

# The Pauer family - Making headlines

## The Pauer family

William Carl Lambert Pauer was born in 1842 in Hanover, Germany. He became a naturalised British subject in 1868 and in 1871 married Meta, born in 1844, from Göttingen, Germany. They had five children: Margaret, William, Hans, Antoinette and Heloise.



They were successful wholesale, wine, spirit and tobacco merchants at 22 Piccadilly in Hanley, with a bonded warehouse in Clough Street.

In 1911, when they lived at Inglewood, Albert Drive, Trentham, William was retired and Hans had taken over the business.

William, the eldest son, was working as a veterinary surgeon in Blackwater, Hampshire.

During World War 1 Heloise and Antoinette were actively involved in local sporting, artistic and musical activities with frequent mentions in the Sentinel newspapers of the time.

William Pauer senior died in 1920 leaving substantial stocks in railway and waterworks companies to his children. Meta died in 1924 and husband and wife are buried in Trentham Cemetery. Margaret continued to live at Inglewood until her death in 1942. By 1939 Antoinette had followed her brother William to Hartley Wintney in Hampshire, probably to keep house for him, following the death of his wife.

## Heloise Pauer and aviation

When her father died in 1920, like her sisters, Heloise Pauer was left shareholdings to the value of: £400 in the Staffordshire Waterworks Company, £500 in London and North Western Railway Company and £1000 North Staffs Railway Company + a legacy of £1800. This would have meant she was comfortably off for a single unmarried woman. The late 1920s and early 30s were a golden age of aviation and Miss Pauer took flying lessons from Captain Ernest [Ted] Fresson, previously of the Canadian Royal Flying Corps. A contemporary news report stated: *At a Cockermouth display the dangers of aviation at that period gave young woman student pilot, Heloise Pauer, a rather more interesting experience than she had bargained for. Her instructor, Captain Ernest Fresson, in the front cockpit, was at take-off speed on a bumpy field when his control stick broke away from its housing. A hedge was fast approaching and a nasty accident seemed likely. Without telling her what was happening, Capt. Fresson used the communication tube to calmly ask his pupil in the rear cockpit to ease her control stick back a little. She reacted well and the plane rose smoothly into the air. At 1,000ft they levelled off and Capt. Fresson managed to reconnect his stick sufficiently to make a landing. Miss Pauer was "amazed" to learn that she had unconsciously averted a disaster.*

Undaunted by this experience, Capt Fresson bought a De Havilland Gipsy Moth plane G-AAWO on her behalf from Northern Flying Services on 30 March 1931. The following month Capt Fresson and Miss Pauer flew to Kirkwall with a view to finding suitable sites for "joy flights". The same year Captain Fresson took passengers on "joy flights" from a field near to Trentham railway station for 5 shillings a trip. They flew over Trentham Park, the Michelin and Stoke Church, looping the loop before a bumpy descent. Miss Pauer again accompanied Captain Fresson on a trip to Kirkwall on Orkney on 9 February 1932. He went on to found Highland Airways, which operated the first scheduled air service in the UK. When the first scheduled services were inaugurated in 1933, Capt Fresson was flying a different plane. However Miss Pauer's former Gipsy Moth G-AAWO is still flying today.

Heloise travelled first class to Indonesia by sea in 1935, with many ports of call. She probably followed her sister to live in Hampshire, as she died in that area in 1975, aged 92. She left £16,494 in her will.



### SON OF NATURALISED GERMAN.

Hans Carl Pauer, son of a naturalised German, wine and spirit merchant, Hanley, was fined £100 and sentenced to six months' imprisonment by the Potteries stipendiary at Burslem, for having repeated the alleged statement that troops were carried on British hospital ships. The allegation was given an unqualified denial in evidence by Sir William Donovan, Director-General of the Medical Services.

### 'SPREAD A FALSE REPORT.'

#### Talk About Troops on Hospital Ship—Recorder Upholds Fine.

Hans Paul Pauer, until recently a wine and spirit merchant at Hanley, appealed at Stoke Quarter Sessions yesterday against a fine of £100 and sentence of six months in the second division for spreading a false report.

The torpedoing of the Warilda was being discussed in a railway carriage, said counsel, and Pauer said he had heard a British soldier say he had seen a hospital ship arrive at Alexandria and that to his astonishment two thousand men in khaki stepped out of her.

Major-General Sir W. Donovan, in evidence, denied that any combatant soldiers were carried on hospital ships.

The Recorder upheld the fine, but reduced the imprisonment to one month in the second division.

## Hans Pauer and Anti-German feeling

In 1915 Hans Pauer was head of the family business, married, a sidesman at Trentham Church and recently installed as Worshipful Master of St Michael's Freemasonry Lodge in Stone, where he had been a member since 1896. He was the epitome of a successful and popular citizen. But a chance remark on 6 August 1918 saw him hauled in front of a stipendiary magistrate accused under the Defence of the Realm Act 1914.

Following the sinking of the hospital ship Warilda by a German submarine a few days previously, he repeated a conversation he had heard about British soldiers being smuggled to the front under the cover of hospital ships. One of his companions, who must have taken this as justification for the enemy attack, reported the matter, which resulted in Hans appearing in court on 10 September. The prosecution's anti-German sentiments were obvious and despite his protestations to the contrary, Hans was found guilty and fined £100 with six months in prison. On appeal the sentence was reduced to one month, which he served at Strangeways.

At some point after his release he anglicised his name to John Mortimer Power. Under this name he played a prominent part in the establishment of the Trentham War Memorial, although he had left the area before it was unveiled in 1921. He firstly moved to the London area, living as a "gentleman" and eventually settled in Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire. He died in 1962, aged 87, and left an estate worth £27,000.

