

# THE BRAMCOTE TIMES

Since the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World War One, we decided to write an article about one of the local people who gave their life protecting our country as well as other countries like Belgium and France.

One of the brave soldiers that died in World War One was Lieutenant Stephan Hetley Pearson. Pearson was born in Beeston on 30 Jun 1882. He and his twin brother, John Strachen Pearson, were the oldest sons and third and fourth children of Henry John and Laura Kate Pearson. Pearson was educated at Charterhouse School and then trained as a Chartered Accountant and went on to use these skills in the family business. His twin brother, John Strachen Pearson, became a farmer and eventually left for New Zealand. Stephen Hetley continued to develop his interest in the training of local boys, reforming the Boys Brigade and, together with others in the family and following his father's death in 1913, he gave generously to establish the Lads Club.



Lieutenant Stephan Hetley Pearson



Photo of Ypres in 1914, before German Invasion

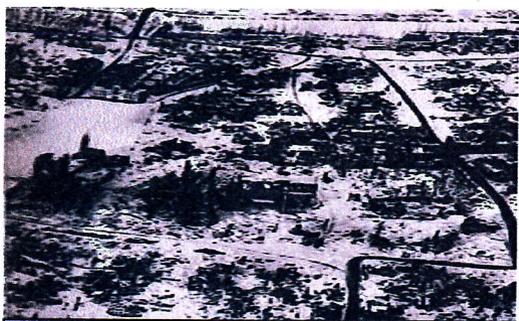


Photo of Ypres in 1916, near the end of the Invasion.

Pearson fought in Ypres, Belgium, where he fought to liberate Belgium from German hands. During the battles that took place there, the town of Ypres was battered and destroyed. Over 1 million people died in the battles for Ypres. Pearson fought in this battle, but he survived it.

In 1916, he was re-deployed in France and joined the 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards in 1917, and sent to the fighting line in France. His first but sadly his last battle over France was the battle of Gauche Wood. He died 1<sup>st</sup> December 1917 aged 35, the body was not found until after the war, a few yards away from where he was thought to have died at. He is buried in the British Cemetery in France, but has a grave stone in Beeston Cemetery as well.

Also his sons, Pilot Officer Henry Hetley Pearson and Lieutenant Basil John Pearson were killed in World War Two. Henry was killed on Sunday, 17th August 1941, aged 21. Basil was killed on Sunday, 10th September 1944, aged 20.



The grave of Lieutenant Stephan Hetley Pearson