

## **Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies**

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HERTFORDSHIRE RECORD OFFICE

**D/EX789**

Papers of Lady Desborough, including letters from members of the Royal Family, Winston Churchill, Oscar Wilde, Henry James and Rex Whistler; papers of or relating to Julian Grenfell, including his diary, 1915, with holograph of his poem *Into Battle*; final typescript copy and draft of *Our Conventionalism*; holograph sketches and verses and other letters and papers deposited in the Record Office on indefinite loan by Lady Ravensdale in May 1986, and purchased by the Record Office in 1994.

[Accession 2193]

Catalogue completed  
May 1993  
EG

FAMILY PAPERSGrenfell Family - General

- |   |   |                |
|---|---|----------------|
| D/EX789/F1  | Photograph of a memorial tablet commemorating the deaths in action of the Honourable Julian Henry Francis Grenfell D.S.O. (died 1915) and the Honourable Gerald William Grenfell (died 1915), the sons of the first Baron Desborough, and Francis Octavius Grenfell (died 1915), Riversdale Nonus Grenfell (died 1914), Robert Septimus Grenfell (killed at Omdurman, 1898), Pascoe St Leger Grenfell (killed in Matabele War, 1896) and Reginald du Pre Grenfell (died of fever in India, 1888) sons of Pascoe du Pre Grenfell | nd [20th cent] |
| D/EX789/F2  | Illuminated poem commemorating the deaths of Julian Grenfell, Gerald William Grenfell and Auberon Thomas Herbert ("Bron", 1876-1916)  | 1916           |
| D/EX789/F3  | Letter and two telegrams written to Lady Desborough (then Mrs Grenfell) about Julian's and Gerald ("Billy")'s success at Eton   | 1904           |
| D/EX789/F4  | Letter written by Frank Ashton Gwarkin to Christabel [surname unknown] about the Grenfell family when he saw them at Eton   | 1947           |
| <p><u>Lady Desborough</u><br/>         [Formerly Ethel ["Ettie"] Priscilla Fane, she married William Grenfell in 1887. He was created Baron Desborough in 1905]</p> |   |                |
| D/EX789/F5  | Menu card for dinner, with a hand-painted figure on the outside and "Mrs Grenfell" inscribed on it  | 29 Jul 1890    |
| D/EX789/F6  | Leaflet concerning the death of Francis Warre Cornish in India in 1901. [He shot himself either by accident or in the throes of fever]  | 1901           |

FAMILY PAPERSJulian Grenfell

[Eldest son of William Grenfell and Ethel ("Ettie" nee Fane). He died of wounds in Belgium in 1915]

D/EX789/F7-8	Final typescript, copy and draft of <i>On Conventionalism</i> , by Julian Grenfell	1909 - 1910
D/EX789/F9	Typescript copy of a pantomime with manuscript drawings probably by Julian Grenfell	nd [19th cent]
D/EX789/F10-11	Letter with sketches written by Julian Grenfell to his mother whilst he was at Oxford University	1909
D/EX789/F12-13	Christmas cards received by Julian Grenfell	nd [19th cent]
D/EX789/F14	Eleven sketches made by Julian Grenfell [Original bundle]	nd 1897 - [1915], nd
D/EX789/F15	Thirteen items including letters, sketches and poems compiled by Julian Grenfell whilst he was in South Africa [Original bundle]	nd [c1911]
D/EX789/F16	Twenty-six copies of a photograph of Julian Grenfell in uniform in France [Original bundle]	1914
D/EX789/F17	Seventeen copies of a photograph of Julian Grenfell sitting on a beach. [It appears that there may have been someone or something sitting next to Julian which has been removed]	nd
	[Items D/EX789/F18-25 were said to be in Julian Grenfell's pocket when he was wounded in Belgium in 1915]	
D/EX789/F18	Photograph of Julian Grenfell on horseback	nd

FAMILY PAPERSJulian Grenfell (cont)

D/EX789/F19	Photograph of an unidentified lady on a horse, probably taken in South Africa	nd [early 20th cent]
D/EX789/F20	Photograph inscribed "A un brave Anglais. Peggy. 20.4.15. Souvenir" and a letter from Peggy to Julian	1915
D/EX789/F21	Typescript copy of George Meredith's poem <i>O, Mother Earth</i>	nd [c1915] 2 items
D/EX789/F22	Julian Grenfell's copy of the map of Belgium [the map is heavily blood stained]	1915
D/EX789/F23	Julian Grenfell's diary for 1915 with loose items inside relating to the daily running of his unit. [Including a holograph of his poem <i>Into Battle</i> , a photograph of himself and four friends in the trenches and a photograph of his grave]	1915
D/EX789/F24	Travel chess set in a leather case	nd [c1915]
D/EX789/F25	Leather purse given to Julian Grenfell by a member of his family in Boulogne	1915
D/EX789/F26	Certificate issued by the War Office stating that Julian Grenfell had been mentioned in despatches on 14 January 1915	1 Mar 1919
D/EX789/F27	Certificate appointing Julian Grenfell to the Distinguished Service Order	27 Dec 1914
D/EX789/F28	Pamphlet laying down the statutes of the Distinguished Service Order	nd [early 20th cent]

FAMILY PAPERSJulian Grenfell (cont)

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|----------------|---|------------|
| D/EX789/F29    | Sonnet written by William M Hardinge called <i>Out of Battle</i> to commemorate the death of Julian Grenfell                                      | nd [c1915] |
| D/EX789/F30    | Letter from "Alan" containing Julian's identity disc which he had found in a trench   | 1916       |
| D/EX789/F31-32 | Typewritten extracts from testimonials written about Julian after his death by Colonel Machlocklin and Professor Walter Raleigh                   | nd [c1916] |
| D/EX789/F33    | Eleven copies of a leaflet compiled to commemorate Julian Grenfell's death, including a copy of <i>Into Battle</i> and extract from a testimonial | 1915       |
| D/EX789/F34    | <i>Les Soldats - Poetes de l'Angleterre, Poemes de Rupert Brooke, Julian Grenfell et Siegfried Sassoon.</i>                                       | 1919       |
| D/EX789/F35    | Photocopied extract from the <i>Dictionary of National Biography</i> concerning Julian Grenfell   | nd         |

Gerald William Grenfell ("Billy")

[Second son of William and Ethel Grenfell. He was killed in action in 1915.]

- |             |  |            |
|-------------|--|------------|
| D/EX789/F36 | Sketch drawn for "Billy" by Arthur Balfour   | 1898       |
| D/EX789/F37 | Lady's handkerchief together with note stating that it was in Billy's pocket when he was killed at Hooze in 1915 | nd [c1915] |

FAMILY PAPERSLady Adine Fane

[Formerly Lady Adine Cowper, married Julian Henry Charles Fane in 1866. She was mother of Ethel Priscilla Fane (later Mrs Grenfell and Lady Desborough). She died in 1868]

D/EX789/F38	Memorandum book of Lady Adine Cowper containing verse, stories and autobiography written at Wrest Park and on the continent	1860 - 1864
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CORRESPONDENCELady Adine Fane (cont)

D/EX789/C1-5	Letters from Oscar Wilde to Lady Desborough concerning personal matters. [Oscar Wilde became a friend of Lady Desborough in 1891]	1891 - 1892
D/EX789/C6-14	Letters from Winston Churchill to Lady Desborough about the death of Auberon ("Bron") Herbert, the illness of his mother, the deaths of Julian and Billy Grenfell, politics, the death of Lord Desborough and the death of Ivo Grenfell	1915 - 1945
D/EX789/C15	Letter of sympathy from Winston Churchill to Monica, Lady Salmond on the death of her mother, Lady Desborough	1952
D/EX789/C16	Letter from Henry James to Evan Charteris concerning the death of Julian Grenfell	May 1915
D/EX789/C17	Letter of sympathy from Henry James to Lady Desborough concerning Julian's death. [Lady Desborough knew Henry James through Evan Charteris]	1915

CORRESPONDENCE

D/EX789/C18-29	Letters from Lord Kitchener to Lady Desborough, mostly concerning personal matters and invitations and including a letter of sympathy concerning Julian's death	1902 - 1915
D/EX789/C30-31	Letters from Lord Kitchener to Lord Desborough concerning personal matters	1905 - 1906
D/EX789/C32	Letter from Lord Kitchener to Julian Grenfell about a gift [Lord Kitchener was a friend of the family and often at Taplow]	1902
	[Items D/EX789/C33-71 form one original bundle]	
D/EX789/C33	Letter from Lord Kitchener to Lady Desborough concerning his new house	nd
D/EX789/C34-38	Letters from Rex Whistler to Lady Desborough concerning visits to Panshanger and other invitations. [On hand-decorated paper]	nd [early 20th cent]
D/EX789/C39	Letter from Basil Blackwood to Lady Desborough thanking her for an invitation to Taplow. With holograph drawings	nd
D/EX789/C40	Letter from H G Wells to Lady Desborough thanking her for a weekend at Taplow	nd [c1912]
D/EX789/C41	Letter of condolence from Harry Legge to Lady Desborough concerning Julian Grenfell's death	1915
D/EX789/C42-44	Letters from John Morley to Lady Desborough about personal matters. [John Morley was a life-long friend of Lady Desborough]	1892 - 1910

CORRESPONDENCE

D/EX789/C45	Letter of condolence concerning Julian Grenfell's death from Pamela Bulwer Lytton, Countess Lytton, to Lady Desborough	1915
D/EX789/C46-47	Letters concerning personal matters from Marjorie Paget, Countess of Anglesey, to Lady Desborough	nd [pre-1915]
D/EX789/C48-51	Letters from Sir Alan Frederick Lascelles (known as Tommy) to Lady Desborough, principally about Julian's entry in the <i>Dictionary of National Biography</i> [He was Julian's contemporary at Oxford]	1926 - 1942
D/EX789/C52-53	Letters from Sir Alan Frederick Lascelles to Monica, Lady Salmond about her brother Julian Grenfell	1963
D/EX789/C54	Letter from Mabel Williams thanking Lady Desborough for her letter of condolence	nd [20th cent]
D/EX789/C55-56	Letters from B Jowett to Lord and Lady Desborough concerning personal matters	1891
D/EX789/C57-59	Letter and sketch from "C" to Lady Desborough	nd [19th cent]
D/EX789/C60	Letter of condolence concerning Billy Grenfell's death from "Raymond" to Lady Desborough	1915 •
D/EX789/C61-66	Unsigned letters or letters with illegible signatures addressed to Lady Desborough about personal matters	nd [?19th cent]
D/EX789/C67	Unsigned letter to Monica, Lady Salmond [Lady Desborough's daughter] concerning personal matters	nd [20th cent]

CORRESPONDENCE

D/EX789/C68	Letter to Monica, Lady Salmond from Eton [probably from Julian or Billy Grenfell]	1906
D/EX789/C69	Letter Austen Chamberlain to Ivo Grenfell concerning personal matters	1904
D/EX789/C70-71	Letter and sketch from unknown [attribution illegible] to Evan Charteris	nd [19th cent]
D/EX789/C72-80	Letters and telegrams from Queen Alexandra [Wife of King Edward VII] to Lady Desborough about personal matters [Some of the letters are signed also by Queen Alexandra's children]	1904 - 1924
D/EX789/C81-83	Letters from King George V to Lady Desborough answering a letter of condolence concerning the death of his father and discussing the political crisis of 1931	1899 - 1931
D/EX789/C84-134	Letters from Queen Mary [Wife of George V] concerning Lady Desborough's duties as Lady-in-Waiting and personal matters with one to Monica, Lady Salmond, about her mother's death [Lady Desborough was Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Mary from 1911]	1908 - 1952
D/EX789/C135-141	Letters from Queen Elizabeth [Wife of King George VI] to Lady Desborough concerning the death of her father and other personal matters	1936 - 1949
D/EX789/C142-157	Letters from Prince Edward, Duke of Windsor [King Edward VIII] to Lady Desborough concerning personal matters including information relating to overcoming speech impediments and	1905 - 1937 (cont)

CORRESPONDENCE

D/EX789/C142-157 (cont)	letters concerning his abdication and marriage to Mrs Simpson	
D/EX789/C158-160	Letters from Princess Elizabeth to Lady Desborough thanking her for gifts on her birthday and engagement and announcing the birth of Princess Anne	1944 - 1950
D/EX789/C161-167	Letters from the Duke and Duchess of Kent to Lady Desborough concerning personal matters	1939 - 1943
D/EX789/C168-169	Christmas card and telegram from King Alfonso of Spain to Lord and Lady Desborough (concerning Julian Grenfell's death)	1907; 1915
D/EX789/C170-173	Telegrams from Princess Victoria, King George V and Princess Louise thanking Lady Desborough for her expressions of sympathy on the death of their mother Queen Alexandra	1925
D/EX789/C174-175	Two letters from a member of the Royal household concerning Lord Desborough's appointment as Knight Commander of the Victorian Order (K.C.V.O.)	1908

MISCELLANEOUS

D/EX789/Z1	Miscellaneous verses stated on the envelope to be possibly by Byron [Original bundle]	nd [19th cent]
D/EX789/Z2	Instructions concerning which train to catch at Paddington for Taplow	nd [19th cent]
D/EX789/Z3	Piece of an "anonymous" bouquet with note saying that it had been sent in 1885	1885

MISCELLANEOUS

D/EX789/Z4

Photocopy of a schedule of the papers of  
William Henry Grenfell, Lord Desborough

1970

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date:

SCHEDULE

Papers of or relating to Julian Grenfell:

On Conventionalism by Julian Grenfell, final typescript copy and draft

2 1909-10

Appointment of Julian as Member of the Distinguished Service Order

1 1914

Julian's diary, 1915, letters from and to him, his identity disc, bloodstained map of Belgium, verses and sketches by him, and other papers \*

Papers mainly of Lady Desborough:

Letters to Lady Desborough from Queen Mary, Duke of Windsor (mainly when Prince of Wales) H M the Queen (when Princess Elizabeth), Queen Alexandra, Duke and Duchess of Kent, and other members of the Royal Family

2 vols c1911-c1950

Letters from Winston Churchill [one to Lady Salmond]

10 1915-1952

Letters from Oscar Wilde

5 1891-1892 & nd

\* includes holograph of "Into Battle" (in diary)

continued ....

Lady Ravensdale

24 March 1986

Letters from various correspondents, including  
H G Wells (1), Rex Whistler (5), T Lascelles (5),  
Harry Legge (1), Henry James (2), Marjorie Paget,  
Marchioness of Anglesey (2), Pamela Suker-Lytton,  
Countess of Lytton (1), John Morley (3)

1 bdl

Verses [stated to be possibly by Byron]

1 pkt

Miscellaneous sketches and other papers

Grant of site and manor of Taplow, Bucks, to  
Henry Guldeford, knight

1614

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1987