



Who was Captain T.S. Pearson M.C.

Who was Captain T.S. Pearson whose gravestone in St Peters Churchyard, Wellesbourne records he was awarded the Military Cross? We have discovered why he was awarded the Military Cross in November 1916. The citation in the Edinburgh Gazette reads:

2nd Lt. Thomas Sydney Pearson, Royal Artillery and Royal Flying Corp

For conspicuous skill and gallantry.

He has done fine contact patrol work. On one occasion, with another officer as pilot, he flew for a long time at about 500 feet under heavy rifle-fire, in order to locate a lost battalion.

What more do we know

We now know he was made 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery in February 1916 after a cadetship. (By November he had been awarded the M.C. whilst seconded to the infant Royal Flying Corp.

He returned to the Royal Artillery in May 1920. A few months later in 1920, he married Ida Mary Jolliffe from Stratford. He lived in "The Cottage", Wellesbourne (on Church Street) during the 1920s until his death at the early age of thirty-six in 1932. He is mentioned on a description of the photo below.

Wellesbourne. Bridge Street



Date: 1920 - 1929 (c.)

Description: The motor car which is standing outside the garage in Bridge Street, is a 14.4 H.P. Armstrong Siddeley which was registered by Mr T.S. Pearson of The Cottage, Wellesbourne, in 1924

We now know that Captain Pearson was the son of Sydney James Pearson who ran the family Paper Mill business in Richmond, Yorkshire established by his mother's family the Cookes.

Why did he settle in Wellesbourne? We can only surmise. He married Ida Mary in 1920. She was the daughter of Charles Jolliffe who in 1901 was living at Goldicote House, Alderminster. By 1911 he was living in Hurworth near Darlington with his family including Ida May. Hurworth is only 15 miles from the Paper Mill run by Captain Pearson's father. Maybe that is how they met. The 1911 census also shows that Ida May visited the Allfrey family who lived at Staple Hill just outside Wellesbourne. The Allfreys were perhaps family friends from the years when Ida May had lived at Goldicote House. Some ten years later Captain Pearson and Ida May had settled in Wellesbourne.

When Captain Pearson died in 1932 the Stratford Herald recorded *"he had been suffering from a long and trying illness, and the end was not unexpected"*.

“Captain Pearson had been associated with Wellesbourne for the last ten years, and during that time had identified himself closely with all local organisations, particularly the British Legion. He had won the warm regard of local people, as was shown by the large number attending the funeral. Practically every house had drawn blinds”

Ida Mary lived on in the Cottage and died in June 1981 by which time she was living at Crimscote. So far we have spoken to two or three people who remember her.

The Pearson's had three children. We know one child was Rosemary who was born in 1924 and another was James born in 1921. There was also Charles. We do not know where Rosemary, Charles and James settled.

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