

BRUCE BAIRNSFATHER COMMEMORATIVE POSTCARD

On Saturday, 13th December 2003 a plaque commemorating the First World War cartoonist Captain Bruce Bairnsfather, creator of "Old Bill," will be unveiled in St Yvon, Belgium. To mark this event, Mark Warby, Editor of *The Old Bill Newsletter*, the official journal for Bairnsfather enthusiasts worldwide, has published a special postcard (limited to 500 copies) which will be available from early December. The postcard, illustrated below, features a portrait of Bairnsfather (by the well-known artist W.H. Barribal), one of his famous *Fragments from France* cartoons (originally drawn at St Yvon), the cottage on which the plaque will be erected, and the full text of the plaque, as well as Bairnsfather's distinctive signature. The cards are priced £2.00 each. For more information or to order copies of the postcard please contact Mark Warby, Editor, *The Old Bill Newsletter*, 35 Jordans Close, Crabbs Cross, Redditch, Worcs., B97 5JD. Tel: (01527) 402749 (after 6pm). E-mail mark_warby@oldbill99.freeserve.co.uk.

	<p style="text-align: center;">St. Yvon, Belgium 13th December 2003</p> 
	<p style="text-align: center;">CAPT. BRUCE BAIRNSFATHER 1887-1959</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="width: 100px; height: 100px; margin-right: 10px;">  </div> <div> <p style="font-size: small;">In a dugout beneath a cottage on this site in the winter of 1914-15 Lieutenant Bruce Bairnsfather of the 1st Bn Royal Warwickshire Regiment drew the first cartoons of the series that were to be published as "Fragments from France." His immortal character, "Old Bill", the archetypal humorous British soldier, soon evolved and appeared in books, plays, films, on china and many other media, often in his classic situation of "The Better 'Ole."</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Bruce Bairnsfather's morale-raising contribution to the war effort was recognised and he became world famous. He also took part in this area in the 1914 Christmas Truce.</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="width: 80%; font-size: x-small;"> <p>Pendant l'hiver 1914-1915, dans un souterrain sous une petite maison, le lieutenant Bruce Bairnsfather du Royal Warwickshire Regiment, a cree ici les premiers dessins humoristiques parus dans la serie "Fragments from France."</p> </div> <div style="width: 40px; text-align: center;">  </div> </div> <p style="font-size: x-small; text-align: center; margin-top: 5px;">Sponsored by his biographers, Major Tonie & Mrs Valmai Holt. Unveiled on 13.12.03</p>
	

The **OLD BILL** *Newsletter*



The Old Bill Newsletter was started by Mark Warby in July 1999, to help promote interest in Captain Bruce Bairnsfather and his famous character, and as a way of keeping the growing number of enthusiasts and collectors worldwide informed and updated on any newsworthy events. It also acts as a forum for collectors, giving them the chance to make contact with each other and share information.

Each issue contains a wide variety of material, from articles about Old Bill collectables and their history, to news on recent or forthcoming auctions, and the latest finds among collectors. There are also reprints of Bairnsfather cartoons, many not seen since their original publication.

Among the collectables covered in previous newsletters have been *Fragments from France* Playing Cards, Sheet Music from the play *The Better 'Ole*, the weekly *Fragments* magazine, Old Bill advertising Adkins Empire Nut Brown tobacco, and Bairnsfather cartoons on Grimwades pottery.

Much of the material used in the newsletter is from the Editors personal collection and unique Bairnsfather Reference Archive. This vast private archive comprises material gathered from sources around the globe during more than two decades spent researching the life and work of Captain Bruce Bairnsfather.

Contributions are welcomed from subscribers on any subject relating to Bruce Bairnsfather and Old Bill, and full credit is always given to the author of any article sent in for publication.

The Old Bill Newsletter is published bi-monthly. Annual subscription is currently £12.00 within the UK and £18.00 overseas. To subscribe, please send the appropriate payment to Mark Warby, *The Old Bill Newsletter*, 35 Jordans Close, Crabbs Cross, Redditch, Worcs., B97 5JD. Cheques can be made payable to *The Old Bill Newsletter*.