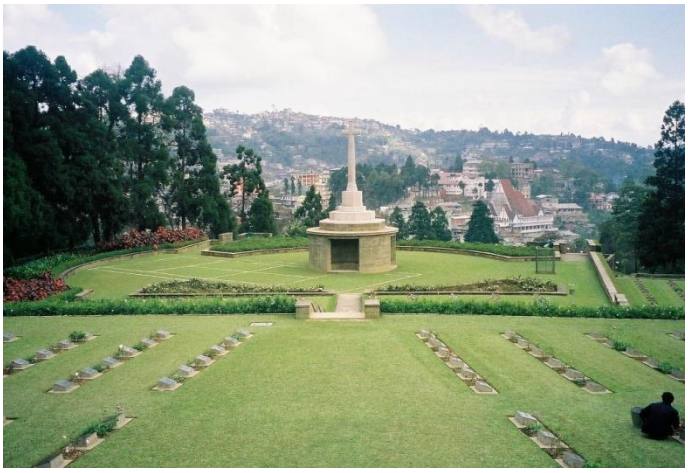
# Joseph Henry Pearson





**Rank: -** Fusilier

**Number: -** 4397228

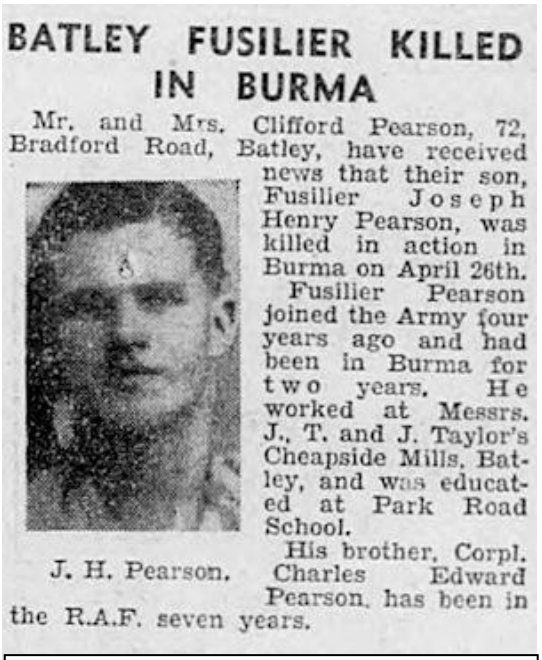
**Regiment: -** Lancashire Fusiliers 1/8th Bn

**Died: -** Killed in Action, Burma 26 April 1944 Age: 22 years.

**Cemetery: -** Kohima War Cemetery, India 1. D. 13.

Joseph Henry was born in 1922 the son of Clifford and Ivy Pearson nee Greenough who had married on 29 July 1916 at Bruntcliffe, Morley. Florence Irene was born in 1919, Charles Edward 1920 and Joseph Henry. In 1939 the family lived at 143, Commercial Street, Batley later moving to 72, Bradford Road, Batley. Charles Edward had been in the RAF since 1937. Joseph Henry was educated at Park Road School and worked at Messrs. J.T. & J. Taylor's, Cheapside Mills, Batley before he enlisted in 1940. He went to Burma in 1942.

The battalion fought in the Burma Campaign and participated in many famous battles, such as the Battle of Kohima, serving in the British Fourteenth Army under Bill Slim. The Burma campaign was a series of battles fought in the British colony of Burma. It was part of the South-East Asian theatre of World War 11 and primarily involved forces of the Allies; the British Empire and the Republic of China, with support from the United States. They faced against the invading forces of Imperial Japan, who were supported by the Thai Phayap Army, as well as two collaborationist independence movements and armies, the first being the Burma Independence Army, which spearheaded the initial attacks against the country. The Japanese advance into India was halted at Kohima in April 1944 and garrison Hill, a long-wooded spur on a high ridge west of the village, was perhaps the most bitter fighting of the whole Burma campaign when a small Commonwealth force held out against repeated attacks by a Japanese Division. The fiercest hand to hand fighting took place in the garden of the Deputy Commissioner's bungalow, around the tennis court, but the heaviest casualties on both sides occurred after relieving forces reached the Garrison and the Japanese were driven off the ridge, so re-opening the road to Imphal.



**BATLEY FUSILIER KILLED IN BURMA**

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Pearson, 72, Bradford Road, Batley, have received news that their son, Fusilier Joseph Henry Pearson, was killed in action in Burma on April 26th.

Fusilier Pearson joined the Army four years ago and had been in Burma for two years. He worked at Messrs. J., T. and J. Taylor's Cheapside Mills, Batley, and was educated at Park Road School.

J. H. Pearson.

His brother, Corpl. Charles Edward Pearson, has been in the R.A.F. seven years.

Batley News, 27 May 1944

AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN, AND IN THE MORNING,
WE WILL REMEMBER HIM

Joseph Henry is remembered with Honour at Batley War Memorial and was awarded the 1939-45 Star and the 1939-1945 War Medal.




Researched by members of
Batley History Group