

PART V – 6. JAMES WILLIAM <u>GUY</u> INNES of RAEMOIR	
Nicknamed Peter He succeeded his brother, who was killed in action in 1915	
<u>Born</u>	11 th September 1873 Raemoir
<u>Parents</u>	Alexander, 3rd of Raemoir Helen Eythan King
<u>Married</u>	28 August 1906, Anna Orrock Stronach Sheila Foster Forbes, of Rothiemay Honeymoon at Aultnaharra, Sutherland – Trout fishing
<u>Family</u>	Son. Ronald Gordon Berowald, b. 24 July 1907, became 16 th Baronet of Balvenie, 3 September 1978 Son. William Alexander Disney (Billy), b. 19 April 1910, Lt Col. Gordon Highlanders Son. Thomas Guy, AFC, b.1922, d. in accident, 21 March 1958, Comm. Royal Navy. Daughter. Elizabeth Kathrin Mary, b. 1918
<u>Died</u>	1 October 1939, in Aberdeen, buried in the Old Cowie Kirkyard Stonehaven.

Guy Innes's mother, Helen Eythan King, died approximately one year after he was born, as a result of giving birth to his sister Katherine (Aunt Kath). His father remarried and had a son Sydney Armitage. Raemoir, the family home, and other estates at Dunnottar were left to his elder brother, Alexander Berowald, who was only 11 at the time of his father's death. It seems that his stepmother did not want the young Guy at Raemoir.

At that time, his Uncle Disney and Aunt Nellie, who lived at Cowie, near Stonehaven, had no family (Their son Alexander was not born till 15 years after they married). They took Guy to live with them; he almost felt that he was their son and was very devoted to them. Uncle Disney sent him to a Preparatory School outside London (Beckenham perhaps) until the age of 13. He then passed an entrance exam and in January 1887 went to HMS Britannia at Chatham, the training ship for executive officers in the Navy. He qualified as a Midshipman in December 1888, aged 15. His nearest and very dearest relation of his own generation in the family was his sister Kathleen (Aunt Kath) who was the link between him and Raemoir.

I have two log books which he had to write up during his training as a midshipman. In 1889 he joined HMS Orontes, a troop carrier, which had both engines and sails, and served until the ship reached Hong Kong. He then transferred to a corvette, HMS Conquest. The ship cruised around China and Japan for 7 months before returning via

India and East Africa to Plymouth in April 1892. He then served on a battleship, HMS Rodney, in home waters and the Atlantic. The second log book ends in August 1893. Letters written to Uncle Disney tell of him serving on HMS Rodney South of Ireland and in the English Channel. Presumably he then became a Sub-Lieutenant. There is then a gap in the record of his service, though he was promoted to Lieutenant in 1895.

By 1900 Guy was 27 years old. He served in the destroyer squadron based at Chatham from 1901 to 1902. He commanded HMS Cynthia during 1901, followed by Avon and Zebra. From 1902 to 1907 he served on the flagship of the Mediterranean Fleet, HMS Montague, under Admiral Sir Compton Donville, Commander-in-Chief. He was appointed to the rank of Commander in 1906. Admiral Beatty was Flag Captain at one time, Admiral Sir Stanley Colville later. He held down the appointment of Flag Lieutenant to the Commander-in-Chief. This was a most prestigious appointment, involving considerable social effort, from entertaining the Kaiser in Corfu to running the social life of one of the biggest and most efficient fleets ever assembled. His diaries from 1904 and 1905 describe a hectic social life on Malta.

During the years from 1900 to 1906 he had little life in Scotland. But when he did get north, he was based on Cowie and shot and fished all over the North from there. He was considered a first class shot and an excellent salmon and trout fisherman. He was a small man, probably around 5ft 6½ins then, but obviously excellently turned out and an asset at any party. By 1906, he had risen to Lieutenant-Commander.

Sometime in these years he met and fell in love with a young lady, who had been remarkably christened Anna Orrock Stronach Sheila Foster Forbes, third child of Colonel John Foster Forbes of Rothiemay and his wife Mary Livesey Wardle. They were married in the Episcopal Church in Huntly on 26 August 1906. They had bought a De Dion Bouton 2-seater open coupe and drove all the way to Aultnaharra in the Western Highlands for a fishing honeymoon. How they got on is not on record but she was as bad a fisherwoman as he was good.

In 1907, when his first son, Ronald Gordon Berowald, was born, he was based at Portsmouth. In 1910, when Billy was born, he was at Sheerness. Naval records show him Commanding 5 separate ships between 1907 and 1911, finally the battleship, HMS Canopus.

Presumably between then and 1914, JWGI suffered appendicitis. The operation was carried out at Guy's Hospital in London by Sir Arbuthnot Lane. It seems likely that the Doctor did some trial experiment and this was a failure. Throughout the rest of his life he was in and out of nursing homes and hospitals. He hardly ever again served afloat. He returned to Portsmouth before WWI, being assigned to shore postings during the war.

However he took a responsible part in the Zeebrugge operation in 1918. (This was an unsuccessful attempt to block the port to prevent its use as a base for German submarines.) Mainly though he was responsible for the organisation of the Channel convoy system supplying the army in France from 1916 to 1918. He was awarded the

CBE, also a top French honour, the Legion d'Honneur (Chevalier) for his work with the convoys and escorts. He retired with the rank of Captain in 1919.

His daughter, Elizabeth was born in 1918 and his youngest son, Thomas Guy in 1922.

In 1918 he and his family moved to Raemoir, which he had inherited on the death of his brother, Alexander Berowald, in France in 1915. He found himself the owner of Raemoir (4000+ acres) and Dunnottar (3800 acres) but his brother's will had left him no money to run the estates with and no furniture etc. for the house. In fact it was a barren heritage. His brother's widow had a cottage near Banchory where she stored a lot of Raemoir furniture. It remained there to rot in a derelict cottage until she died much later.

Dunnottar, which was bought in about 1870 as a speculation in a period of agricultural prosperity, proved to be the opposite in 1919 and was heavily mortgaged. It was sold in 1920 to Lord Cowdray (Pearson) who had made an immense amount of money in the war, speculating in oil. In spite of this, the financial situation was parlous and especially as there had been considerable lack of maintenance of farms and equipment during the war years and there were justifiable demands by the tenants for such luxuries as proper water, modern drainage and various farm improvements, covered cattle courts and the like. All the time, JWGI was a sick man but an extremely tough one. Brought up as a sailor he really had little idea of estate management, but as a serving officer he had considerable sympathy for those who owed responsibility to him.

It is worth recording that JWGI had considerable skill with gun and rod and was in continuous demand at the top class shoots and fishing which abounded on Deeside. In 1921 he bought the two Dickson guns (since sold) to replace a pair of Greener guns he never liked. He took up wood carving and at his death left many substantial and notable pieces. His final works were the two 5-fold screens, in walnut, beautifully carved with designs which he researched in the V&A Museum in London. (One with Billy and one at the Loom House.)

By 1921 it became only too clear that Raemoir would have to be sold and eventually it, too, was bought by Cowdray, one of whose objects was to own the whole of the Hill of Fare, on the North side of Raemoir. (This he never did.)

As soon as Raemoir was sold the search started for a new home. For some time the family lived in the Tor-na-Coile Hotel in Banchory, which could not have been cheap. However, having lost Raemoir, he was determined to leave Deeside and all its memories and this proved to be a mistake.

Moy House and gardens near Forres were bought in 1921-22. Far too much money was put into modernising this house, but it had terrific prospects both for him and for my mother. The sporting possibilities especially in the wildfowling business were terrific and a lease was taken of the land round about, which included the Culbin Sands, the Old Bar of Moray and the Island in the Findhorn estuary. In fact it was a shooters and specially a wildfowlers paradise. There are some books by St John well worth reading among the books here [at the Loom House]. For his wife, the 4 acres of walled garden were a continual joy. But there were two snags. The salmon fishing

on that part of the Findhorn was poor and there was a continued urge to go back to the Dee to fish. Secondly, his ill health grew more and more serious and necessitated long stays in clinics and several operations. He eventually decided that Moy lay too low and was too relaxing and by 1927 he had decided to go back to the country he knew. The cost of labour was another reason to leave. They had three gardeners, a game keeper/handy man and a chauffeur as well as a number of servants in the house. [Moy house no longer exists having burnt down not long after the family left.]

The first move was to Kirkville, a let house belonging to the Cowdrays. In 1931 he moved and rented Clinterty House, on the edge of the Brimmond Hill North-west of Aberdeen, from Hay of Seaton. In 1935 after a brief lease of Durriss Cottage, he bought Maryculter House on the South bank of the Dee, 7 miles east of Aberdeen. With this house was a short beat on the Dee but it really had no decent salmon holding bowl and he caught very few fish there.

During the summer of 1939 his health was seriously deteriorating and he was more or less kept alive by his doctor and very best friend, but no relation, Dr John Innes of Aberdeen. He was in good form when Billy, his second son, was married in Hertfordshire to Alison Burnett-Stewart in June 1939.

As the war came closer he saw less and less of his sons. Billy was posted to Singapore, where he was later taken prisoner by the Japanese for the duration. Berowald, though stationed in Glasgow, found it increasingly difficult to come home. Before the war arrangements were made for the Nason family (2nd Seaforth's) to be evacuated to Maryculter. War broke out on 3rd September 1939, the Nasons arrived, but at the end of the month JWGI became very ill, was admitted to Kepplestone Nursing Home in Aberdeen and died after an operation on 1st October.

Berowald was at that time serving as Security Officer at the Medical base at Dieppe, (an appointment for which he was never intended) and did not hear of the death for a fortnight. He was given a few days leave, but had really insufficient time to do any family business of value. Thomas was at Harrow and was not brought north. Berowald's wife, Betty, and baby son were there, as was Elizabeth. As an indication of how tough a man he was, he had been through endless operations, the last one was merely a repeat of many before, i.e. to try to sort out his stomach so that it worked and left him in as little pain as possible. Dr John Innes told Berowald that when they cleaned him up his whole interior was gangrenous and there was absolutely nothing they could do but sew him up and leave him to die. He had been working the Dee for salmon less than a week before.

His death was the end of an era and none of his family was to partake of the same life again. His widow decided that she could not afford to keep Maryculter going. It was sold and she took a house in Queens Road, Aberdeen. Later she bought a small house in Ballater but never occupied it.

At the end of 1940 she married George, 2nd Marquess of Aberdeen, with whom she had been friendly as a girl, but it proved to be a major mistake and though she had the honour and glory of being the wife of the Lord Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire, he led her a wretched mean existence. [I recall "Uncle Haddo" as a very tall, grim, grey man. Most remembered for always eating his porridge, flavoured with salt, of course,

standing up at the mantelpiece before sitting down to the rest of his breakfast. Granny, by contrast, was always fun, following the morning exercises on the radio, travelling around Aberdeen on the trams and visiting the maze in the park. – PABI]. She died in 1949, and was buried, reunited with Guy Innes, in Cowie Kirkyard.

It would be fair to say that everyone loved her – everyone except her second husband.

HMS ORONTES

A troop carrier

Built 1863

After lengthening: 300 feet long, 5600 tons

Armament: 4 x 3pounder guns

1893 sold for scrap

HMS RODNEY

Battleship

Built 1888

325 feet long, 9000 tons

9600 hp steam engines, carried 1200 tons coal, range 8500 miles

Crew 498

Armament: 2 x 13.5" guns, 6 x 6" guns

Armour plating 18" thick

Scrapped 1909