

Philip Gladstone POPE

Born, Wellington, Somerset, 11 August 1887
Lieutenant

Died Flanders, 16 October 1917, aged 30
Royal Field Artillery

Philip Gladstone Pope was the son of Sydney Philip Pope (1859-1937) and Jessie Gladstone (1863-1958). The Pope family had been solicitors in the 19th century.

Sydney's father, John Pope, was practising in Exeter in 1861 when the census showed, living at Langam Villa, Pennsylvania Road, Exeter:

John Pope,	Head,	38,	Solicitor,	born Wellington, Somerset	(1823-1903)
Jane Pope,	wife,	28		born Rewe, Devon	(1833-)
John Pope,	son,	5		" Exeter	
William W Pope,	son,	3 ½		" "	
Sydney P Pope	son	1		" "	

John Pope the younger went on to study law and became a solicitor himself, being named in the Will of **Philip Gladstone Pope**.

Ten years later John and Jane Pope were living at Hills Court, St David's, Exeter with Sydney, 11, Jessie E, 9 and Reginald H, 7. The later children were also born in Exeter.

Reginald Henry Pope (1864-1945) was ordained in the Church and was also, as an uncle, named in the Will of **Philip Gladstone Pope**, see below.

In 1881 Sydney Pope was a lodger at 11 Duchess Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham where he was shown as a solicitor's clerk.

Sydney P Pope married Jessie Gladstone in Birmingham in 1886 (GRO ref 1886 Oct- Dec, vol 6d, p 315).

By 1891 Sydney and Jessie Pope had moved to Exeter, and were living at 43 Manston Terrace, Heavitree with their first child, **Philip Gladstone Pope** who was born in Wellington, Somerset in 1887. He was baptised in St John's Church, Wellington on 14th September, 1887. They went on to have another child but it had died by the census of 1911, by which time they had moved to Howden, Tiverton.

Philip Gladstone Pope was sent to boarding schools, first to Looker's Park in Hemel Hemstead (1901 census) and then to Rugby School. He left school ca 1905 and studied law, as an articled clerk to a solicitor, most probably Hesketh W Jelp, 12 Norfolk Street, Strand, London.

P G Pope was boarding at New Hampton Court Club, East Molesey, Surrey in 1911 at the age of 23. From here a journey by Southern Railway would take him to work.

Also in 1911, the census shows that Madeleine Roissier was a visitor from Jersey at Sydney and Jessie Pope's home at Tiverton.

Philip Gladstone Pope married Madeleine Roissier in St Helier, Jersey on 17 April 1912.

Madeleine's father also was a solicitor. Philip Alfred Roissier (1857-1926) and Florence Jessie Valentine Oules (1860-) had one son and a daughter, Madeleine (1890-1964).

Philip and Madeleine had a son Philip William Gladstone Pope who was born to them in Exeter on 25 April 1913. (GRO ref Apr-Jun 1913, Exeter, vol 5b, p 122) See later material on his life.

Philip G Pope applied for a 'Temporary Commission in the Regular Army for the Period of the War' on 26th November 1915 and he was gazetted and placed in the Special Reserve on 3rd

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December. He gave as his address c/o Messrs J & S P Pope, 25 & 26 Gandy Street, Exeter and his father and uncle were in practice at Gandy Street. His address for correspondence was 'Ashley', Oak Park, **Dawlish**. The form also shows that he 'was a Lance Corporal in the Rugby School Cadet Corps in 1901' in response to the question about previous service. Hesketh W Jelp certified to his 'good moral character for the last four years and upwards'.

Philip expressed a preference for serving in the Field Artillery and he was serving with the Royal Field Artillery when he was killed in action.

He made a Will on 12th February 1916, and Probate was granted to Madeleine Pope (his widow) and as executors his uncles, John Pope and Reginald Henry Pope, Clerk in Holy Orders. The gross value was £2,803. 15s. 4d.

A telegram announcing his death was sent from the War Office to his widow on 19th October 1917 and a formal letter from the War Office on 6th November 1917 gave details of his grave in the Huts Military Cemetery, Dickebusch, South West of Ypres. It stated that it was marked 'by a durable wooden cross with an inscription bearing full particulars'.

Madeleine Pope returned to live in Exeter, at 7 St Leonard's Road and died at Poltimore Nursing Home on 18 December 1964. Probate was granted to Philip William Gladstone Pope, Brigadier H.M.Army, her son. He died at Warminster, Wiltshire on 30th July 2002.

An obituary in the Daily Telegraph reveals a courageous career of P W G Pope as a soldier. He won a Military Cross in the Syrian Campaign in 1941 and a Distinguished Service Order in North Africa in 1942 while serving with the 1st and 25th Field Regiments Royal Artillery. After WW2 he reached the rank of Brigadier, serving in a number of training roles before retirement in 1968. He married in 1942 Christine Hartshorne and they had a son and two daughters.

P G Pope is listed on the Devon Roll of Honour but without the date or place of death shown.

Dawlish War memorial inscription: POPE P.G. LIEUT. R.F.A.

Devon Heritage site information echoes that on the CWGC entry, below

Commonwealth War Graves entry: POPE, PHILIP GLADSTONE Lieutenant 16/10/1917

Age: 30 Royal Field Artillery, 31st Bde.

Grave Ref: XIII. B. 13. [The Huts Cemetery](#), West Flanders

Son of Sydney Philip and Jessie Gladstone Pope, of Howden, Tiverton; husband of Madeleine Pope, of Ashley, Dawlish, Devon.

Last known address: 'Ashley', Oak Park, Dawlish

Next of kin: Madeleine Pope, wife

References:

The National Archive, Kew for Officers' records

Free Birth Marriage Death refs to GRO

The Daily Telegraph – obituary of Brigadier Philip Pope records via subscription website:

Census records UK and Jersey

Probate records