

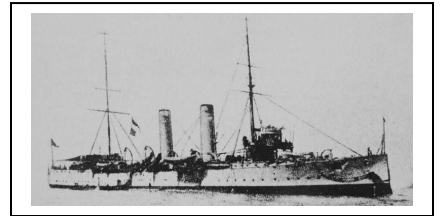
**Private Albert Pearcey (Regimental Number 14039, 15<sup>th</sup> (*The King's*) Hussars) is interred in Boulogne Eastern Cemetery – Grave reference VIII.A.62.**

**His occupations prior to military service in the Army were apparently all on board ship. It is documented that he was a crew member on HMS *Brilliant*\* on two occasions: from May 23 of 1907 until August 28, some three months later; then from November 7 of that same year until April 29 of 1908.**



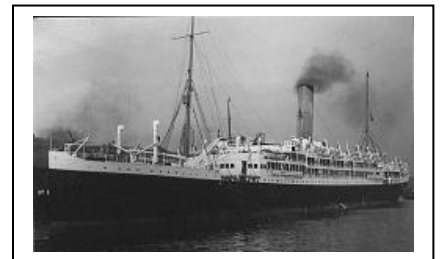
Apparently Rating Pearcey deserted HMS *Brilliant* on that first occasion and was tried and imprisoned for thirty days during that interim period for having done so.

On April 30, 1908, he was transferred to HMS *Sappho* and there remained as a member of her crew for but a week, until May 7.



*\*HMS Brilliant (above) and HMS Sappho were two Appollo-Class cruisers: during the period of 1906 to 1911, Brilliant was at first on the Royal Navy's North American Station and later attached to the West Indies Station; Sappho was in 1906 attached to the Newfoundland fishery before then, like Brilliant, serving with the North American then West Indies Stations.*

Not long after his service with the Royal Navy, Albert Pearcey sailed as a steward on board the new Allan Line steamer *Victorian* on its Great Britain-North America runs, earning the sum of £3/10/- (three pounds ten shillings) per month. Then on July(?) 22 of 1912, he signed onto a steward's position with the ship *Orcoma* where he likely remained until the time of his enlistment.



*(Right above: The Pacific Steam Navigation Company vessel Orcoma mainly served on the Liverpool to South America routes. In April of 1915 she was requisitioned by the Admiralty to serve as an Armed Merchant Cruiser which she did until April of 1918. – photograph from the Naval History web site)*

Albert Pearcey enlisted into the 15<sup>th</sup> Hussars (*The King's*) in the port-city of Southampton. The date of his joining-up seems not to be among the available documents but it was almost certainly near to the end of 1914 as recruits customarily underwent fourteen weeks of training, and Private Pearcey was recorded as entering a theatre of war – France – on April 23, 1915.

He must have travelled as part of a re-enforcement draft as the 15<sup>th</sup> Hussars were by then already on the Continent. The force had landed in Rouen as a part of the Cavalry Division on August 18, 1914, before its three squadrons were separated to serve in the British 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Divisions. On the 14<sup>th</sup> of April of the following year, the three squadrons were united once more as a unit of the 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade, itself a unit of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division, and stationed near the northern French community of La Kreule.



*(Right above: A cavalry unit during a moment of repose somewhere in France in the autumn of 1914. – from The War Illustrated)*

(continued)



**The above dossier has been researched, compiled and produced by Alistair Rice. Please email any suggested amendments or content revisions if desired to *criceadam@yahoo.ca*. Last updated – February 18, 2023.**