

John Herbert Pears

Lieut-Commander (E) H.M.S. Orion, Royal Navy

Died on 29 May 1941 Age 31

Remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial.

<https://www.cwgc.org/find-records/find-war-dead/casualty-details/2485789/JOHN%20HERBERT%20PEARS/>

John Herbert was born in Lincolnshire. His parents were Herbert and Emily Mary (nee Bell or Bott) They were married in 1908, registered in Lincoln R D in the December quarter. Their son John Herbert was born the following year in Potterhamworth, his birth registered in Lincoln R.D in the September quarter of 1909. On the 1911 Census the family are living in Potterhamworth (a village about 6 miles south east of Lincoln) His father was a farmer who was reasonably well off having servants living in with the family.

John's father Herbert died on 8th December 1918 aged 43

Probate 1919

PEARS Herbert of Potterhamworth Lincolnshire died 8 December 1918. Probate Lincoln 19 February to Emily Mary Pears widow. Effects £19,346 10s 7d

Herbert had been a well know breeder of Lincoln Longhorn sheep frequent showing the animals and winning prizes in agricultural shows.

In a later news report John was said to have attended Seacroft School, so presumably he and his mother left the farm and moved to live in Seacroft, near to Skegness.

Beyond this I have been unable to trace any information about John as a young man and do not know at what point he joined the Navy.

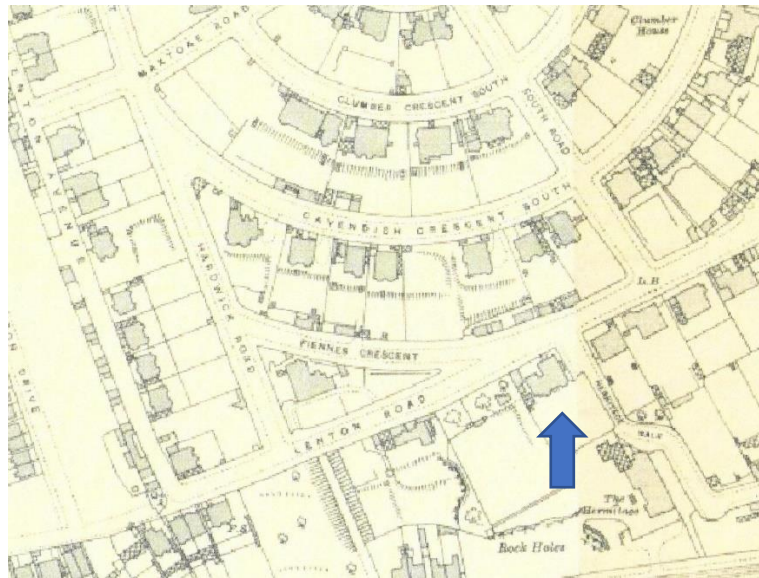
He married Elizabeth D Curnow in 1938, the marriage being registered in Nottingham in the June quarter of that year.

A daughter, Elizabeth C was born to Elizabeth D and John Herbert in 1939, registered in Nottingham RD in the December quarter of that year.

On the 1939 register Elizabeth is living with her parents at 1 South Road the Park her father's occupation was 'fruit merchant and master farmer'



Detail of , South Road The Park taken by Ken Brand
www.picturenottingham.co.uk



John Herbert had been promoted to Lieut. Commander and was on the ship HMS Orion. In 1940 the ship was escorting convoys to Malta and in 1941 was in the Crete Aegean area. On 29th May 1941 during the evacuation of Crete the ship was bombed and badly damaged, around 360 lives were lost including Lieut. Commander John Henry Pears. He would be buried at sea and is remembered on the Plymouth Naval Memorial.

Nottingham Journal 5 June 1941

Death of Lt. Commander John H Pears.

The death is reported of Lieut John H Pears RN who was well known in Nottingham. He leaves a widow who is living with her mother at 1, South Road The Park Nottingham and a two year old daughter. Commander Pears who was 41 was educated at Seacroft School. His service in the Navy was acknowledged by rapid promotion and he was promoted to Lieut Commander last October.

In the Deaths column of the Lincolnshire Echo 5 June 1941 was

PEARS Killed on active service Lt Commander(E) John Herbert Pears RN aged 31, very dearly loved only son of Mrs Pears Seacroft Skegness.

Probate 1941

PEARS John Herbert of 1 South Road, The Park Nottingham died 28 May 1941 on war service. Administration (with will) Nottingham 4 October to Elizabeth Dorothy Pears widow. Effects £1,680 19s 9d.