



Lance-Corporal
Tom Pearce-Brown
27.08.1880—02.02.1902



The person whom this scroll commemorates was numbered amongst those who, at the call of Monarch and Country left all that was dear to them, endured hardness, faced danger and finally passed out of the sight of men by the path of duty and self-sacrifice, giving up their own lives that others might live in freedom.

Let those who come after see to it that this person be not forgotten.

23000 Lance Corporal

T Pearce Brown

Battalion 4

Imperial Yeomanry

Date of Death: 02/02/1902

THE PEARCE-BROWN FAMILY

Lance-Corporal Tom Pearce-Brown was born in Escrick on 27 August 1880. His full name was Reginald Tom Pearce-Brown. He lived at Thorganby Hall, the first child of Reginald Pearce-Brown and Emily Mary Palmes. Reginald's father was from Chiseldon, near Swindon and owned 1,000 acres of land at Barderop Farm. Emily was a member of the prominent local Palmes family from Naburn Hall, an old aristocratic family who could date their origins back to Anne Boleyn. Reginald and Emily were married at Escrick Church on 23 September 1879.



Thorganby Hall

When Tom was two years old his brother Richard was born and Charles followed three years later. The three boys had a governess and there was a nanny, cook and housemaids working at the house.

Their father was a land agent, probably for the Dunnington-Jefferson Estate which covered Thorganby and East Cottingwith. Their maternal grandfather was the Venerable James Palmes who was the Rector of Escrick Church from 1868 to 1892. Eleven years earlier he had attended the Consecration of Escrick Church on 2 July 1857. When he was Rector he lived at the Escrick Rectory (Parsonage Hotel) adjacent to the church and most probably presided at the marriage of his daughter.

Tom Pearce-Brown joined the 4th Battalion of the Imperial Yeomanry which was made up of volunteers mainly from middle and upper class men. He was sent to Southern Africa in 1900. Sadly he died of Enteric fever (Typhoid) during the second Boer War in Kroonstadt on 2 February 1902. He was just 22 years old.

Tom received the Queen's South Africa Medal, awarded to all who served in South Africa up to the end of the Second Boer War in May 1902. Poor logistics and disease made the South African campaign a tough one for the British soldier, men often having to go without basics such as food and water, and enteric fever was a constant drain on manpower. This combined with having to fight a guerrilla war against a capable enemy makes this a hard won medal. The modern published casualty rolls run to over 50,000 names.

The only personal memorial for Tom seems to be the Hand Funeral Bier which was presented to the Parish by his mother and father in his memory and was consecrated in St Helen's Church, Escrick on Wednesday 27 May 1902 at a short afternoon service. This funeral bier remains in the church and is displayed in the north aisle.



Richard Pearce-Brown was a 2nd Lieutenant in the 4th Battalion of Durham Light Infantry. He was killed in Action in Picardie, France on 17 July 1916. His remains rest at Poziere Cemetery and he is commemorated on the WWI memorial dedicated to staff of the Midland Bank who died in the War, at 8 Canada Square, London.

Charles Pearce-Brown appears to have avoided military action. In 1930 he received a good inheritance from his father and emigrated to Brisbane with his wife Minnie Monks. They both worked in Music Halls. They were divorced in 1936. His mother visited him in 1936 showing that she was still in contact with her remaining son. Minnie returned to England and died in 1966. Charles died in New Zealand in 1964, and was buried in Wellington.

None of Reginald and Emily's three sons had any children. Therefore, the family line and the name sadly stops here.

THE ANGLO BOER WAR

Between 1899—1902 Dutch-speaking settlers and soldiers from the British Empire fought battles in South Africa.

The catalyst for the Second Boer War was the discovery of gold in the Transvaal—an area controlled by the Dutch-speaking Afrikaner settlers—who were also known as Boers (the Dutch name for farmer). Thousands of British people settled in the area, resulting in tensions over who should control the gold mining industry. The War which began on 11 October 1899, raged for more than three years, until the British eventually wore down the

Boer resistance. The British soldiers tried to cut off supplies to the Boers, destroyed farms and crops and introduced concentration camps where thousands of Boers died, many as a result of malnutrition and disease. The operation was the biggest deployment of troops since the Crimea, involving half a million soldiers, including volunteers from Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

The Boer War casualty records show that disease was the most common cause of death:

Killed	7,894
Died of disease	13,250
Missing	934
Wounded	22,828

Records also show that 300,000 horses died.

There is a memorial in Johannesburg commemorating the British dead of the Anglo/Boer War.

**South African Anglo-Boer War Memorial,
Johannesburg War Museum. Architect: Edwin Lutyens**



'A dark and regrettable period of War but one that should never be forgotten.'

Dan Brown, Historian