

George PIKE

Born Starcross, 10 June 1890
Able Seaman, 236053

Died 19 February 1917, aged 26
H.M.S.THUNDERER

George was third son of Harry and Emily Pike. His father was an agricultural worker who had been born at Kenton and his mother was from Okehampton..

Harry Pike (1863-1935) and Emily Pike (1861-1896) had married in St Thomas' district in the October-December quarter of 1885 (Vol 5b, p 100). Harry's family came from Kenton, and he was the son of John Pike (1821-) and Sarah (1823-).

Emily's family were from Okehampton and she was one of eleven children of Henry and Louisa Pike. There is no known connection between the two Pike families.

Harry and Emily were living at 1 Staplake Cottage, Starcross in 1891 with three children;

Henry James (1887-)

William (1889-)

George (1890-1917)

There were three more children before Emily died in the December quarter of 1896 (St Thomas, vol 5b, p47).

Amelia (1892-)

Annie (1894-)

Edith (1895 -)

The 1901 census shows Harry Pike as a widower with five children at the same address, William, **George**, Amelia, Annie, and Edith.

There is a Naval service record for a Henry James Pike, born in Exeter on 20 May 1887, who joined the Royal Navy as a Stoker, 2nd Class on 19 November 1908, aged 21. His previous occupation was farm labourer. He transferred to General Service as a Stoker 1st Class on 11 October 1909 and was invalided on 1 August 1923 by which time he had served as a Petty Officer Stoker, and the last seagoing posting was to *H.M.S.King George V*.

George joined the Royal Navy as a Boy Seaman on the 13th March 1906. On reaching 18 years of age he signed on for 12 years' service.

In 1911 he was an Able Seaman (A.B.) and is shown as a Visitor at Staplake Cottage, Starcross where his older brother William was a boarder with Thomas Knowles. The family appears to have separated and their father was a lodger with Charles Manning at 2 Chapel Street, Dawlish.

George was posted to *H.M.S.Thunderer* in June 1912 and then to R.N. Barracks, Devonport (*H.M.S.Vivid*) on 1st October 1915. He appears to have shown himself well and was 'Passed educationally for Petty Officer on 2 June 1914'.

In July 1915 **George** married Rose Mary Shorland.

Rose Mary Shorland was the daughter of William and Mary Ann Shorland and was born at Powderham. They had ten children but William, a farm labourer, died ca 1890, and Mary Ann is a widow in the 1891 census. It appears that Mary Ann remarried to Henry Cann, for in 1901 she is living with two children, Frank, 19, an agricultural labourer, and Rose M Shorland, 12, at 1 Shapter's Court, Old Town Street, Dawlish.

By 1911 Rose Mary Shorland was living as a servant at 9 Queen Street, Dawlish.

Dawlish World War One Project

George and Rose Mary Pike had no children and she died a widow on 5th June 1943 at 38 Brook Street, Dawlish, leaving her effects to Walter Shorland, a farm labourer.

George was invalided out of the service on 11th December 1915 (the indistinct handwritten note on his service record appears to show 'pulmonary tuberculosis'). It seems likely that he died in hospital in Exeter as that is the reference on the Devon Roll of Honour.

The Devon Roll of Honour states Pike, George, A.B. H.M.S.THUNDERER, 19 Feb 1917, Exeter

Dawlish War memorial inscription: PIKE G. A.B. H.M.S.THUNDERER

Devon Heritage site info:

236053 Able Seaman George Pike of the Royal Navy, H.M.S.THUNDERER. Husband of Rose Mary Pike of 38 Brook Street, Dawlish. Born in Dawlish 10 June 1890. Died 19 February 1917 aged 26. Buried in Dawlish Cemetery.

Commonwealth War Graves entry: PIKE, GEORGE Able Seaman 236053 19/02/1917
Age: 26 Royal Navy H.M.S. "Thunderer." Grave Ref: 779. [Dawlish Cemetery](#)
Husband of Rose Mary Pike, of 38, Brook St., Dawlish.

Last known address: 38 Brook Street, Dawlish

Next of kin: Rose Mary Pike, wife, (1889-1943)

H.M.S.THUNDERER was the third Orion class battleship built for the Royal Navy and was the last vessel to be constructed by Thames Iron Works. She was the last and largest warship ever built on the River Thames.

By a margin of £1000 she was the most expensive battleship of the 1909 Construction programme built, and after her completion her builders declared bankruptcy. She proved to be the slowest (by a knot) of the Orion class on trials.

During World War 1 Thunderer served in the 2nd Battle Squadron of the Grand Fleet. In December 1914 she was refitted. She was present with 2BS at the Battle of Jutland, 31 May 1916, firing 37 13.5" shells. She suffered no damage. In 1917 she was fitted with flying-off platforms on B and X turrets. As a result of the Washington Naval Convention she was decommissioned in 1921. From 1922 she served as a cadet ship, the sole surviving ship of her class until she was sold for scrap in December 1926.

References:

Free Birth Marriage Death records

Naval Service record (National Archives, Kew)

<http://www.forumeerstewereldoorlog.nl>

refs via subscription sites:

Census records.

Forces War records.

Pike and Shorland family trees - (Ancestry).