

Nigel Reginald Pearce, 184589

Lieutenant, Infantry, Sherwood Foresters (Notts and Derby Regiment)

Nigel was the son of Reginald Albert Samuel Pearce and Frances Ethel, née Church.

Reginald was born 1883 in Bath, Somerset. In the 1891 census Reginald was living in Batheaston, Somerset, with his parents, four siblings, a cousin, his grandfather, a governess and two servants. In 1901 Reginald was living with his parents and sister at York Villa, Bath. His father Thomas was recorded as a brewer, wine and spirit merchant. In 1911 Reginald was living as a lodger at 372 Shobnall Street, Burton. By this time he was also a brewer.

Frances was one of eleven daughters of Henry and Eliza Church. She was born in Kettering, Northants in 1891. In 1901 Frances was living at home with her mother Eliza and her father Henry, who was a draper and coal merchant. They lived at the Market Square, Kettering. The household also comprised of five sisters, two female assistants from the shop (a dressmaker and a draper's assistant), two female domestic servants and a male house porter. The older sisters were no longer living with the family.

In 1911 Frances Church was living at 214 Shobnall Street, Burton, working as a nurse in the house of Sidney Deakin, a brewery operative from Pimlico. Sidney's wife was from Manchester and they had a four year old son Edward. They also had a domestic servant living at the house.

Reginald and Frances married in 1919 in the Mansfield registration district. They lived in Belvedere Road, Burton and in the 1935 Directory Reginald was listed as a brewer, by then living at Greystones, Repton. Reginald died 28 January 1946, aged 62. He is buried at St Wystan's churchyard.

Nigel was born in 1921 and he had a sister Hazel, born 1923. Nigel was a pupil at Oakham School, 1930-1941. He was a boarder at School House and became a prefect. He was awarded his colours for playing rugby for the school.



War Memorial Chapel,
Oakham School

Nigel's name is engraved in
the column on the right.

Nigel was a lieutenant in the Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment). He died on 6 September 1944, aged 22 and is buried in grave VII F 9 Coriano Ridge War Cemetery, Italy. The cemetery is west of Riccione, a seaside resort on the Adriatic Coast. The cemetery contains 1,939 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War.

The Allies invaded Italy in September 1943 and Rome fell in June 1944. Coriano Ridge was the last important ridge in the way of the Allied advance in the Adriatic sector in 1944. Its capture was the key to Rimini and then the River Po. German parachute and panzer troops, aided by bad weather, resisted all attacks on their positions between 4 and 12 September 1944. The ridge was successfully attacked and taken on the night of 12 September.

Although buried in Italy, Nigel is remembered along with his father.



St Wystan's Churchyard,
Repton

The engraved curb stone reads:

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
REGINALD A. S. PEARCE
DIED 28TH JANUARY 1946 AGED 62

AND NIGEL REGINALD PEARCE
KILLED IN ITALY 6TH SEPT. 1944
AGED 22