

The COBBOLD Family History Trust

14 Moorfields, Moorhaven, Ivybridge
Devon, PL21 0XQ, UK

Tel: + 44 (0) 1752 894498

Patron: Lord Cobbold DL
Ivry, Lady Freyberg

www.cobboldfht.com
Anthony@cobboldfht.com

JOHN MURRAY (IVAN) COBBOLD (1897-1944)

Jul 2010

The sixth John Cobbold (who kept the nickname 'Ivan' all his life, allegedly because he was a terrible baby,) followed his father to Eton. Much was expected of him as his father, John Dupuis was a Rackets Champion having won both the singles and doubles competitions and gone on to win for Eton the Public Schools Challenge Cup. John Murray was Keeper of the Rackets, like his father and played for the Eton Cricket XI in 1915. When he should have followed his father again, to Trinity College, Cambridge, he was instead, commissioned into the Scots Guards and spent two years in France, finishing the War with slight injuries and the rank of Captain.



He joined the family brewing business and in 1919 married Lady Blanche Cavendish, second daughter of the 9th Duke of Devonshire. On Monday July 30th 1923 Cobbold & Co celebrated the Bi-centenary of the Cliff brewery with a huge party for all employees at Holy Wells Park.

John Murray (Ivan) Cobbold (1897-1944).

The menu included roast beef, salt beef, Suffolk ham, steak and kidney pie, ox tongue, pressed beef, galantine of veal and salads. The same year Capt. Ivan purchased Glemham Hall and set up his family home. In addition to the brewery and of course, his family, he had two great passions in the 1930s; Ipswich Town Football Club and Shooting.



His two sons display the FA Cup won by Ipswich Town FC in 1978.

Following a chance meeting with Sir Samuel Hill-Wood, Chairman of Arsenal and a visit to Highbury, he put up the money for Ipswich Town Football Club to turn professional which it did in 1936 and he became the Club's first Chairman. The family has continued a very close association with the club for some decades but ironically Capt. Ivan did not live to see his fledgling club find the up-draughts which took it to the heights of FA and UEFA supremacy.

It is clear that everything he did, he did well. Nowhere is this more evident than in his sporting shooting and the management of his sporting properties in Scotland. Country Life in 1935 said 'he is himself known as one of the finest shots and at Millden (Forfarshire) offers his guests some of the best grouse shooting in Scotland' It was here that he entertained both King George VI and Neville Chamberlain. The article goes on to explain the hugely beneficial effect of good management practices, particularly that of burning the heather in sequential patches, and the value of his indispensable Head-Keeper, George Crocket. It was at Rannoch, however, that Capt Ivan killed two Woodcock with a single shot, a feat only achieved a couple of dozen times in British history.



At Millden in 1935 with (L-R) Pamela Maud (1920-1994); John Cavendish (1927- 1983) and Lady Blanche (1898-1987).



Reduced to rubble:
The Guards' Chapel in 1944

He was back in uniform with the rank of Colonel and Commanding the Scots Guards when tragedy struck on Sunday 18th June 1944; not as one might have expected in the front line, (it was only 12 days after the Normandy landings) but at morning service in the Guards' Chapel in Birdcage Walk. This was where he had been married 25 years previously (they had celebrated their Silver Wedding very recently) and this is where he had invited General Bedell Smith, Eisenhower's Chief of Staff, to worship with him but the invitation had been declined as he was too busy.

They had all been Salmon fishing together some while previously but even the special nature of the Sunday service had not persuaded him. The flying bomb fell and 200 were killed or injured. Bedell Smith escaped and Ivan died alone.