

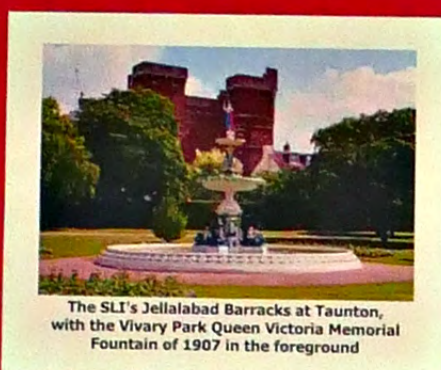
Samuel George Pope

Family History

- The family connections of **Samuel George Pope** can be traced back to **William Pope**, born in the parish of Thurlestone in 1754. He was married to **Elizabeth** in All Saints church on Christmas Eve 1777, and they had nine children. The third of these nine children was **John Pope** who married **Mary Whiting** on 27 June 1806, also in the parish church. After their marriage they lived in West Alvington before moving to Kingsbridge. By the census of 1841 they were living in Market Place, Dodbrooke, with their four children **Betsey**, **Robert**, **Mary**, and **George**.
- By 1851 **John Pope**, an agricultural labourer, was widowed but remained at Market Place, Dodbrooke, with his unmarried daughter **Mary**, aged 26, a charwoman, and her illegitimate 3 year old son **Robert Pope**. **John** himself died within a few years, and **Mary** then married John Clark, a widower twenty years older than herself on Christmas Eve 1859 in All Saints, Thurlestone. They lived at Bantham, where John was an agricultural labourer, and **Mary** ran a small grocery shop. John Clark died in 1873 and **Mary** continued to run the shop until the late 1890s, but by 1901 she was on parochial relief.
- Robert Pope** found work as an agricultural labourer, having been a farm servant with Edwin Winzer at Buckland Park in 1871. At the age of thirty he married a Lifton girl **Bessie (Betsey) Matthews** from Tinchay, near Launceston, in Plymouth in 1878. After the marriage they lived next door to his widowed mother in Bantham, where they had five children, of whom four survived - **Mary** (b.1878), **John Clark** (b.1880), **Hannah** (b.1882), and **Samuel George** (b.1889). **Robert** died in 1900, and his mother **Mary** a year later, and both are buried in All Saints churchyard.
- Samuel George** (known as **George** in the census returns of 1901 and 1911) continued to live with his widowed mother, and he and his elder brother worked as farm labourers locally. His sister **Hannah** married Philip Johnston Jeffery in 1911, and they had two children - **Robert**, who died in 1922 aged 6, and **Blanche**, born 1917, who married William Henry Bickle in September 1943.
- Samuel George** married **Mary Ellen Beville** in 1913. She was a Loddiswell girl (one of twin sisters) who in 1911 was working as a servant, along with her younger sister **Eva** for the Mackenzie family farming at Buckland Parks. They had little more than a twelvemonth together before the war broke out and separated them forever. After her husband's death **Mary Ellen** remained a widow for five years until 1922 when she married a second time, to Haytor James Triggs Torr (aged 38, and three years her junior), the youngest son of James Torr and **Charlotte Triggs**, who with their eight children ran the family milling business at Clyng Mill, Kingston. **Mary Ellen** had no children by her second husband but remained in Kingston until her death on 12 June 1955, at the age of 74, and was buried in Kingston churchyard.
- Samuel George's** older sister **Mary** remained single all her life and died on 27 March 1955 at 8 The Cottages, Bantham, aged 77. His brother **John Clark** married **Mary E Shore** in 1920 and died in Plymouth in 1964 at the age of 84. They had one son, **John William C Pope**, who was born on 1st March 1925, and seems to have remained a bachelor, living for a time in Totnes, and whose death is recorded in the Teignbridge district in November 1995.



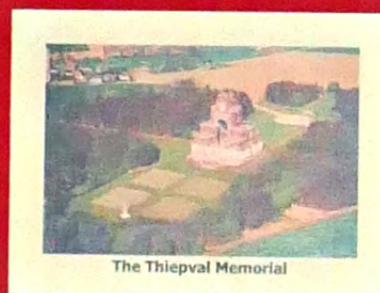
Somerset Light Infantry Badge



The SLI's Jellalabad Barracks at Taunton, with the Vivary Park Queen Victoria Memorial Fountain of 1907 in the foreground



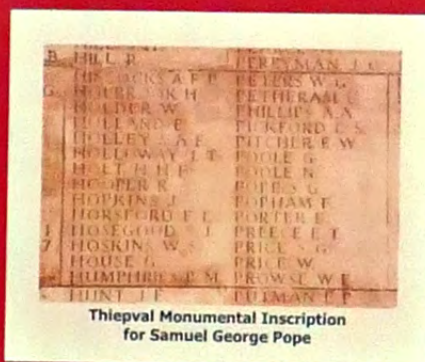
Medals awarded to Samuel George Pope



The Thiepval Memorial



Thiepval Memorial Dedication



Thiepval Monumental Inscription for Samuel George Pope

Service Record

- Samuel George Pope** enlisted at Newton Abbot shortly after war was declared in 1914 and trained with the Devonshire Regiment before being transferred to Taunton where he became Private 27061 Pope of the 7th Battalion (Prince Albert's Own) Somerset Light Infantry formed in September 1914 as part of the Second New Army (K2). Altogether there were eighteen battalions that were formed by this regiment during the war. This new battalion immediately went into training at Woking attached to 61st Brigade, 20th (Light) Division, and then moved away to Whitley Camp at Godalming. In March 1915 there were further moves; first to Amesbury and secondly to Larkhill, where the battalion was mobilised for war and shipped across the English Channel to Boulogne, landing there on 23 July 1915. Over the next five months they were engaged in trench familiarisation and further training in the Fleurbaix area.
- In 1916 the 7th battalion was involved in many actions that took place on the Western Front throughout the year. These included The Battle of Mount Sorrel, The Battle of Delville Wood, The Battle of Guillemont, The Battle of Flers-Courcelette, The Battle of Morval, and The Battle of Le Transloy. No service record for **Samuel George Pope** remains extant with the exception of his medal roll card, so it is not known if, when, or where he was personally involved in front line fighting. The major battles of the year had been concluded, or shelved by the end of November 1916 as winter weather began to take hold.
- If **Samuel George Pope** may be considered fortunate to have survived a whole year of the Western Front conflict, his luck ran out on 13th December 1916 when he was killed in action. His body was never recovered to enable interment in a specific local cemetery, and so he is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial, Somme, which was constructed to record the names of those that lost their lives in the Battle of the Somme that have no known grave. It carries the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the United Kingdom and South Africa who died in the Somme sector before 20 March 1918. Over 90% of those commemorated died between July and November 1916.
- Samuel George Pope** is also remembered on the Thurlestone War Memorial, and recorded in the Memorial Book of Remembrance for those who lost their lives while serving in Somerset County Units. The book is leather-bound with 220 vellum pages and is held in a glass case in St Martin's Chapel in Wells Cathedral and contains a Roll of Honour of nearly 11,300 men. The title page carries the following tribute by the Rt. Rev. George Wyndham Kennion, the Bishop of Bath and Wells:

"All whose names are inscribed in the pages of this Roll of Honour were numbered among those who at the call of King and Country left all that was dear to them, endured hardship, faced danger, and finally passed out of the sight of men by the path of duty and self-sacrifice, giving up their own lives that others might live in freedom."

Let those who come after see to it that their names be not forgotten."
- Samuel's** older brother John Clark Pope, enlisted on 9 June 1917, six months after **Samuel's** death, as a Private in the newly formed Agricultural Company Labour Corps posted to Devizes and Exeter. This Corps was for men who were medically unfit to serve at the Front - and John suffered from tuberculosis. Despite this illness, he survived the war, married, and lived on to reach the age of 84 before his death in Plymouth in 1964.

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2014

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