


| | | | |
|------|--------------------|---|---|
| | Name: | Lieut Ronald Herbert Pike PEASE 1st Coldstream Guards | |
| Age | | |  |
| | Parents: | Hon Herbert Pike PEASE M.P., 1st Baron Daryngton (born 7 May 1867 - died 10 May 1949) and Alice Mortimer LUCKOCK (born about 1870 - died 24 Dec 1948) | |
| 19 | Life Range | 3 Oct 1896- 15 Sep 1916 | |
| | Marriage Status: | This person never married and had no children | |
| -29 | 7 May 1867 | Birth of Father: | Hon Herbert Pike PEASE M.P., 1st Baron Daryngton (born 7 May 1867 - died 10 May 1949). |
| ~-26 | Abt 1870 | Birth of Mother: | Alice Mortimer LUCKOCK (born about 1870 - died 24 Dec 1948). |
| 0 | 3 Oct 1896 | Birth: | Great Ayton, Yorkshire, ENG. |
| 15 | 1911 | Census: | Family. Guildford, SRY, ENG. Marrow Croft: Herbert Pike PEASE , 43, Member of Parliament, born Darlington, Durham Alice Mortimer, 40, married 16 years; 5 children all living, born Cambridge Margaret Alice, 15, born Great Ayton YKS Ruth Evelyn, 10, born South Kensington, LDN Phyllis Helen, 6, born Marrow SRY Ronald Arthur (<i>sic</i>), 2, born Marrow SRY [<i>Should read Jocelyn Arthur</i>] [Plus 10 Servants] <i>Class: RG14; Piece: 3085; Schedule Number: 84</i> |
| 18 | 28 Dec 1914 | Commission: | |
| 18 | 11 May 1915 | Overseas: | |
| 19 | 15 Sep 1916 | Death: | France. |
| | | Burial: | Guards' Cemetery, Lesboeufs, France. |
| 20 | 3 Feb 1917 | Probate: | London, ENG. To Herbert Pike-Pease, MP. Effects £3,282. |
| | | Siblings: | Margaret Alice PEASE Born abt 1896, died 20 Mar 1975. Did not marry. Ruth Evelyn PEASE Born abt 1901. Married Lieut-Cdr Norman Ernest ARCHER. Phyllis Helen PEASE Born 12 Sep 1904 Jocelyn Arthur Pike PEASE, 2nd Baron Daryngton Born abt 1907, died 1994. Did not marry. |
| | | CWGC Register: | Son of Rt. Hon. H. Pike Pease, and Mrs. Pease (now Lord and Lady Daryngton), of 65, Onslow Gardens, London. |
| | | CWGC Inscription: | "QUIT YOU LIKE MEN BE STRONG" I COR. XV1.13 |

Name: **Lieut Ronald Herbert Pike PEASE 1st Coldstream Guards**

Age

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Personal File: | 339/30033. |
| Sources: | Etonians Who Fought in the Great War. |
| Other: | ID disc only recovered?. |
| First Burial: | Yes: ENE of Ginchy Church. |
| OTC: | JNR: Eton Sgt. |
| Memorials: | Eton; Merrow War Memorial; St John the Evangelist, Merrow (Stained Glass Window). |
| In Memoriams: | 1916-29, 1931, 1933, 1937, 1940-45, 1966. |
| Father's Occupation: | POLITICIAN. |
| Brothers: | Eldest of 2. |
| Occupation: | STUDENT. |
| School: | Eton. |
| Decorations: | Star. |

General Notes:

Father:

Unionist MP for Darlington 1898-1923

Photo from:

<http://www.lochnagarcrater.org/Albums/C%20-%20Somme%20casualties/slides/Lt%20Ronald%20Herbert%20Pike%20Pease%20KIA%2015%20September%201916.html>

From MERROW RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

<http://www.merrowresidents.org.uk/Warmemorialbook.htm>

Lieutenant Ronald Herbert Pike Pease, died on 15th September 1916, aged 19

Ronald (known as Ronnie) was born at Stokesley, North Yorkshire, on 3rd Oct 1896, the elder son of Herbert Pike Pease P.C., M.P., D.L., J.P. and his wife Alice, who lived at 'Merrow Croft', Merrow. He was the M.P. for Darlington from 1898 to 1922. He was also the Assistant Postmaster-General, 1915-1923, and was ennobled as Baron Daryngton, hence the origin of the street name Daryngton Drive. He lived until 1949.

Ronnie went to Eton College and we have a copy of his School Certificate which he passed in December 1912 in six subjects after three years at the school. While at Eton he attained the rank of Sergeant in the Officer Cadet Corps. He was still at school when the War started in 1914, and on 12th December he applied for a commission in the Coldstream Guards, supported by a moral character reference from his House Tutor at Eton. He was interviewed later that month by Colonel Drummond Hay, commanding the Coldstream Guards, and recommended for appointment in the Special Reserve of Officers. He had passed an Army medical fitness examination on 10th December at Windsor, where he was finishing his last term at Eton. The fitness report shows that, at 6 ft 2ins, he was a very tall 18 year old. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant on 28th December, the date when he joined for duty. (Much of our information was obtained from papers photocopied from Ronnie's personal records still kept in the Public Record Office - reference WO/339/30033.)

Ronnie was posted to the 1st Battalion of the Regiment, which in the early part of 1915 was in the trenches to the north-east of Bethune. The Battalion's War Diary (PRO reference WO/95/1263) records that he joined them on 9th May and was assigned to No 2 Company. However, two months later, on 12th July, he had to leave the Battalion temporarily because of a problem with his left knee joint. He had apparently had a weakness of that knee from an early age and it had now become swollen with fluid. After a period in an Army field hospital (Lady Ridley's Hospital, apparently at Le Havre), he crossed over to England on 29th July on the 'Carisbrook Castle' and appeared before an Army Medical Board at Carleton House Terrace on 11th August, and was given a month's sick leave. After receiving suitable treatment by a St Thomas's Hospital specialist, he went before another Medical Board on 10th September who found him fit for service.

The Battalion was until 25th August 1915 within the 1st Division of the British Expeditionary Force, but on that date it

Name: **Lieut Ronald Herbert Pike PEASE 1st Coldstream Guards**

Age

was transferred into the newly created Guards Division.

On 28th September the Battalion took part in an attack at Le Rutoire, near Vermelles Oust north of Loos), in which two officers were killed, two were missing and seven wounded, and there were about 250 casualties of other ranks. On 17th October the Battalion was involved in another attack, on the Hohenzollern Trenches. After a short spell away from the front, they moved in November to the sector around Neuve Chapelle where they remained until February 1916.

Meanwhile, Ronnie had a spell of leave in England in December and again went on leave in February. While he was away the Battalion had moved to Flanders and when he returned on 22nd February it was in camp west of Poperinghe. He was then transferred into No 4 Company. In early March, they had a couple of weeks of training near Calais, during which they were inspected by the Commander-in Chief, Douglas Haig. The end of the month found them in the front line in the Ypres Salient, where they remained, in and out of the trenches, until July. Between 16th and 30th May, Ronnie was on leave.

On 30th July, the Battalion was moved by train via Hazebrouck and St Pol to the Lucheux area on the Somme. After being inspected by the King on 9th August they went into the trenches at Beaumont-Hamel the next day. On the 26th they moved to the Morlancourt area and later to Bernefay Wood in preparation for a major British attack along a six-mile front on 15th September. This was the first attack of the War in which tanks, the new British offensive weapon, took part. Although tanks were successfully deployed in the Courcelette - Le Flers area further north, the two tanks assigned to the Coldstream Guards attack from Ginchy towards Lesboeuufs never arrived. An obtained extract from the Battalion's War Diary describes its courageous but disastrous attack in graphic detail. Most of the officers became casualties straight away, including the C.O. and also Ronnie Pease, both of whom were killed. The Battalion went into the attack with 17 officers and 690 other ranks, and came out of it with 3 officers and 221 other ranks, the rest being killed, missing or wounded. The Germans, however, also had a very large number killed and wounded, and later a considerable number were taken prisoner.

Among the papers obtained from Ronnie's file at Kew is a copy of the original telegram sent from the War Office on 18th September to his parents, brother and sisters at 'Marrow Croft', which reads as follows :

"Deeply regret to inform you that Lieut R H P Pease Coldstream Guards was killed in action September 15th The Army Council express their sympathy"

This would have been delivered to the house by the telegraph boy from Down Road Post Office where, a year later, the De Peare family themselves received a similar telegram.

All the above information has been obtained from records in the Public Record Office, but Nigel Burke has combed through the wartime issues of the 'Surrey Advertiser and County Times' and the attached pages show what he found there about Ronnie.

One other document at Kew is a letter sent by the Director of Graves Registration to Ronnie's father on 3rd January 1917. It stated that his son was buried about 300 yards east north east of Ginchy Church and that the grave was marked by a durable wooden cross with an inscription bearing full particulars. After the War his body was brought to the Guards' Cemetery at Lesboeuufs, the village which had been the objective of his Battalion on the day of his death and which was captured by the Guards Division ten days later.

Surrey Advertiser and County Times - reports following Ronald Pease's Death

(1) In the Paper. of 23rd September 1916
Under the heading 'In Memoriam for Pease', the report reads :

"The greatest sympathy will be felt in Guildford and district as well as in social and political circles generally with Mr H Pike Pease, Assistant Postmaster General, and Mrs Pike Pease, on the loss of their elder son, who was killed on Friday last. Lt R H Pike Pease was only 19 years of age, and was at Eton when war broke out. In the following December he left Eton to take a commission and was gazetted to the Coldstream Guards. He went to the front in 1915 and in May 1916 was promoted Lieutenant. Lt Pike Pease was a young man of pleasing presence and every prospect of public usefulness, and his death is deeply to be regretted. A memorial service will be held at Marrow Church on Tuesday in which the band of the Coldstream Guards will take part."

(2) In the paper of 30th September 1916
Extract from 'The Times', from the pen of one who knew the gallant young officer :

"Ronnie's very many friends - their name is legion - would value some memento of his short life, but to cut a cameo of so bright a figure is not easy.... curly headed boy at Broadstairs and Eton, preparing for his brilliant prospects in life, or tall Guardsman preparing for facing the deadly risks of war. He was head boy at Stone House and he entered Eton with the distinction of taking 5th form. In the cricket field he did well first and last at Eton he got his 22 colours in 1914. It was his ambition to be in the Eton 11 of 1915 but when next summer came he was playing the game in the trenches. He joined

Name: **Lieut Ronald Herbert Pike PEASE 1st Coldstream Guards**

Age

the Army as soon as he could - Christmas 1914 - with a commission in the Coldstream Guards and was at the front after only 4 months training at Windsor. He laid down his life in the glorious rush of the Guards on September 15. He was killed instantaneously leading his men over the parapet - a fine type of the ready sacrifice of happy youth. His boyish manhood of 16 months in the trenches won him many friends as easily did his manly boyhood at Eton. He was a source of joy to all, in his home, as a member of 'pop' (an Etonian institution), in his village, and amongst his comrades in the trenches."

Report of the Memorial Service

Every seat was filled in Merrow Parish Church on Tuesday afternoon. It was a beautiful and moving service and there could have been few present among the large and representative congregation gathered to pay a last tribute to a gallant and popular young officer who were not deeply stirred by its pathos and expressive simplicity. Those present were almost entirely clothed in black, the only relief being the khaki uniforms of the deceased's brother officers, and the red and gold uniforms of the bandsmen of the Coldstream Guards, which played an important part in the service. Before the service the band rendered 'O rest in the Lord' with deep feeling... The muffled drums were also heard in the opening of Chopin's 'Marche Funebre' The congregation stood whilst the soul stirring music was played to wonderful effect Prayers were led by the Rev A H Fletcher, Rector of Merrow, and the concluding hymn was 'For all the Saints' in which the sympathetic treatment of the band was very marked. An appropriate extract from the Russian liturgy was read

'Remember those, the brave and the true, who have died the death of honour, and are departed in the hope of resurrection to eternal life. In that place of light where sorrow and mourning are far banished, give them rest O Lord, the Lover of Man.'

As the roll of drums died away the Last Post was sounded by buglers stationed in the churchyard.

W.O. Telegraph Message