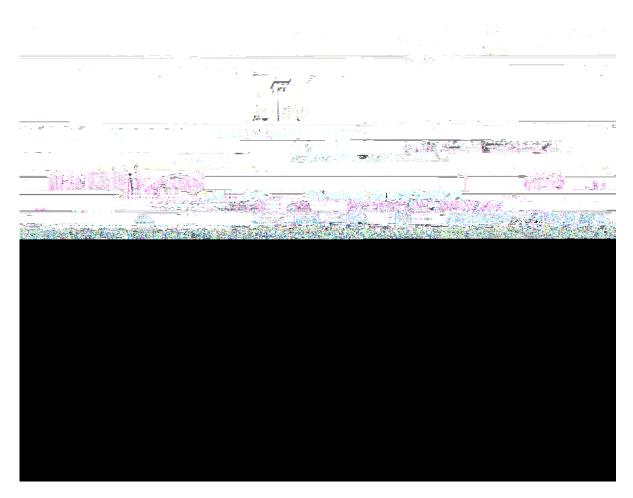
mother of an Oxford man crowing a serving New College undergraduate danger to our

, in response to which the mother of



Front Quad, ε . 1910 New College Archives, Oxford, NCA LIB/ J 17/ 7

PRINCE WOLRAD-FRIEDRICH ZU WALDECK-PYRMONT

His Serene Highness Prince Wolrad Friedrich Adolf Wilhelm Albert zu Waldeck-Pyrmont was born on 26 June 1892 into the princely family ruling Waldeck, a small German principality of 1,121 square kilometres and under 60,000 inhabitants. He grew up at the beautiful ancestral palace in Arolsen, the capital of the principality, and was educated at Kassel Gymnasium, the alma mater of Wilhelm II, along with spells at Grenoble, Oxford, and Heidelberg. He was remembered as a headstrong but pious child, who was fond of singing the Morgenlied, including its final poignant

Prince Wolrad arrived in Oxford at the age of seventeen years and nine months, and only spent Easter and Trinity term 1910 here, and was a member of New College, though it is not clear

of the Wilhelmine ruling elite spending a single semester at Heidelberg.²³ No evidence survives of what he studied or if he studied and like the other two men on the memorial, he does not seem to have ever taken any examinations, something that cannot have improved the reputation

²⁰ Almanach de Gotha: annuaire généalogique, diplomatique et statistique, 1910 (Gotha: Justus Perthes, 1910), 527.

²² New College Archives, Oxford, NCA JCR/ R/ Waldeck-Pyrmont, Gedächtnisrede am Sarge des bei Lille gefallenen Prinzen Wolrad und Pyrmont.

²³ Weber, Our Friend, p. 31.

conduct between the two sides, including the execution of wounded French prisoners. In midautumn, the German Fourth and Sixth Armies, including the 25th Brigade of the 3rd Cavalry division—the wartime parent formations of the 23rd Dragoons—attacked the strategic town of Ypres. It was likely in a probing operation preparing for the offensive that three days beforehand, on 17 October 1914, Prince Wolrad was killed outside Moorslede, apparently while trying to rescue his orderly. He was twenty-two. The ensuing German offensive was notable for including a significant proportion of wartime volunteers on both sides: five days later, the nearby town of Langemarck would witness the infamous slaughter of the German students who had joined the army in the wave of patriotism at the outbreak of war.

Neues Schloss in Arolsen on the have

³⁹ King George V reportedly telegraphed to express condolences.⁴⁰ In his address to the

d that his sæcrifice would remain a credit to his house, comparing his death with that of his great-grandfather, killed in the Napoleonic Wars almost exactly a century earlier.⁴¹ By late 1915, ten members of German princely families had been killed in the war.⁴²

Prussia, a Times

A young Prince Wolrad with his mother Black and white photograph, ARV708049 © Arkivi UG All Rights Reserved / Bridgeman Images

3 (3) (1 December 1915).

37 Hermann Cron,

³⁶ New York Times

The German War Memorial

Prince Wolrad in uniform as a lieutenant of the 23rd Dragoons⁴⁴
Black and white photograph, ARV704917
© Arkivi UG All Rights Reserved / Bridgeman Images

Another poignant memorial to Price

Wilhelm was apparently taken to the French naval hospital at Rochefort sur Mer, where he died of his wounds on 19 November, and was buried in a nearby communal German cemetery. He was twenty-seven. His name appears on a family memorial in Potsdam, also listing Adolf von Sell, an officer of the 5th Naval Infantry Regiment, killed at Ypres in 1915, and Fritz von Sell, lost on the SMS Breslau in the Dardanelles in 1918. In 1930, a photograph of the Rhodes memorial panel was sent to the von Sell family house on Bismarskstrasse, Potsdam, where his mother still lived. Potsdam is the property of the Rhodes memorial panel was sent to the von Sell family house on Bismarskstrasse, Potsdam, where his mother still lived.

ERWIN BEIT VON SPEYER

Erwin Eduard Beit von Speyer was born on 8 September 1893 to Eduard Beit and Hannah Louise Speyer. He was a junior member of the Speyer family, a cosmopolitan German Jewish banking family, along with the equally influential Beit family who gave their name to Beitbridge in modern-day Zimbabwe. Eduard was a Prussian banker and holder of a variety of local honorary

Goethe Gymnasium there.60

Office.61

It was perhaps in this context

that Erwin

matriculated as a member of the university and of New College in April 1912, and appears to have stayed until Hilary term 1913.⁶² To an even greater extent than the other two men, evidence of his time in Oxford has proved elusive, though he lived in college, and like most German students of the time, his name is conspicuously absent from contributions to the Union or other student societies.⁶³

Like men of his background across Europe in July 1914, Erwin would no doubt have shared the experience of debating the likelihood of war, while panic-buying field-glasses and map ... wherever one

⁶⁴ At some point, Erwin joined the army almost

certainly as a volunteer on the outbreak of war, rather than a national serviceman. Detailed information on his service has proved elusive but he reportedly served as a non-commissioned not

a reserve regiment of the same number. The 7th was detached from its peacetime formation on mobilisation and assigned to the 42nd division, which crossed the Lorraine frontier in August under the army command of Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria, and by 24 infantry regiments had been reduced from 3,500 to 1,

would have similarly suffered. 65 On 18 September the division was entrained and sent north to Cambrai, the southern edge of the hotly contested sector along the Somme in

that would precede the hardening of trench warfare by the end of 1914. They were on the Somme on 24 September and it was near t