



22/08

**A GRINDELWALD-
BELVEDERE STORY**

A chronicle of coincidences

A GRINDELWALD- BELVEDERE STORY

JAMES G. RUDDOCK-BROYD

**A chronicle of Ruddock events
centred on the 22nd August.**

And, coincidentally, a centenary
of Hotelier Hausers.

A GRINDELWALD-BELVEDERE STORY

First published in 2020
Limited edition of 30 copies

Copyright © 2020
James G. Ruddock-Broyd.

With Special thanks to David Ruddock,
Carole Hauser and family.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying or otherwise, without the prior permission of the author, except by reviewers, who may quote brief passages in a review.

DESIGNED BY CHRIS KEEBLE, KEEBLE+HALL
+44 (0)7850 183677

PRINTED ON FSC MIX CREDIT CERTIFIED PAPERS.
WOOD AND WOOD-BASED MATERIALS
CONTAINED IN THESE PRODUCTS ARE FROM
LEGAL AND SUSTAINABLY MANAGED SOURCES.



INTRODUCTION

A GRINDELWALD – BELVEDERE STORY

My parents met on 22th August 1928 in Grindelwald – unusual place perhaps, but both families loved the more elementary kind of mountaineering.

Grindelwald is at the end of a railway line in the Swiss Bernese Oberland so not an easy place to call in on. It is mostly visited by serious mountain climbers but I wanted to see the place Mother and Father met.
This was finally arranged exactly 91 years after the historic event.

My Mother kept a Chronicle for many years which she started in 1921, so I am indebted to her for recording the early half of this little family story. I seem to have inherited her writing enthusiasm as I have kept a regular diary, which began a few days before VE Day on 8th May 1945, at age 10.

I have studied WWII for the last 25 years – the reason for including the most famous General of the Allies in this story.

When my wife Christine and I visited the ‘sacred’ Belvedere Hotel on 22 August 2019 we were amazed to find the same family running the hotel which their ancestors built in 1907. Sylvia Hauser and family were so enthralled at hearing my tale I was persuaded to put together this story.

I am hugely indebted to my friend Chris Keeble for advice on the layout, general input and designing of this document, which I hope both families and their friends will enjoy reading.


.....
JAMES G. RUDDOCK-BROYD

1928-1935

THE EARLY YEARS

Percy David Tempest – my grandfather – was a Shorthand Writer with George Moore & Sons of 38 Parliament Street, (now numbered '2') in Westminster, London, and was a reporter at The League of Nations in Geneva in 1920. He had left his Father's firm in Leeds in 1915 and whilst in London in 1916 he joined The Honourable Artillery Company. He was in the Great War in France for 2 years, partly in the HQ of Field Marshal Earl Haig, as Percy was fluent in nine languages.

In 1905 he married Katherine Elizabeth Yeadon of Leeds whose family ran a Briquette business. Her two brothers, Arthur and Nield, captained Headingley RUFC from 1898 to 1906 and they took Katherine to Twickenham on many occasions.

Percy and Katherine's sole surviving child was Barbara Elinor who was born in 1908 and worked as a typist with the

London County Council in County Hall – on the South Bank by Westminster Bridge. The family loved mountaineering of a not too serious nature.

In August 1928 Barbara and her parents spent a week in the Swiss Alpine village of Wengen, moving to Grindelwald on 18th August and stayed at the Belvedere Hotel.



The hotel was built in 1907 by the Hauser family and managed by Johann and Rosa Hauser-Marti for 49 years until 1956. During WWII it had been used as a hospital by the Swiss military.



THE HOTEL BELVEDERE DWARFED BY THE EIGER. FROM A 1920s POSTCARD.



A 1920s ILLUSTRATION
DEPICTING HOTEL
BELVEDERE GUESTS SKATING
ON THE PRIVATE ICE RINK.

Grindelwald is situated at the end of the railway line from Interlaken and is a much favoured resort for mountaineering and skiing. In the 1920s all hotels in the town had their own private ice rink and the Belvedere's remained in use until about the 1950s.

My mother Barbara kept *A Chronicle of Our Time* on Foolschap paper and bound in a loose-leaf black binder, from which much of my early information is taken; the first chronicle covers the years 1921 to 1933.

On 22 August 1928 the three Tempests set off walking to the Upper Grindelwald Glacier; Katherine stayed behind in the *Viktoriaplatz* rest chalet while Barbara and PDT went on and were roped next to the Guide with seven other climbers.



CLIMBING PARTY ON THE
UPPER GRINDELWALD GLACIER

FROM RIGHT:
GUIDE, BARBARA, PERCY, AND
SEVEN OTHERS.

Later on 22nd August 1928, the Chronicle records: "In the evening we played 'Hearts' with Jean Sanders, Margaret, Miss Savill, Mr Ruddock and we three." On 25th August at Interlaken it records: "We waved goodbye to ..., Mr Ruddock and the rest who were going on to Zermatt."

Barbara and her parents went on to Berne on National Fete Day with the Swiss in national costume representing every Canton; one group went to see the Bear Pits. At 10.30pm they boarded what they thought was the Milan Express but it terminated at Bellefort on the Swiss Border when all passengers had to alight and cross the railway lines carrying their bags. They departed from there at 2.30am and then slept until 7.30am, arriving in Paris at 9.00am.

Mr Grevile Ruddock was the youngest of three sons born to Frederick Grevile Ruddock, a chemist working for Brunner Mond in Warrington, which later formed the backbone of Imperial Chemical Industries. Grevile first visited the Tempests' home in Muswell Hill, North London on 12th January 1929, then again on 3rd March – and on 9th April he helped them move from Wilton Road to Kings Avenue.

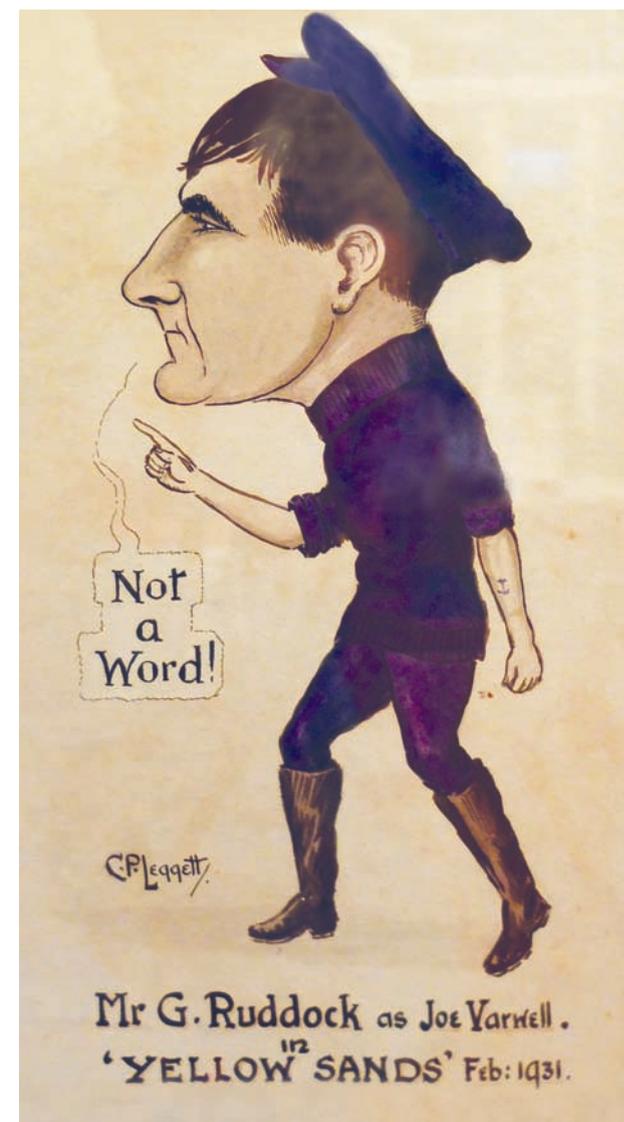
Grevile attended Barbara's 21st birthday on 10th June 1929. There then followed many meetings and visits to the theatre – and later at Sudbury they both acted in the Amateur Dramatic Society – before and after WWII. The family engagement party was on 9th May 1931. The weekend before Grevile

and Barbara had attended Morning Service at St Paul's Cathedral, visited the National Gallery, the Tatler Theatre, Lyons Corner House and the Coliseum.

In 1930 Grevile was moved by Westminster Bank from Hemel Hempstead to Sudbury, Suffolk. In February 1931 he acted in 'Yellow Sands' which was the first of many of his amateur dramatics in the town. Barbara and Grevile married at St James' Church, Muswell Hill on 14th October 1933.



ABOVE: ST JAMES' CHURCH, MUSWELL HILL, NORTH LONDON, WAS THE VENUE FOR BARBARA AND GREVILE'S MARRIAGE CEREMONY IN 1933



ABOVE: A CHARICATURE OF GREVILE IN THE PLAY 'YELLOW SANDS, 1931.

On 22 August 1935 James Grevile was born – exactly SEVEN years from his parents meeting at the Belvedere Hotel.



BARBARA AND GREVILLE WITH JAMES – ONE MONTH OLD IN SEPTEMBER 1935 AT THE CHANTRY, STOUR STREET, SUDBURY, SUFFOLK.

A sister for James named Elizabeth Anne arrived on 1 May 1938 and a brother for both, Norman David Tempest on 12 May 1948, who was christened on 22 August that year.



NORMAN DAVID RUDDOCK'S CHRISTENING PARTY AT CAXTONS, MELFORD ROAD, SUDBURY, SUFFOLK, 22ND AUGUST 1948.
L-R STANDING: PERCY DAVID TEMPEST, REV CANON HUGHES, EDWARD RUDDOCK.
L-R SEATED: DOROTHY GRIMWOOD, GREVILLE RUDDOCK, BARBARA RUDDOCK (WITH DAVID), KATHERINE TEMPEST, NORAH RUDDOCK.
ON GROUND: ANNE AND JAMES RUDDOCK.

The first holiday of all three children together was at Clacton-on-Sea in 1951.



L-R: JAMES, ANNE AND NORMAN DAVID RUDDOCK.

Katherine and Percy Tempest celebrated their Golden Wedding on 1st July 1955 – Norman David at age seven still recalls a golden cushion being given as a present.

Grevile and Barbara celebrated their Silver Wedding on 14 October 1958 and the family of five are pictured together (*below*) on the lawn at home in Hitchin, Hertfordshire.



2019

THE CONCLUSION

The connections came full circle during 2019...

James was brought up looking at his father's many mountaineering books and that of explorer Robert Falcon Scott and others. Grevile naturally chose the Lake District area for the family holidays which firstly were at Grange-over-Sands in September 1937 and Seascale on the Cumberland coast after the war in 1946. In later years they went to the mountainous areas of the Lake District made possible by Grevile's parents (of Warrington)

having a house on the west side of Windermere.

In 2004 James married Christine Ann Broyd and their joint name became Ruddock-Broyd.

James had always wanted to visit the place where his parents had met and finally took the opportunity when the tour company *Great Rail Journeys* of York advertised a week-long stay at Grindelwald in 2019.

James and Christine arrived by rail on 21 August 2019 to stay at the Schweizerhof Hotel recommended by the tour operator..



THE SCHWEIZERHOF HOTEL IN GRINDELWALD WITH THE WETTERHORN (3,692 M) ON THE RIGHT.

At Grindelwald station James opted to take a passenger seat in the hotel vehicle conveying the luggage for 23 passengers in the group. He mentioned to the driver his main reason for coming to the town, having just had a glimpse of the Belvedere Hotel from the train. The driver immediately made a diversion under a railway bridge and did a circuit so James could have full view of the hotel. We were told both hotels had been in the same family ownership for many years.

We then booked in to the Schweizerhof Hotel which had been acquired by the Hauser family on 1st May 1962 – coincidentally the day my sister was born in 1938.

The next morning I took photos from our balcony room looking across to the Eiger.



VIEW OF THE EIGER FROM BALCONY OF SCHWEIZERHOF HOTEL, 22ND AUGUST 2019.



JAMES ON THE TERRACE
AT THE BELVEDERE HOTEL,
22ND AUGUST 2019.

On the morning of 22 August James asked the Schweizerhof Manager for the name of the Manager at the Belvedere as he wished to recount a little family story. The name given was Carole Hauser. Shortly James and Christine crossed under the railway by foot and entered the rear grounds of the Belvedere and ordered a Kir Royale on his birthday from the terrace which gave a different slant on the formidable Eiger. They sipped away celebrating the 91st anniversary of James' parents' meeting possibly on that spot.

Carole Hauser joined us on the terrace where James produced an A4 sheet and read the relevant extracts from his Mother's Chronicle. James added that he was born exactly 7 years later on that day of August.

Carole said she was the great great granddaughter of the builder and owner of the hotel. She was so interested in the story that she took a copy of the one page script. It was also pointed out that 'today' was James' 84th birthday and hence the 91st anniversary of Grevile and Barbara meeting here. Later, when James went to pay for the drinks, he was kindly told they were on the house. Carole took photos of James and Christine leaving the hotel.



CHRISTINE AND JAMES LEAVING THE BELVEDERE, 22ND AUGUST 2019.

Carole said her parents, Silvia and Urs Hauser-Gertsch, were coming into Grindelwald tomorrow, the 23rd August 2019, to take part in an open-air play about the first four climbers to scale the very difficult North Face of the Eiger. Arrangements were made for James and Christine to meet them.

Christine and James visited the Belvedere again on the 23rd where Silvia opened the conversation with James. Sylvia's husband Urs is the grandson of Johann and Rosa who managed the hotel in 1928. We looked at the collage on the wall and explanations were given of family members and hotel history, including her father-in-law Fritz (who spent WWII in London), and Elsi, who were owners for 30 years until 1986.

Silvia said the connections in this story were so fascinating, encouraging James to write a story around them. James asked if there were any Visitor Book records for the 1920s and Silvia explained that period had to be discarded about 20 years ago for space reasons.

James enquired about seats for the play – not only was it sold out but the dialogue was in German which language he knew little of.

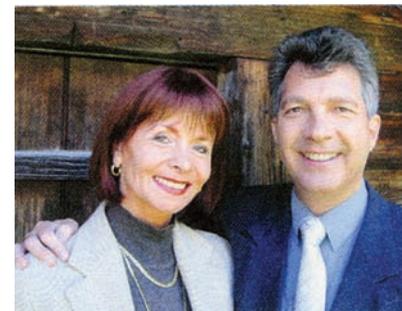
The August week that followed in 2019 was warm and sunny with only a heavy misty drizzle late afternoon on 24th August.



THE HAUSER FAMILY IN 1923:
L-R STANDING: ELSI, ROSA, HANS
AND GRETE.
SITTING: JOHANN, FRITZ AND
ROSA HAUSER-MARTI WITH OTTO.



The cousin of Urs Hauser-Gertsch, Otto Hauser-Seger and his wife Anneliese are now Owner and General Manager of the Schweizerhof Hotel. Otto is the son of Otto Senior in the 1923 family photograph.



ANNELIESE AND OTTO HAUSER-SEGER OF THE SCHWEIZERHOF HOTEL, 2019.

LEFT: THE HAUSER FAMILY IN 2019:
L-R: PHILIP, CAROLE, SILVIA, URS.

James enquired why the photograph of Field Marshal Montgomery was featured on a pillar in the hotel.

Silvia recounted that *'Monty'* regularly stayed in Murren with his friend Sir Arnold Lunn and it was he who persuaded Monty to visit Grindelwald, set amidst the picturesque mountains. They visited the Belvedere together in January 1949 and a local person had to be found who could deal with (1) Monty's abrupt questions, (2) knew the history of the town, and (3) spoke good English. The lot fell to Johann's son Fritz who had mastered the English language. Hence Fritz is seen next to Monty in the picture.

Sir Arnold Lunn had introduced skiing to the Jungfrau region and visited Grindelwald weekly – mainly during the Christmas to March season – to greet the guests of Thomas Cook. He always stayed at the Belvedere Hotel.

RIGHT: BY THE BELVEDERE HOTEL, JANUARY 1946.
L TO R: SIR ARNOLD LUNN, FIELD MARSHAL VISCOUNT MONTGOMERY, SWISS OFFICER AND FRITZ HAUSER.

FROM A PHOTOGRAPH HANGING IN THE BELVEDERE FOYER, 2019.



TAILPIECE



An aside to the main story is that in 2013 James and Christine found a brown coach named 'Grindelwald' on a trip with *Great Rail Journeys* based around Vevey—on the north shore of Lake Geneva. The coach was in the Chemin-de-Fer Musee near Chamby on the Blonay to Pleiades Railway.