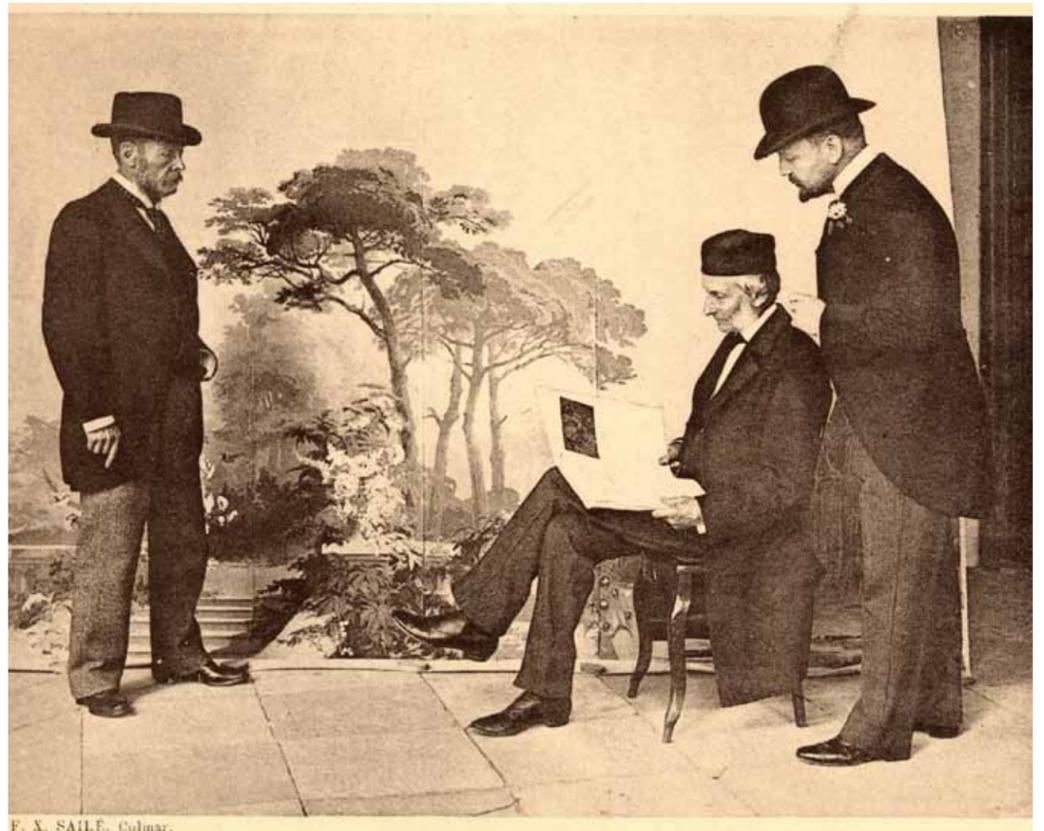


## THE OLD VILLA WEARNE

This mansion was built in 1897 and Harry Wearne lived in it. That's why it was called by the old Rixheim inhabitants Villa Wearne. In the house was at inception modern comfort since a bathroom was already in it. Born in London in 1852, Harry Wearne worked as a graphist in the factory Zuber & Cie since 1882. He then became a commercial representative of the company and got married in 1888 to Pauline Emma, daughter of Emile Zuber and Marie Lauth. From this union were born 4 children. Divorced in 1900, Wearne left Rixheim at an unknown time and went to New-York. In 1906-07 a new kitchen and a veranda enlarged the house. Just before World War I, it was inhabited by management of the Zuber company.



From left to right : Emile Zuber, Ivan Zuber (sitting) and Harry Wearne in 1897, year of the century of the installation of the company in Rixheim.



The pilot Ernst Udet (1896-1941)

In 1914, the house was requisitioned by the German army to accommodate some military staff of the aerodrome of Rixheim-Habsheim. From November 1915 to February 1917, the pilot Ernst Udet lived in this villa, « wie Gott in Frankreich », as stated in his memoirs. It was in the Rixheim sky that he won his first air battle on March 18th 1916. He is considered as the second best of the German aviation of the Great War, with 62 victories, and 80 to the Baron Manfred von Richthofen.

Created in 1909 on a part of a German army maneuvered practice land, the aerodrome of Rixheim Habsheim was used before 1914 as a trying and practice land for the planes made in Dornach by the Aviatik company. Several aerial meetings, of worldwide reputation, were held there before the war.

The villa remained a Zuber belonging until its buying by the city of Rixheim in 1984, in the same time as the buying of the Commandery, becoming City Hall in 1986.



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