

PRIVATE W PEARSON



Photo from Malton Gazette 1915

Walter Pearson was born in Hutton le Hole on 28th January 1898. His father Robert, a general labourer, was born in Hutton le Hole and his mother Margaret was born in Rosedale, but lived most of her life in Hutton le Hole. Robert and Margaret married in 1885.

Six months before Walter was born his father, Robert, died in June 1897.

By the 1911 Census when Walter was 13 years of age, he was living and working on a farm in Aislaby, near Pickering as a Ploughman and had given his age as 15.

Walter had an elder sister Florence who was now married and possibly living in Bawtry, Yorkshire; an older brother Robert William, an Ironstone miner in 1911; a brother Alfred who in 1911 was a Waggoner on a farm in Oswaldkirk; another sister Ruth who was a Housekeeper living elsewhere in Hutton le Hole, another elder brother Harry who was a Horseman on a farm in Settrington.

Walter also had 5 other brothers and sister who were in 1911 of school age or less; Bruce, Alic, Cyril, Harold, and Violet.

Files also for Alfred, Bruce and Alic (sic) Pearson – Walter's brothers

Military Service

Walter Pearson was Attested into the Territorial Force for 4 years service on 13th January 1915 in Malton.

When he signed the papers his age was 16 years and 350 days. According to the photo from the Malton Gazette he was stationed at Darlington. This was probably one of the training bases used by the Territorial Battalion.



5th Yorkshire Regiment leaves Pickering in August 1914

On 25th May 1916, Walter signed the Imperial and General Service obligation, meaning that he, a member of the Territorial Force would serve in any area, in or outside the United Kingdom, and would agree to transfer to a different unit if deemed necessary.

He signed the document at Babworth Camp where he was then with the 2/5 Battalion Yorkshire Regiment, and a new service number of 203509 was assigned.

On the 7th July 1916 Walter embarked at Folkestone for Boulogne via "Golden Eagle", and subsequently was transferred to the 1/4 (Hallamshire) Battalion of the York and Lancaster Regiment in France arriving at Etaples, an Infantry Base Depot, by the 24 September 1916 .

A document dated 25th September 1916 from the Territorial Force Records in York, states that upon attestation he gave his age as 18 years, but that his Birth Cert. had been inspected which confirmed his Date of Birth as 28th January 1898.

Files also for Alfred, Bruce and Alic (sic) Pearson – Walter's brothers

An entry in his records dated 5th October 1916, while he was at Etaples, when he was still only 18yrs and 250 days, then sets out the following;

“.....will be retained at Base for Training until he attains age of 19”.
He had been found out, and should not have been abroad until the age of 19.

His records state that he rejoined his unit, the 1/4 (Hallamshire) Battalion of the York and Lancaster Regiment, on 12th February 1917. This unit was in the 148th Brigade in the 49th Division of the British Army.

Whilst at the Base Depot his training seems to have worked as he was awarded a Proficiency pay class 1 in the field.

War diaries for his unit have, as yet, not been found so the Divisional whereabouts cannot be ascertained; however, the next entry in his service record reports the following.

“Wounded in Action” on 23rd July 1917” and on 28th July 1917 “To ENG per H S St Denis from le Treport” – (To England per Hospital Ship St Denis from Le Treport).

Walter Pearson was admitted to Hospital in Guildford on 29th July 1917 with Gunshot Wounds to the Buttocks and Right Thigh, and was later granted 10 days leave on 5th October 1917 to be taken at Hutton le Hole. He was then not considered fit for duty, but for return to Command Depot.

His Military History Sheet, see below, also reports another Gun Shot Wound to the Left Leg, in France, in 1918.

MILITARY HISTORY SHEET – entries made from time to time

Place	From	To	Years	Days
Embodied	13.1.15	7.7.16	1	177
Exp. Force France	8.7.16	28.7.17	1	22
Home	29.7.17	21.3.18		241
France	1.4.18	30.9.18		183
Home	1.10.18	28.2.19		150

Campaigns	Home	13.1.15 to 7.7.16
	Exp Force France	8.7.16 to 28.7.17
	Home	29.7.17 to -

Decorations - British War and Victory Medals

Wounded GSW Buttocks 23/7/17
 GSW L Leg France 1918 Ha 29640

Proceedings of Court of Inquiry 20th November 1917, Northern Command depot, Ripon.

“ for the purpose of inquiring into the damage to Three Dentures (Top Set) of No. 203509 Private W Pearson, 4th York and Lancs. Regiment. “

“on the 20th August 1916 whilst in Trenches and was eating Ration Biscuits , as a result Denture was broken “

“on about 16th July 1917 I was again in the Trenches when I accidentally broke two more dentures in a manner somewhat similar to the former, by eating Ration Biscuits. I did not report as at the time my Brigade were (sic) engaged in a push. I became wounded and reported at a medical inspection in Ripon on about 9th November 1917.”

The Court found in favour of Pte. Pearson and recommended that the damage be made good at the Public expense.

Walter, after a period in “reserve” was Posted to B E F (France) on 1st April 1918, and then transferred and posted to the 19th Battalion Durham Light Infantry on 7th April 1918, which was in the 104th Brigade of the 35th Division.

This unit had previously been involved in heavy fighting on the Somme following a German attack which had inflicted large allied losses while attempting to advance to capture the critical railway junction of Amiens.

On 21st June 1918 Walter Pearson, now no. 245936 was promoted to Lance Corporal.

Walter was then posted to 73rd Territorial Force Depot at Stockton on Tees on 1st October 1918, and subsequently demobilized on 28th February 1919. His home address is given as, 1, Firwood Terrace, Ferryhill Station, Co Durham and not Hutton le Hole.

The original home address for his next of kin, his mother Margaret, had been amended on his Military History sheet.

Please see overleaf for details of the family.

Possibility but nothing found to substantiate:

On one of the Service records Walter's father is named as Thomas Pearson, not Robert.

As noted Robert Pearson died six months before Walter was born.

Robert's father, however, Walter's Grandfather, was named Thomas Pearson, so it may be possible that Walter grew up with his grandfather as a surrogate father.

Files also for Alfred, Bruce and Alic (sic) Pearson – Walter's brothers

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

Number of Schedule 63
(To be filled up by the Enumerator when required.)

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family	AGE and SEX	PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE				PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards				BIRTHPLACE of every person	NATIONALITY of every person	INFIRMITY
			State, for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule, the number of—	Wife	Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)	Children born alive to previous Marriage. (If any children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)	Children born alive to previous Marriage. (If any children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)	Children born alive to previous Marriage. (If any children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)	Children born alive to previous Marriage. (If any children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)	Children born alive to previous Marriage. (If any children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)			
1 Margaret Pearson	Head	42	Widow	13	7	2	Chairwoman	020	Widow	Widow	Storks Road, Hutton le Hole		
2 William Pearson	Son	26	Single				Stationer, Printer & School	523 540	Widow	Widow	Storks Hutton le Hole		
3 Bruce Pearson	Son	12									Storks Hutton le Hole		
4 Ethel Pearson	Son	9									Storks Hutton le Hole		
5 Harold Pearson	Son	4									Storks Hutton le Hole		
6 Violet Pearson	Daughter	5									Storks Hutton le Hole		

(To be filled up by the Enumerator)

I certify that—

(1) All the ages on this Schedule are entered in this paper in full years.

(2) Every married man and woman in Column 3, and if separately, and have reported their own, with the usual number of persons.

(3) After making the necessary corrections, I have completed all boxes on all returns which require to be filled up by the Enumerator, and have corrected such as appeared to be erroneous.

Initials of Enumerator: jm

Males	Females	Persons
5	2	7

(To be filled up by, or on behalf of, the Head of Family or other person in occupation, or in charge, of this dwelling.)

I declare that this Schedule is correctly filled up to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: Margaret Pearson

Postal Address: Hutton le Hole, Kirby Muxey, Storks

Initials: L. Pearson

1891 census Hutton le Hole

24	Hutton le Hole	1	Robert Pearson	Head	Married	General Labourer	North, Hutton le Hole
			Margaret Pearson	Wife	"	"	"
			Harrope le Pearson	Daughter	"	"	"
			Robt M ^r Pearson	Son	"	"	"
			Alfred Pearson	"	"	"	"
			Violet Pearson	Daughter	"	"	"

Files also for Alfred, Bruce and Alic (sic) Pearson – Walter's brothers