. When transferred to Chateau d'Oex the *Regimental Gazette* reports: 'We are glad to hear that his wound, which has been open for twenty two months, has already begun to heal, owing to the good food and beneficial air of Chateau d'Oex'
Statement no date



CURLING AT VILLARS.

A very amusing curling tournament was recently organised at Villars by the local sporting club, and the officers interned at Chateau d'Oex were invited to send teams to compete. They sent two—one, the Chateau d'Oex Ladies' Team, skippered by Colonel Stephenson, and the other, the Chateau d'Oex Officers' Team. The ladies' team won. In our photographs are seen the winners, runners-up, and other players. From left to right are: standing—M. Binn, M. Rolo, M. Fietz, Colonel Stephenson, Colonel Cantan, M. Genillard, Captain Orford, Lord Stair, Captain Hill, and Captain Henderson (London Scottish, wounded and taken prisoner at Mons, now interned in Switzerland), sitting—Mrs. Zacharias, Miss B. de Castro, Miss L. de Castro, Miss Hill, Lady Stair, and Mrs. Henderson.

Curling Capt Orford
4th from right

21. Lt William Reid No 2 Squadron Royal Flying Corps

Wounded 1st Aug 1915

Was the first victim of the German air ace Max Immelman. "1 August 1915. Lt. Reid, Leather & I ascended at 5.0 am with six bombs each to drop on Vitry aerodrome. At the time of writing Lt. Reid has not returned. 2 August 1915. The Germans dropped a message last night over the French lines saying that Lt. William Reid is a prisoner & wounded in two places in the left arm but not seriously. He was hit by a machine gun from behind at about 50 yards at about 8000 feet he says 'breaking my arm (left) with about the fifth shot. The German kept on firing, and in about two minutes a bullet tore the bottom out of my gravity tank and of course the engine stopped. I was absolutely helpless and knew I could not get back, so was forced to land not far from the village of Vitry.

The German aeroplane landed beside me, and the occupant Lieutenant Immelman, jumped out and ran to help me out of my machine. He made me as comfortable as possible on the ground, gave me a drink of brandy and a cigarette, he cut my glove and sleeve off my left arm and roughly bound it up. My wound was severe. The bullet passed through the steel seat back of my machine before entering my arm, and must have been tumbling over. It ripped my arm open from above and behind my elbow, coming out near my wrist, and breaking the humerus close to the elbow joint. The joint itself was shattered, and a piece of the ulna 4 cm long was shot away. The muscle flexing the arm outwards was shot away. There is now a gap of about 3cm between the bones, and elbow is more or less solid'.

At the hospital in Douai he was operated on and found himself in the bed next to Lt Goode who had been shot down about three weeks earlier.

In April 1916 he was at Furstenburg pow camp. His letters from home from Switzerland suggest that officer internees had a relatively easy life. On arriving in Switzerland, Reid wrote to his parents to request clothes, 1000 cigarettes, Gilbert and Sullivan records for his gramophone, his camera and his butterfly collecting equipment! He seems to have spent most of his time in Switzerland catching butterflies, playing tennis and bridge, dancing, going to tea and having picnics. He married his Swiss-Italian nurse whilst in Switzerland and on his return to England he taught the Queen's father to fly, at RAF Cranwell.
Statement no date



Photo: Lt. William Reid with "Frisquette"



Lt Immelman in his Fokker Eindecker E1

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" Immelman was a member of Feldflieger Abteilung 62 based at Douai. He had been awakened by the air raid around 0445 and had set off in pursuit of the attackers together with Lt Oswald Böelcke flying the Squadron's two Eindeckers. By the time they were airborne and had climbed to the attackers height, they met the returning No 2 Squadron aircraft including that of Lt Reid. Immelman describes seeing two aircraft which were engaged by Böelcke until his gun jammed. He then continued his climb and spotted a third aircraft which he pursued setting upon Lt Reid. Having wounded Reid, Immelman was eventually unable to fire his gun because of a jam and forced him to land by bluff.

Whether the anti-aircraft fire explanation for Reid's downing was offered by the Germans is not clear, but at the time the Fokker Eindecker was something of a secret weapon (with its gun firing through the propeller). Immelman claims to have dropped the German message about Reid himself over St Pol on 1 August 1915.

**22. Lt Harold Henderson Duke of Wellingtons Regiment
2nd Battalion West Riding Regiment**

Wounded 8th Nov 1914 nr Ghelaveldt in an action while serving with C Company in; this according to Col B J Barton's diary.

'I was left lying in the open at nightfall. It was freezing. I crawled into a dugout and lay there until the morning of the 11th. Three days. My wound was in the head – a bullet entered sideways between my eyebrows and came out beneath my temple. It broke all the bones along the forehead, ruined the sight of the right eye almost totally, and paralysed the eyelids. Thirteen months after I was hit my wound was still open'.

At Osnabruck, when Capt Jolliffe, Cheshires, arrived, he was put into a basement room; he had a serious open wound in his leg, yet in the same room as him there was a Russian officer almost dying from syphilis, and the door opposite that of his room led into a very badly kept watercloset which could be smelt in his room'.
Statement no date.

**23. Lt Elliot Angus Leybourne 8th Battalion Durham
Light Infantry**

Wounded 25 April 1915

'I was hit in the thigh by a rifle bullet, which must have been a stray bullet or that of a sniper. As I afterwards found out the main tendons of the left leg had been severed, which deprived me of any use of this leg'. This was after only six days on active service with the 8th Battalion Durham Light Infantry (DLI), 25 year old Lieutenant Angus Leybourne was wounded at Boetleers Farm, Belgium, in the 2nd Battle of Ypres. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) prisoner of war records show that Angus was in hospital in May, June and September 1915. He saw brief but horrendous action with his battalion at Ypres in 1915 where he was wounded in the leg and captured when his trench was overrun by the Germans. He counted himself as lucky - B company in his battalion made up of Durham University Student volunteers were wiped out almost to a man. He spent the next year as a POW in Germany where he wrote many 'censored' cards home especially to Connie Kirkup from Birtley in Co Durham to whom he later proposed. In 1916 he was sent to Switzerland with the first batch of 32 officers to arrive on 31st May by train at Chateau D'Oex under the armistice agreement.

He was then billeted at The Grand Chalet at Rossiniere, one of the oldest chalets in Switzerland, nearby for the remainder of the war where he lived 'The life of Riley' skiing, mountaineering and climbing in the surrounding high mountains of the Swiss Alps. On 4 September 1916, while at Rossiniere, Angus proposed by letter to Constance 'Connie' Kirkup. Her brother, Philip Kirkup, was one of Angus's fellow officers in the 8th Battalion DLI, so Connie and Angus knew each other before the war began. They corresponded throughout his time as a prisoner of war and Connie was able to see him in Switzerland in January 1917 as part of a British Red Cross arranged visit. Angus's mother and sister had already travelled out to visit him in July 1916.

Angus Leybourne was repatriated in December 1917. He and Connie were married on 16 October 1918 at St George's Church, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne.
Statement no date



Angus sitting 2nd from right in POW camp



Angus on left

Angus, as he was known to all family and friends was born and brought up in Gateshead in North East England.


He was educated at Sedbergh School in Cumbria where he got a taste for the outdoor life and played rugby for the school 1st XV.

He would also have done basic training in the school cadet force in Army drill and military exercise.

After school he enlisted in the 8th Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry and at the outbreak of War was sent to France with the B.E.F. as the Battalions Signals officer.



The Grand Chalet Rossiniere 1916

<p><u>24. 2nd Lt Denis CW Sanders Royal Field Artillery attached to No 16 Squadron RFC</u> Injured 28th Feb 1915 Warwicq nr Menin 'Flying as observer when engine failure meant we landed in heavy ploughed field and were brought up short. I was thrown against the machine gun and injured my knee (for which I eventually came to Switzerland)'. Statement 29th Dec 1916</p>	
<p><u>25. Lt Henry Le Grand Intelligence Corps</u> Injured 31st Aug 1914 Nr Fresnoy when 'Age 27 joined Intelligence Corps on 6 August 1914 and was in France a week later. During retreat from Mons, after only twenty days service, he was sent from GHQ to 'corral stragglers'. He had a motorcycle collision with some German cavalrymen and spent the rest of the war as a prisoner.' Statement – not dated</p>	
<p><u>26. Lt Humphrey Milton Goode No 16 Squadron Royal Flying Corps</u> Wounded 24th July 1915 South of Douai On patrol at 5500 feet. 'Owing to the high winds we could hardly make any head way, and so made a practically stationary target. I was just going to turn and run down wind when I was hit in the neck, and Crabbie (observer) in the head and hand. I was unconscious for some minutes. On coming to I got the machine under control, tore up and threw away my notes, and attempted to bind up my wound. The engine still running at this moment but suddenly stopped, and I fainted again. On coming to for the second time I found that we were only a few feet from the ground, so I landed, the machine undamaged except for shell fire. Six mounted men rode up and opened fire on us from a distance of about 30 yards. Crabbie still in the observers seat was hit again, this time in the chest. I was not hit again'. Statement Chateau d'Oex 16th Jan 1917</p>	<p>2nd Lieutenant later Captain Humphrey Milton Goode served with the 2nd County of London Yeomanry and was attached to the Royal Flying Corps. He qualified as a pilot and received his aviation certificate on March 11th 1915 at Farnborough. He served overseas in France from March 1915. In June 1915 he was attached to No16 Squadron Royal Flying Corps, the squadron being formed in February 1915 at St Omer, France, from elements of 2, 6 and 9 squadrons. "South of Douai we were engaged by two batteries of "Archies". I tried to avoid them by running through the clouds. Owing to the high wind we could hardly make any headway, and so made practically a stationary target. The fire was very heavy indeed for about 10 minutes. I was just going to turn and run down wind when I was wounded in the neck, and Crabbie in the head and hand. I was unconscious for some minutes. On coming to I got the machine under control, tore up and threw away my notes, and attempted to bind up my wound. The engine was still running at this moment but stopped suddenly, and I fainted again. On coming to for the second time I found that we were only a few feet from the ground, so I landed, the machine undamaged except from shell fire. This was I believe between Dounai and Vitry. I got out of the machine and attempted to set fire to it by means of a lighter, supplied by the RFC. This did not light. I tried again with an automatic pistol and succeeded in breaking up the instruments, but although I put the muzzle through holes I had made in the tank, the petrol still refused to light. At this moment six mounted men rode up and opened fire on us from a distance of about 30 yards. Crabbie, who was still in the Observers seat, was hit again, this time in the chest. I was not hit again. The next thing I remember was my wound being bound up by several Germans."</p>
<p><u>27. Lt Charles A C Turner 2nd Bn The Connaught Rangers</u> Wounded 26th Aug 1914 Le Grand Fayt - Ammunition ran out. 'As we advanced for a final bayonet charge I received a flesh wound across the right shoulder from our right flank, which was followed by a second which completely shattered my left shoulder. The shock of this left me completely numb for a few minutes'. Statement 9th Jan 1917 Rougement</p>	
<p><u>28. Lt J W Reynolds 8th Lincolnshire Regiment</u> Wounded 26th Sept 1916 'At Hill 70 nr Loos at 10am a Hun close to hit me with some kind of a bullet which was certainly warranted to stop you, for it smashed the bone into pulp and nearly tore the arm off. Then followed a blank till, I would say late afternoon, when I came to, cut myself out of my kit with my left hand, collected my right arm, and made another effort to get into the wood only 3-4 yards away. Just reaching it when a lump of shell caught me in the ribs, and I landed there more or less unconscious till the next morning'. Statement 3rd Dec 1916 Grand Chalet Rossiniere</p>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <p>Capt Reynolds 2nd from right back row</p> </div> </div>

<p>29. Lt Theodore Dodson Collingwood Battalion RNVR (London) Royal Navy Division Wounded 9th Oct 1914 On train nr St Giles Belgium, when 'it was turned into a siding and fire was opened on us by a force of Germans who were waiting for us. A bullet passed through my elbow joint, fracturing all three bones by taking way the radial part of the ulna and damaging the humerus'. Statement 19th Dec 1916 Switzerland</p>	<p>Spent much of his Pow time with Colonel Earle and also Captain Henderson and Major Birley. He described being transferred to another pow camp (Mainz Citadel) on 14th June 1915 as follows ' I was very sorry to leave my two brother officers behind. Henderson and I had been companions since the early days in Brussels, and had shred our comforts and discomforts in adjoining beds for more than seven months. Both he and Major Birley had very bad wounds in their legs and kept most extraordinarily cheerful thought in spite of not being able to walk'. They were rejoined at Mainz at some time, and along with Major Meiklejohn, Captains Morley, Blackburn and Dennys they were selected for Switzerland.</p>
<p>30. Lt Kenneth Dennys Somerset Light Infantry Wounded 18th Dec 1914 at Ploegstert Wood. 'I was shot in the left elbow and fell in a shell crater. 10 minutes later I was hit in the thigh by one of our own shrapnel which for a time quite paralysed my left leg and I lost consciousness'. Statement no date</p>	<p>Rec'd as P. of War (AG B/9/9 af 13.02.15) Lille 21.12.14 Inf Sec D/810 af 30.09.15) To be Lieut 10.06.15 (Lon Gaz 02.09.15) Trans'd to Switzerland 27.05.16. (List X 17826) AGC/341/7 af 07.06.16. Repatriated - arr London 11.09.17 (DDMS London Dist) WO List X 57446 af 13.09.17</p>
<p>31. Sabadar Pirt hi Sing Rana (Capt) 4th Prince of Wales Own Gurkha Rifles No Details</p>	<p>Unfortunately no information except that on arrival in Switzerland he was taken to Leysin</p>
<p>32. Jemadar Nain Sing Gurung (Lt) 4th Prince of Wales Own Gurkha Rifles No details - possible TB and possible died and in cemetery Leysin</p>	<p>Unfortunately no information except that on arrival in Switzerland he was taken to Leysin</p>
<p>'Now' and 'Then'</p> <p>Remember now these tired men, Together gathered, 'Now' and 'Then'. From Flanders Fields to Chateau d'Oex', Routes entwined they led the way. Cross the border, 'silent order', 'free'. 'Flower showers', 'children', 'cups of tea', 'Hell to Heaven', 'love', 'laughter too', The first of many, 'Thirty Two'. Peace at last, no boards, no straw, no lice, They rest their heads in 'Paradise'. To dream of friends that peaceful lie, Lives cut short, too young to die. Thirty Two tired men, Remembered 'Now', Remembered 'Then'.</p> <p>Paddy Jackson Chateau d'Oex 29th May 2016</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Researched and Produced for the Centenary comemmeration at Chateau d'Oex on 29th/30th May 2016</p> <p>A memorial plaque in St Peter's Church was the inspiration for this event organised by Guy Girardet with the unstinting support of his wife Libby. Without their enthusiasm and commitment it would simply not have happened.</p> <p>Many local people also helped and contributed in many ways.</p> <p>Five descendents of British Internees in Switzerland attended, and others sent messages of support.</p> <p>British regiments, the antecedents of those officers listed opposite, or their regimental associations provided the flowers, sent messages of support, and were represented at the church service by Lt Colonel Thammy Evans.</p> <p>The regimental museums and archivists were an invaluable source of information and photographs.</p> <p>The British Ambassador to Switzerland, David Morgan attended.</p> <p>We remember all these officers, the many others of all ranks that followed, and those who helped and nursed them in their return to health and strength in Switzerland.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Paddy Jackson June 2016</p>