

Herbert Daniel Pearce

Private, 5th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment. Enlisted at Devizes, April, 1915. Sent to Mesopotamia and died there in hospital, April 4th, 1916 [*sic*]. General Service and Victory Medals.



HERBERT PEARCE WAS born in Corsham in 1896. His father was Jonathon Pearce and his mother was Elizabeth (née Bethell). Jonathon was a freestone quarryman, described in the census as a stone ganger, and in 1901 the family were living on Bradford Road in Corsham. Herbert was the youngest of seven children living at home: he had three brothers, Charles, Frederick and Albert – all of them already working – and three sisters, Louise, Bessie and Mabel, who were still at school.

By 1911 Herbert had left school and was working as a grocer's errand boy. He was still living at home with his parents at 6 Bradford Road, and his father and elder brother Albert were both working at the Bath Stone quarry.

There appears to be some confusion over Herbert's early military service. His initial Attestation Papers record that he joined up for the Territorial Force on 20th November 1914 in Bath, aged 18 years and 9 months, but that he was discharged only weeks later. At that time he was a labourer at the gasworks. *War Records of Corsham* says that he signed on for full military service in April 1915, joining the 5th Battalion of the Wiltshire Regiment, and was sent to Mesopotamia. It further records that he died in hospital on 4th April 1916.

CORSHAM COMMEMORATES

His service records differ slightly from this account and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission record states that he was in theatre in Mesopotamia in November 1915 and died on 20th April 1916. He was 19 years old.

Herbert is buried in the Amara War Cemetery in Iraq. His personal effects were left to his father Jonathon.