

Raymond Henry Peel Reiss

Hermitage Hall, Holmes Chapel

Returned – Helped Keep Churchill out of trouble



Raymond Reiss (1895-1985) – (left) in uniform, and (right) playing golf with his cousin Kenneth Hogg

His Story

Raymond Reiss was born 6th November 1895, the fourth child of Henry and Constance Reiss of the Hermitage. He was a boarder at St David's Preparatory School, and then at Charterhouse School, Godalming, where he was a classmate of the poet Robert Graves, author of *Goodbye to all that*.

He left school in the summer of 1914 intending to study Classics at New College, Oxford, but the war intervened.

After the war he worked for the family firm, briefly in Shanghai, China, where he married Isobel Clark. They had two children, Robin and Martin.

He eventually took up his place at Oxford in the 1930's, getting an M.A. in history before becoming a schoolmaster in Kent. He died aged 90 at Tonbridge.

His War Record

Whilst at school he was in the Officer Training Corps and so on joining up was soon made a junior officer.

A chance encounter with a Colonel at Epsom railway station led him to a commission in an Irish regiment – 4th Battalion Leinsters – with whom he served on garrison duties in Ireland and then on the Western Front, where it is thought that he was wounded.

At one point whilst on the Western Front he was ordered to take the visiting Winston Churchill on a tour of the front-line trenches. He always remembered telling Churchill to duck at a known danger point - just as a bullet whistled over!

Later as a Captain, he was sent to the Egyptian / Palestine front in the campaign against the Ottoman Empire; at the end of the war in 1918 he helped take the surrender of a Turkish unit using French as the *lingua franca*.