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Ely & Kissell 1918 Jan 18

During the war period as at other times there was a succession of ~~people~~ visitors solicited and unsolicited all of them made to feel the warmth of welcome so many are familiar with. But these contacts at this time often led to pain and sorrow. Two young Americans Ely ~~and~~ a Rochester boy and Kissel from New York trained aviators were sent over to England. Kissels mother a friend of Lady Osler of course gave her boy a letter of introduction. Or chance would have it Kissel was sent to Salisbury Plains and Ely to the Port Meadow Field ~~at~~ near Oxford. ~~Ely~~ Kissel gave his note of introduction to his friend and one cold wet Sunday morning soon after he presented it and was made to stay to dinner. ¶ After dinner the ~~The~~ household went about their business as usual ~~afternoon~~ and the boy was made comfortable in the library where he could look at books & write a letter home. He when Sir William came in he soon ~~to~~ found he came from Rochester ~~to~~ and that his father was a doctor and what is more told the boy of he was Dr Ely's son he must have seen him a baby in his crib for once in Rochester ~~to~~ on a consultation with his father he had been taken to the nursery to see a new arrival.

Stayed on to tea – and on to supper where there were many others though Sir William was at Christ Church and ~~and left~~ late in the evening after W.O.s return with a pat on his back, he left for his aerodrome probably having had one of the eventful days of his life. On the next wednesday some young american officers friends of these two met at the Officers Club. ~~at from which~~ They telephoned to Oxford to see if Ely could get off and come down for dinner. They were told Ely had been killed in a flight that afternoon ~~the day before~~. One of them a nephew of Lady Osler ~~[illegible]~~ called on her at Browns that evening and ~~said~~ during the conversation happened to mention that one of his great friends a flying man named Ely had just crashed & been killed ~~the day before~~. Lady Osler left immediately for Oxford attended the funeral the next morning, wrote the boys mother fully and has since looked after the grave, ~~and is still doing so for the matter of that~~. Two days later Kissel flew over from Salisbury to Oxford to call on Ely. Stocked at the news which met him on his landing he did what every one did who could & knew – he went to 13 Northam Gardens and spent most of the day and got his balance. Kissel was killed shortly after in France.