

# Codford War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I

13795 LANCE CPL.

**GEORGE FENN**

**BEDFORDSHIRE REGIMENT**

**1ST JUNE, 1915**



*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Lance Corporal G. Fenn is located in  
St. Mary's Churchyard, Codford – near east end of Church.*

## George FENN

George Fenn was born at Hotwells, Gloucestershire in 1878 to parents George & Emma Fenn (nee Brinkworth). His birth was registered in the district of Bristol, Gloucestershire in September quarter, 1878.

The 1881 Census recorded George Fenn as a 2 year old living with his family at 10 Gideon Place, Bristol. His parents were recorded as George Fenn (General Labourer, aged 28, born Clifton, Bristol) & Emma Fenn (aged 23, born Clifton, Bristol). Four children were recorded in the household – Rose (aged 7, born St Augustine, Bristol), John (aged 4, born Bristol), then George (born Bristol) & Frank (aged 1, born Bristol).

The 1891 Census recorded George Fenn as a 12 year old, living with his family at 4 Gideon Place, Bristol. His parents were recorded as George Fenn (Labourer, aged 37) & Emma Fenn (aged 33). Four children were recorded in the household – Rosina (Boot Fitter, aged 17), John (Errand Boy, aged 14), then George & Frank (aged 11).

A marriage was registered in the district of Bristol, Gloucestershire in the December quarter, 1900 between George Fenn & Annie Clifford.

The 1901 Census recorded George Fenn as a 22 year old Cardboard Box Maker living with his wife & daughter. The family of three were living in a 2 roomed dwelling at 66 Clare Road, Cardiff, Glamorganshire, Wales. The dwelling at No. 66 was divided into two – the Harris's lived in a 4 roomed portion of the dwelling. George's wife & daughter were recorded as Annie (aged 20, born Bristol, Gloucestershire) & daughter Annie E. (recorded as Infant, born Cardiff, Glamorganshire). A birth was registered in June quarter, 1901 for Annie Emily Fenn at Cardiff.

The 1911 Census recorded George Fenn as a 32 year old Wooden Box & Case Maker, living with his family at 114 Wellington St, Riverside, Cardiff, in a four roomed dwelling. Annie, George's wife was recorded as 31 years old & they had been married for 11 years, having had 6 children, all living. The children were recorded as Annie (aged 10), Albert (aged 8), William (aged 6), Marion (aged 4) & twins Alice & Darwin (aged 4 months). All 6 children had been born at Cardiff.

George Fenn had enlisted at Bristol with the Bedfordshire Regiment. He was given the Service number of 13795 & was residing at Bristol at the time he enlisted. Records show that Lance Corporal Fenn was attached to 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion of Bedfordshire Regiment.

The 7<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion of the Bedfordshire Regiment were known as "The Shiny Seventh". The 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion had been formed at Bedford in September, 1914 as part of K2 – Lord Kitcheners call to arms. Following the transfer of 1,000 Officers and men from the 6<sup>th</sup> (Service) Battalion, the newly formed 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion were attached to the 15<sup>th</sup> (Scottish) Division whilst training. On 25<sup>th</sup> February, 1915, the Battalion were moved into the 54<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the 18<sup>th</sup> (Eastern) Division. The 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion served entirely in France and Flanders between their arrival in July, 1915 & their disbandment in May 1918.

The War Diary for the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion states:

*Codford – 25<sup>th</sup> July, 1915 9am Transport of regiment left Codford for service abroad 106 men & 3 officers.*

*Codford – 26<sup>th</sup> July, 1915 1.45pm 7<sup>th</sup> Bedfords left Codford for service abroad. Marching out strength 820 and 31 officers arrive Folkestone at 8.30 an embarked with 54<sup>th</sup> Bde HQ on S.S. Onward.*

A death for George Fenn, aged 37, was registered in the June quarter, 1915 in the district of Warminster, Wiltshire, England.

Lance Corporal George Fenn was buried in the Churchyard of St. Mary's, Codford, near the east end of the Church. His death is acknowledged by Commonwealth War Graves Commission & as such he has a CWGC headstone.

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Photo of Lance Corporal G. Fenn's Headstone in St. Mary's Churchyard, Codford.



*(Photo by Andrea Charlesworth- 2012)*