

**The two Major characters; my grandparents, followed by minor characters that appear in the Graphic novel Invasion1.**



**Diana de Bosmelet:** My mother's mother was born in 1908. She was the second child and eldest daughter of wealthy, cultured, Jewish parents. The family had settled in England. At the time of the Second World War my grandmother was living on her husband's estate at the Château de Bosmelet. Just a month before the Germans occupied the Château my grandmother had fled with her two babies; my uncle, Gentien, nearly three years old and my mother, just 5 months old. This project is the story of her journey out of the clutches of the horrors of the Holocaust and her triumph to lead a long and productive life. She died in July 1987 at the age of 78.

**Pierre Soyer de Bosmelet:** Born in Paris 1906, he studied law in Paris and London. He was a barrister who specialized in international law and divorce cases. He became Baron de Bosmelet in 1929, after his Uncle Adrien de Bosmelet died. During the Second World War he fought the German invasion in 1940 then in 1941 joined the Free French forces in London under General Charles de Gaulle, who promoted him to the rank of Captain. He served in West Africa between June 1942 and August 1944. He was always on the right side of history fighting against the Germans. After the war he dropped 'de Bosmelet' from his name when he ran for Mayor of Auffay. Pierre abandoned his family soon after his youngest son, Robert, was born in 1946. He lived in the Cameroun until that country's independence in 1960. Pierre then came back to live in Paris until his son, Robert, found a retirement home for him and his partner Jeannine. This home in the Pyrenees, was for retired lawyers and served excellent food and wine. Pierre died there in 1986 at the age of eighty. He was cremated and no funeral service was given.

Meeting my grandfather in the summer of 1980 inspired this project.



### "In order of appearance:"

Monsieur Julien: His birth name was L'Homme. He appears once on page 5, panel 1, where he can be seen trimming the hedges, with a flower in his mouth. He was the gardener and general fix it man. He lived with his wife and four children on the estate until my grandmother's death in 1987.

**Valerie de Bosmelet:** Her birth name was de Woëlmont and she was born in Holland in 1854. Valerie was my grandfather's grandmother. She makes a one paneled appearance on page 6, panel 4, as the marble bust as Roman Goddess, Diana. Valerie was called Grandmémé by the family. Diana, my grandmother did meet her husband's grandmother. Grandmémé died just after Diana and Pierre got married but before World War II in Feb 1937 at the age of 82.



Helena Mathias: Her birth name was Wetheimer, nicknamed Ena, (b. Sep 27 1874, d. Mar 24 1936, os stomach cancer, age 61) My grandmother, Diana, was one of Ena's five children. Ena married Robert Moritz Mathias (see below) on Oct 25 1905. I have a small painting said to be painted by Ena. The painting is a small copy of "Venus with Cupid, Folly and Time" by Angela Bronzino." Ena was a handsome woman, said to be larger than life. She was part of the late Bloomsbury Group.

[For pictures of Ena by Sargent click here.](#)



**Robert Moritz Mathias** (b. 1874, d. 1961, age 87, son of Mathisson Mathias and Matilda Mond.)

Adored by everyone who met him.

[For more information, including a portrait of Robert Mathias by Sargent, click here.](#)

Renée Thierry is the girl carrying the tureen of water in the child-bearing pages 6,7,11. Renée was the daughter of life long tenants of the farm nearest to the Château de Bosmelet. She was about eleven when my mother was born. She lives in Auffay in a house that her daughter built for her, the lovely Lucie Tassus.



**Gentien Soyer de Bosmelet** born in London June 1937. He was Pierre and Diana's first born son. Tragically, he died in Ngaundere, Cameroun Africa in June 1943, just before his sixth birthday.



**Monique Soyer de Bosmelet** born Paris, 1931. Pierre's eldest daughter. Died at boarding school when fifteen years old, in October 1946. She is buried in the Bosmelet family tomb in Auffay.

**Béatrice Soyer de Bosmelet** born London 1933. Both she and her sister make one appearance on page 9, panel 5 wading in the paddling pool. Béatrice died in her apartment in Paris, 2001 at the age of 67.



**Henriette Soyer** was born in 1880 to Pierre and Valerie de Bosmelet. She was my grandfather Pierre's mother. She was called Mémé by her family. Henriette was devoted to her father, his estate at the Château de Bosmelet, and her only child Pierre. She married Robert Soyer, a man below her in social rank. That marriage took place a few years after her father had died, and may have been arranged by her mother. In any case, it was an unsatisfactory marriage from her point of view, one she lived to regret. Henriette was a patriotic French national. She, like most Normans, hated the Germans. Germany had invaded France in 1870 and again in both world wars. Henriette was imprisoned by the Germans in 1943 for a few months. [To read her harrowing account click here.](#) Henriette died in Paris in 1968. She is buried in the Bosmelet family tomb at Auffay.



**Hélène Soyer de Bosmelet** was born in the Château de Bosmelet in 1940. She is the only daughter of Pierre and Diana. She married Tom Chetwynd and had three daughters; Yolanda, Natasha and Bridget. My parents celebrated their 54 wedding anniversary before my father died 2012. She is presently living in France.

Hitler 1889 to 1945 Infamous in history therefore needs no introduction. If you do know who he is Goggle him.

Boy with the broken legs fell out of the train when it moved suddenly leaving the station at Auffay. This happened between May 12 -19 1940. The boy was separated from his screaming mother who was stuck on the train. Page 15 panel 4. My grandmother knew that this mother and son would be separated in this life. I wonder what happened to both the mother and the son.