

= C. R. M. F. Cruttwell =

Charles Robert Mowbray Fraser Cruttwell (23 May 1887 ? 14 March 1941) was a British historian and academic who served as dean and later principal of Hertford College , Oxford . His field of expertise was modern European history , his most notable work being *A History of the Great War , 1914 ? 18* . He is mainly remembered , however , for the vendetta pursued against him by the novelist Evelyn Waugh , in which Waugh showed his distaste for his former tutor by repeatedly using the name " Cruttwell " in his early novels and stories to depict a sequence of unsavoury or ridiculous characters . The prolonged minor humiliation thus inflicted may have contributed to Cruttwell 's eventual mental breakdown .

After gaining first @-@ class honours at The Queen 's College , Oxford , Cruttwell was elected a Fellow of All Souls College , Oxford in 1911 , and the following year became a lecturer in history at Hertford College . His academic career was interrupted by war service during which he suffered severe wounds ; after his return to Oxford in 1919 he became dean of Hertford , and in 1930 , principal of the college . It was during his tenure as dean that the feud with Waugh developed while the latter was a history scholar at Hertford , in 1922 ? 24 . This hostility was pursued on Waugh 's part until shortly before Cruttwell 's death .

Cruttwell 's term as Hertford 's principal saw the production of his most important scholarly works , including his war history which earned him the degree of DLitt . Beyond his college and academic duties Cruttwell held various administrative offices within the university , and was a member of its Hebdomadal Council , or ruling body . In private life Cruttwell served as a Justice of the Peace in Hampshire , where he had a country home , and stood unsuccessfully for the university 's parliamentary seat in the 1935 general election , representing the Conservative party . Ill @-@ health , aggravated by his war injuries , caused his retirement from the Hertford principalship in 1939 . A mental collapse led to his committal to an institution , where he died two years later .

= = Early life and career = =

Cruttwell was born on 23 May 1887 , in the village of Denton , Norfolk , the eldest of three sons of the Rev. Charles Thomas Cruttwell , Rector of St Mary 's Church . The elder Cruttwell was a scholar and historian of Roman literature ; his wife Annie (née Mowbray) , was the daughter of Sir John Mowbray , who served as Conservative Member of Parliament for Durham from 1853 to 1868 and for one of the two Oxford University parliamentary seats from 1868 to 1899 . Cruttwell was educated at Rugby School , where in 1906 he won a scholarship to Queen 's College , Oxford , to read classics and history . At Queen 's , Cruttwell enjoyed considerable academic success , including a first class honours degree in modern history . In 1911 he was elected to a fellowship at All Souls College and a year later was appointed to a history lectureship at Hertford College .

On the outbreak of the First World War in August 1914 , Cruttwell enlisted in the Royal Berkshire Regiment and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant . He fought in France and Belgium , until a severe leg wound in 1916 ended his front line military service . Apart from its physical effects , Cruttwell 's experience in the trenches seemingly inflicted permanent psychological damage on his personality , replacing the general good manners of his youth with a short @-@ tempered , impatient and bullying character . The novelist Evelyn Waugh , an undergraduate at Hertford in the 1920s , wrote later that " It was as though he had never cleansed himself from the muck of the trenches " . In the latter part of the war , Cruttwell was employed in the military intelligence department at the War Office in London , before returning to Oxford in 1919 . In 1922 , he published a short history of his regiment 's wartime exploits .

= = Hertford College = =

On his return to Hertford College , Cruttwell was elected to a fellowship in modern history and a year later was appointed Hertford 's Dean , responsible for general discipline within the college ; he held this post for five years . He also became active in the administration of Oxford University and

was elected to its ruling body , the Hebdomadal Council . He served as a university statutory commissioner and was one of several academics nominated by the Vice @-@ Chancellor as delegates to the Oxford University Press .

Cruttwell 's administrative competence was recognised in 1930 , when he was elected principal of Hertford College . In this office , he helped to establish the university 's geography school and arranged that the first Oxford professorship in geography was based at Hertford . During his tenure as principal , he completed his most significant academic works , including his Great War history (1934) which earned him the Oxford degree of DLitt . In 1936 Cruttwell delivered the Lees @-@ Knowles Lecture at Trinity College , Cambridge , under the title " The Role of British Strategy in the Great War " . In the same year he published a biography of the Duke of Wellington and in 1937 produced his final major academic work , A History of Peaceful Change in the Modern World . An attempt in 1935 to emulate his grandfather and become one of the university 's members of parliament failed when , as a Conservative candidate in the general election of 1935 , Cruttwell was defeated . An Independent , A. P. Herbert , beat him on the third ballot in a single transferable vote system . This was the first time since the 1860s , that a Conservative had failed to hold either of the two university seats , a humiliation noted with relish by Waugh who harboured a deep hostility towards his former tutor . According to The Times , Cruttwell had underestimated the nature and determination of the opposition and had taken his election as a Conservative for granted . In first preferences , he came bottom of the poll with only 1 @,@ 803 votes , while his Conservative running mate , Lord Hugh Cecil , gained 7 @,@ 365 , almost five times as many . Because he polled less than one @-@ eighth of the first ballot votes , Cruttwell forfeited his deposit .

= = Feud with Evelyn Waugh = =

Waugh joined Hertford College on a scholarship , in January 1922 . He had received a congratulatory letter from Cruttwell welcoming him to the college and complimenting him on his English prose : " about the best of any of the Candidates in the group " . Despite this warmth , Waugh 's initial impressions of his tutor were unfavourable ? " not at all the kind of don for whom I had been prepared by stories of Jowett . " The first recorded clash between them came early in Waugh 's first term ; in a letter to his school friend Dudley Carew , Waugh reports that his tutor verbally abused him for a Latin mistranslation with the words " Damn you , you 're a scholar ! " The main basis for the rift that rapidly developed was Waugh 's increasingly casual attitude towards his scholarship . Whereas Cruttwell saw the scholarship as a commitment to hard and devoted study , Waugh considered it a reward for his successful school studies and a passport to a life of pleasure . To the detriment of his work , Waugh involved himself in a range of university activities : the Oxford Union , the Hertford debating society , journalism and drawings for the undergraduate papers Isis and Cherwell , and a hectic social life . In his third term , he was brusquely advised by Cruttwell that he should take his studies more seriously , a warning which Waugh chose to interpret as an insult . " I think it was from then on that our mutual dislike became incurable " , he later wrote .

During his remaining time at Hertford , Waugh missed few opportunities to ridicule Cruttwell . He did this in numerous unsigned contributions to Isis , including an article in March 1924 , in the " Isis Idols " series . In this , according to Waugh 's biographer Martin Stannard , the mockery was cleverly disguised as a paean of praise , arranged around an unflattering photograph of Cruttwell displaying " bad teeth within an unfortunate smile " . In Cherwell , in August 1923 , Waugh published a short story , " Edward of Unique Achievement " , in which the protagonist , a history student at an Oxford college , murders his tutor , " Mr Curtis " (who is , among other things , revealed to be a sexual deviant) . Waugh and an accomplice , spread a rumour that Cruttwell favoured sex with animals ; they bought a stuffed dog which they placed in the college quadrangle and began the practice of barking under the dean 's window . Cruttwell made no apparent response to these provocations , other than a dismissive reference to Waugh as " a silly suburban sod with an inferiority complex " .

Waugh left Hertford in the summer of 1924 , with a third class degree and a brief note from Cruttwell , expressing disappointment with this performance . Although the pair never met again , a few years later Cruttwell spoke disparagingly of Waugh , to the latter 's prospective mother @-@ in

@-@ law , Lady Burghclere , describing him as vice @-@ ridden and " living off vodka and absinthe " . Once Waugh had established himself as a writer , he resumed the vendetta against his former tutor by introducing a succession of disreputable or absurd characters called " Cruttwell " into his novels and stories . In *Decline and Fall* (1928) " Toby Cruttwell " is a psychopathic burglar ; in *Vile Bodies* (1930) the name belongs to a snobbish Conservative MP . In *Black Mischief* (1932) " Cruttwell " is a social parasite , and he becomes a dubious osteopath or " bone @-@ setter " in *A Handful of Dust* (1934) . In *Scoop* (1938) , " General Cruttwell " is a salesman with a fake tropical tan at the Army & Navy Stores . The 1935 short story " Mr Loveday 's Little Outing " , which recounts the grisly deeds of an escaped homicidal maniac , was originally published as " Mr Cruttwell 's Little Outing " . The final Cruttwell reference in Waugh 's fiction came in 1939 , in the short story " An Englishman 's Home " , in the form of an embezzling Wolf Cub master . In 1935 , in an additional gesture of sarcastic ridicule , Waugh told a survey in which modern novelists were asked to nominate their best work that he had yet to write his masterpiece : " It is the memorial biography of C. R. M. F. Cruttwell , some time Dean of Hertford College , Oxford , and my old history tutor . It is a labour of love to one to whom , under God , I owe everything " . As with Waugh 's student taunting , Cruttwell made no public response , although according to Stannard he anticipated each new Waugh novel with much trepidation about how he might be portrayed .

= = Later years = =

Cruttwell remained a bachelor throughout his life . His one proposal of marriage ? to the socialite and later New York society hostess Anne Huth @-@ Jackson ? was rebuffed and there are no accounts of other romantic attachments . Beyond his academic duties , he enjoyed entertaining at his country house near the village of Highclere in Hampshire , where he was active in the local community and served as a Justice of the Peace . Since the war , his health had suffered from the effects of his wounds , and he was subject to recurrent rheumatic fever . In 1939 his poor physical condition caused his early retirement from Hertford , followed a period of mental illness possibly exacerbated by the continuing mockery from Waugh . Eventually Cruttwell was confined to a mental hospital , the Burden Institute at Stapleton , near Bristol , where he died on 14 March 1941 , aged 53 . He left his book collection and a bequest of £ 1 @,@ 000 to Hertford College , together with an oil portrait of him , painted in 1937 by his cousin , Grace Cruttwell . The probate value of his estate was £ 19 @,@ 814 .

= = Reputation = =

Cruttwell was an accepted authority on the political and military history of the Rhineland . His professional standing is largely based on his Great War history , which his ODNB biographer Geoffrey Ellis suggests is " most notable for its frank and fearless judgements on those identified as the principal actors (military , naval and political) in that tragic conflict " . This work was widely admired at the time and has undergone several reprints but has also been criticised as lacking in humanity , displaying " almost no awareness of the appalling degree of suffering it chronicles " . Ellis describes Cruttwell 's textbooks on modern British and European history as " models of clarity and cogency " . Cruttwell 's professional reputation has been largely overshadowed , by the attention given to his feud with Waugh , the true significance of which , Ellis believes , may have been somewhat exaggerated .

Cruttwell 's relations with his colleagues and students have been the subject of contradictory reports . Waugh 's biographer , Selena Hastings , describes him as of " unprepossessing " appearance , " good @-@ hearted but difficult " , inclined to misogyny , brusque and sometimes offensive towards his male colleagues . Waugh 's description is of someone " tall , almost loutish , with the face of a petulant baby " , of indistinct speech , who " smoked a pipe which was attached to his blubber @-@ lips by a thread of slime " . Stannard records that Waugh 's student contemporary Christopher Hollis , found nothing particularly remarkable about Cruttwell . " Like Waugh " , says Stannard , " Cruttwell played up his eccentricities and had an uncharitable sense of humour " . Ellis

's 2004 biographical sketch suggests that much of Cruttwell 's rebarbative manner , may have been the result of simple shyness .

Although there was clearly mutual animosity between Cruttwell and Waugh , Hastings points out that Cruttwell would have been justified in suspending Waugh from the college on numerous occasions , but did not do so . Ellis acknowledges a " forceful , forthright and eccentric character " but stresses Cruttwell 's generous hospitality " to many who became his close friends " and concern for his undergraduates ' welfare .