

JESUS COLLEGE OXFORD

JC:P230 LETTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHS SENT FROM THE FAMILIES OF JESUS COLLEGE MEMBERS KILLED IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR

These papers were found dispersed in the archives in the summer of 2016, but closer examination showed that they all belonged together. They form a discrete collection of letters, newspaper cuttings, ephemera, and photographs all relating to members of Jesus College who died during the First World War.

The letters show that the College regularly asked these men's families to send them photographs, but also to try to tie up their relatives' financial affairs, such as settling College bills or paying back caution money. Some of the letters also, inevitably, contain reflections from the families on the great losses which they have sustained. There are hints that the photographs were been intended to be displayed in the Junior Common Room; there is no evident interest shown in compiling a commemorative register, as was done at Magdalen, for example.

It is also not known how complete this collection might be, for it only contains papers on just over a quarter of the total number of Jesus members killed in the war. It is quite possible that similar papers on other war dead have not been preserved.

A few of the earliest letters are written to Sir John Rhÿs, who was Principal until late 1915. Quite a few letters are written to Alfred Hazel, but the majority of letters are addressed to Fred Sirman, the College Steward in 1893-1933 (On Sirman, who started work at the College in 1877, see further *Jesus College Magazine* Vol. IV no. 43 (June 1933), p. 206). The preservation of this collection, therefore, is most probably thanks to Sirman.

Catalogued in February 2020.

JC:P230/C1 – LETTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

These papers on each member of the College have been arranged alphabetically.

JC:P230/C1/1

13 Jul-20 Oct 1915

Papers on Harry William Thomas Armstrong (matr. 1911; died of wounds 14 Jul 1915). 1 letter to Hazel (written from the trenches by a Balliol friend of Armstrong), dated 13 Jul 1915, 2 letters to Sirman dated 5 and 20 Oct 1915, copies of letters from Armstrong's commanding offices, two printed cards with two poems by Armstrong, a memorial card prepared by his parents, and a photograph [8 items]

JC:P230/C1/2

12 Feb 1917

Papers on Walter Lanning Bradfield (matr. 1911; killed in action 5 Dec 1916). Letter (to Sirman), dated 12 Feb 1917 and a photograph [2 items].

JC:P230/C1/3

5 Oct 1915

Papers on Leonard Gosse Cooper (matr. 1911; killed in action 9 Aug 1915). Letter (to unnamed person at College), 5 Oct 1915 [1 item].

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- JC:P230/C1/4** **25 May 1915**
Papers on George Robert Murray Crofts (matr. 1911; killed in action 9 May 1915). 1 newspaper cutting, and letter to Rhys, dated 25 May 1915 [2 items].
- JC:P230/C1/5** **6 Oct 1915**
FcomPapers on Wilfrid Allen Joseph Davis (matr. 1913); killed in action 21 Apr 1915. 2 newspaper cuttings, letter to Sirman, dated 6 Oct 1915, two sets of copies of letters from Davis's commanding officers, and a photograph [6 items]
- JC:P230/C1/6** **9-16 Oct 1918**
Papers on Sidney Francis Dawes (accepted for matriculation 1915; killed in action 8 October 1918). Letter to Sirman, dated 16 Oct 1918, with copy of letter from Dawes's commanding officer, dated 9 Oct 1918 [2 items]
- JC:P230/C1/7** **12 Mar 1917**
Papers on Wilfred Ebery (matr. 1914; killed in action 14 Feb 1916). Letter (to unnamed person at College), 12 Mar 1917, and a photograph [2 items]
- JC:P230/C1/8** **23 Sep 1915**
Papers on James Tudor Edwards (matr. 1911; killed in action 13 Sep 1915). Letter (to the Bursar), dated 23 Sep 1915 [1 item].
- JC:P230/C1/9** **27 Jan-5 Feb 1916**
Papers on Ivan Roderick Gibbs (matr. 1910; killed in action 25 Sep 1915). 2 letters to unnamed addressee in College, dated 27 Jan and 5 Feb 1916, offprint of a tribute by D. L. Chapman (F. 1907-44) published in *The Transactions of the Chemical Society* Vol. 109 (1916), and a photograph [4 items]. There is some confusion about Gibbs's second name: in the College's Admissions Register, it is given as "Roderick", but Chapman's tribute to him gives it as "Richard."
- JC:P230/C1/10** **25 Jun 1915**
Papers on Francis James Hanby (matr. 1906; killed in action 30 June 1916). Letter to Sirman, dated 25 Jun 1915 [1 item]
- JC:P230/C1/11** **22 Jul 1915-25 May 1916**
Papers on Charles Piper Hazard (matr. 1907; killed in action 21/22 April 1916). Letter to Sirman, dated 22 Jul 1915, on Hazard's deployment from the Colonial Office to France, newspaper cutting, 1 letter to the Bursar and 2 to unnamed addressees in the College, dated 2 July 1915, and 12 and 25 May 1916, and photograph [6 items]
- JC:P230/C1/12** **16 Jun 1915**
Papers on Frank Helier Lawrence (matr. 1913; killed in action 9 May 1915). 1 letter from Lawrence's father to Sirman, dated 16 Jun 1915. The letter mentions Frank's brother T. E. Lawrence ("Lawrence of Arabia").

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JC:P230/C1/I3

17 Jun 1915

Papers on Ivor Morgan Lewis (matr. 1908; drowned on H.M.S. Goliath, 13 May 1915). Letter to Rhys, dated 17 Jun 1915, and a photograph with its original wrapper [3 items]

JC:P230/C1/I4

12 Nov-13 Dec 1915

Papers on Geoffrey Frederick John Reeves (matr. 1913; killed in action 5 June 1915). 2 letters (to Sirman), dated 12 Nov & 13 Dec 1915, an undated note from E. E. Genner (F. 1903-26), and a photograph [4 items]

JC:P230/C1/I5

29 Oct 1915-17 Feb 1916

Papers on Frederick John Roberts (matr. 1912; killed in action 27 Sep 1915). Card from the family, dated Oct 1915, two letters to Sirman, dated 21 Jan and 17 Feb 1916, a typed extract from *The Sphinx* (the magazine of Liverpool University) of 29 Oct 1915 with an obituary for Roberts, and a photograph [5 items]

JC:P230/C1/I6

28 Dec 1915-27 Jan 1916

Papers on Horace Arthur Seel (matr. 1914; killed in action 7 Dec 1915). 1 letter each to the Bursar and to Sirman, dated 28 Dec 1915 & 27 Jan 1916, and a photograph with its original wrapper [4 items]

JC:P230/C1/I7

16 Jan 1915-28 Jan 1916

Papers on Anson Lloyd Silvester (matr. 1908; killed in action 31 Dec 1914). 1 newspaper cutting, 1 copy of *The Church of England Pulpit and Ecclesiastical Review*, dated 16 Jan 1915, 2 copies of a card from the family, dated January 1915, 1 letter to Sirman from Silvester's brother James Mostyn Silvester (matr. 1910), enclosing a photograph, dated 5 Apr 1915, 1 letter to Sirman from Silvester's mother, dated 28 Jan 1916, and a booklet containing a short biography of Silvester written by his father [8 items]

JC:P230/C1/I8

23 June 1915-21 Nov 1916

Papers on Edward Lawrence Sprunt (matr. 1912; killed in action 17 June 1915). 10 letters (one to Rhys, 4 to Hazel and 5 to Sirman), three newspaper cuttings, and a photograph, dated 23 June 1915-21 Nov 1916 [14 items]

JC:P230/NI – PROOF ANNOUNCEMENTS OF DEATH

JC:P230/NI/I-3

Sep 1915-Oct 1916

Three proofs of announcements of men killed in the First World War, probably intended for the *Oxford Magazine*, as follows:

NI/1: Alexander George Jermyn Alderson (matr. 1899); killed in action 19 Oct 1916.

NI/2: Frank Cecil Allen (accepted for matriculation in 1915); killed in action 29 Sep 1915.

NI/3: John Harold Ryle Jones (matr. 1906); killed 4 July 1916; and Allan James Spencer Simmance (matr. 1913); killed in action 18 Aug 1916.

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JC:P230/MSI – NOTES ON THE WAR DEAD OF JESUS COLLEGE

JC:P230/MSI/I-10

1915-1917

A collection of MS notes on members of Jesus College, some of them perhaps intended as drafts for obituaries in the *Oxford Magazine*, as follows:

MSI/1: *Clifford Hicks Butler (matr. 1900); killed in action 23 Apr 1917.

MSI/2: David Christopher Parry Davies (matr. 1908); killed 15 May 1916.

MSI/3: Wilfrid Allen Joseph Davis (matr. 1913); killed in action 21 Apr 1915.

MSI/4: Charles Piper Hazard (matr. 1907); killed in action 21/22 April 1916.

MSI/5: Noel Dyke Morris (matr. 1913); died of wounds 12 May 1916 (this note says he died on 11 May, but the *Oxford University Roll of Service* says that he died on 12 May)

MSI/6: Horace Arthur Seel (matr. 1914); killed in action 7 Dec 1915.

MSI/7: George Robert Murray Crofts (matr. 1911); killed in action 9 May 1915; and Ivor Morgan Lewis (matr. 1908); drowned on H.M.S. Goliath, 13 May 1915.

MSI/8: *A separate note on Ivor Lewis.

MSI/9: List of 22 members of Jesus College reported as killed or missing between July 1916 and November 1917, arranged in chronological order of death.

MSI/10: List of members of Jesus College killed in the war, titled "Entered in minute book" (the relevant volume of Governing Body minutes).

All these notes, apart from the ones asterisked, are written in the same hand. Comparison with examples of this hand elsewhere suggest that the hand is Fred Sirman's rather than Alfred Hazel's.

JC:P230/XI – ORDERS OF SERVICE FOR THE FUNERAL OF SIR JOHN RHYS

JC:P230/XI/I-3

23 Dec 1915

Three copies of the order of service for the funeral of Sir John Rhys. Each copy contains two little sheets giving instructions for the order of the procession leaving after the service.