

**EDWARD GERALD PALMER
FENN**

2ND. SEPT. 1894 – 19TH. SEPT. 1918.

R.I.P.



E.L.FENN 2015.

EDWARD GERALD PALMER FENN 1894 - 1918



1

DEATH NOTICE: Killed in action. in Palestine, on September 21st, Edward Gerald Palmer, 2nd Lieut. Royal Welsh Fusiliers, beloved son of Edward Living (the late) and Edith F Fenn, of Alston Court, Nayland, Suffolk, aged 24.¹

Telegram

O.A.M.S.

War Office

Stamped 12.30 24 September 18 Nayland

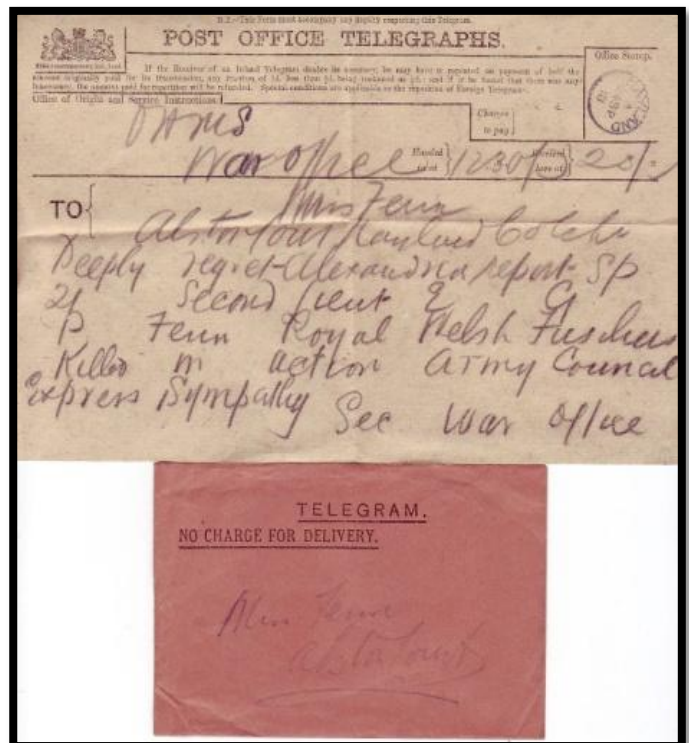
Mis Fenn² Alston Court Nayland Colche

Deeply regret Alexandria report SP 21 Second

Lieutenant E. G. P. Fenn Royal Welsh Fusiliers

killed in action Army Council express sympathy

Sec. War Office.¹



1. Fenn Family Archive – www.thekingscandlesticks.com

2. His younger sister Adria was listed as his next of kin.

Edward's distraught mother writes with a grain of hope, to the War Office.

Alston Court

Nayland

September 24, 1918.

Sir

I have just received your wire about my son 2nd Lieut E.G. Fenn. He wrote to me Aug 23rd that he had been moved to 1/5th Essex Regiment and had left the Royal Welsh Fusiliers so is there not a dreadful mistake somewhere – please let me know as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully

E Fenn.¹

The sad reply comes quickly.

26th September 1918.

The Military Secretary presents his compliments to Mrs Fenn and in answer to her letter of the 24th instant, much regrets to say that 2nd Lieutenant E.G.P. Fenn, Royal Welsh Fusiliers attached 1/5th Essex Regiment, was killed in action as communicated to her on 24 September.

2nd Lieutenant Fenn still belonged to the Royal Welsh Fusiliers though attached to the 1/5th Essex Regiment. The Military Secretary is desired by the Secretary of State for War to express his deepest sympathy with Mrs Fenn in her great distress.

Mrs Fenn,
Alston Court,
Nayland.¹

Alston Court Sep 24.
Nayland. E.F.
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your wire about my son
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E. Fenn

M.G.S. (Cas.) 518.A.
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2nd Lieutenant Fenn still belonged to the Royal
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The Military Secretary is desired by the
Secretary of State for War to express his deepest sympathy
with Mrs Fenn in her great distress.
Mrs Fenn,
Alston Court,
Nayland.

Edward was killed in action by a sniper, on the first morning of General Allenby's successful campaign, known as the Battle of Megiddo, which, with Lawrence and the Arab forces attacking from the east, drove the Turks out of Palestine.

Edward and his platoon were attacking a Turkish position at Kefr-Kasim (Kafr Qasim) near Rosh Ha'Ayin in the district of Jiljulie (Jaljulya) about 15 Km north east of Tel Aviv.

1. Fenn Family Archive – www.thekingscandlesticks.com

He was buried where the Wadi Rabah opens to the plain of Sharon, but later exhumed and reburied at Ramleh War Cemetery (below)¹ 12 Km south east of Jaffa, Israel.



G. R. Unit <u>B.148.</u>		PLACE OF BURIAL <u>JILJULIE.</u>		Map Ref: <u>FEJJA.C.3.</u> <u>1/40.000.</u>		
B.R.6568.		District <u>Military Graves.</u> M.I3.c 2.2.				
Land belongs to		Exhumed & Reburied in Ramleh Military Cemetery.				
Regiment	No.	Name	Rank & Initials	Date of Death	Grave No.	By whom Buried
6/th R.W.F. ttd, 1/5, Essex Regt.	-	Fenn.	2/Lieut, P.G.P.	19.9.18	U 75.	H.J.W. Knight. 21.9.18.

His cousin Dick Fenn mentions in a letter to Harry Fenn 5 Feb 1962 that he met Edward in Cairo Dec 1917 "We went out together a good deal and I formed a high opinion of him and was deeply distressed to hear of his death in action in 1918 when I was back in France".¹



This is the compass¹ Edward was holding, leading his platoon into battle when he was shot in the side, dying shortly afterwards.



1. Fenn Family Archive – www.thekingscandlesticks.com

Post Office Telegraphs

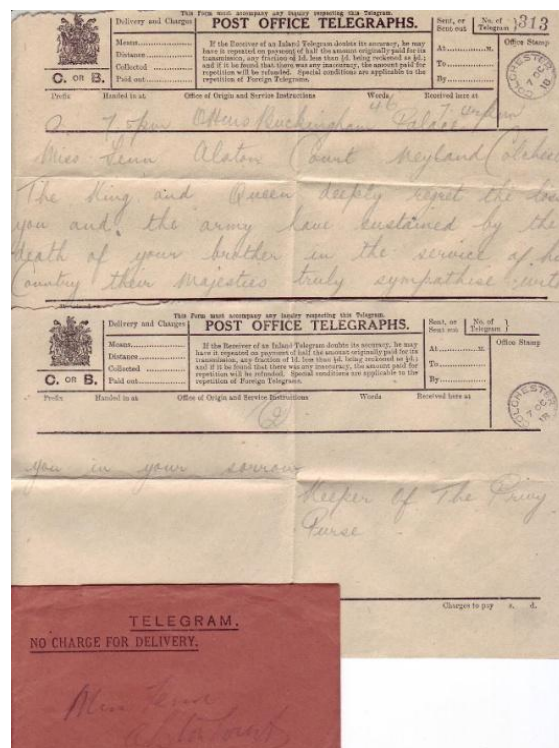
7.5pm Office Buckingham Palace received Colchester 7.4 p.m. 7 Oct 18.

Miss Fenn Alston Court Neyland Colchester.

The King and Queen deeply regret the loss you and the army have sustained by the death of your brother in the service of his Country their Majesties truly sympathise with you in your sorrow.

Keeper of the Privy Purse.

In a buff coloured telegram envelope as above addressed Miss Fenn Alston Court Nayland. Numbered 313.¹



NAYLAND PARISH MAGAZINE. November 1918.

OBITUARY NOTICE:

It is with very deep sorrow, mingled with pride, that we have to announce the noble death of another of the heroic band from Nayland who have made the supreme sacrifice for King and Country, and at the same time we wish to offer the sympathy of all to Mrs. Fenn and Miss Fenn in their heavy loss.

Edward Gerald Palmer Fenn was born at Grey Friars, Colchester, on September 2nd, 1894. His first School (Preparatory) was at Broadstairs; thence he went to Sherborne, and, on leaving School, Matriculated at Emmanuel College, Cambridge. He received his Commission in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, and as 2nd Lieutenant went to Egypt for 10 months; he was then attached to the 1/5th Essex Regiment, and went to Palestine.

It was when "leading his platoon to victory" that he was hit in the side, which rendered him quite unconscious, and he died a few minutes later. "Our battalion and one other (writes the Colonel) were the first to lead the attack which produced such great results." Those results were nothing less than the deliverance of the Holy Land from the power of the Turk. R.I.P. We are allowed (by the kindness of Mrs. Fenn) to print the following letters, which will be read with interest.

From Col. Gibbons. E. E. F., 22/9/18.

My Dear Madam.

I take this, the first opportunity I have had, to write to tell you how grieved I and all the Battalion under my command, are for the loss of your son, 2nd Lieut. E. G. P. Fenn. Your son had only been with us a very few days, and it is very sad to think he should have fallen in his first action.

I beg you to accept my heartfelt sympathy, he struck me as being a most promising young officer. How much more than that he must have been to you I know only too well, and I feel that anything I can say must be very slight consolation.

But you will, I am sure, be proud to know that he died leading a platoon of the Essex. Regt. to victory. He was killed in the early morning of the 19th inst. in our attack on the Turkish position near KefeKasim, Palestine.

1. Fenn Family Archive – www.thekingscandlesticks.com.

He was hit in the side and died in a few minutes - quite unconscious and without suffering. He also had a slight wound in the throat but this may have been caused by his fall on the rocky ground. He was buried at the place where the Wadi Rabah runs into the plain of Sharon, about a mile north of the old Crusaders fortress of Mejdol Yaba, I mention these places in case you have a map of the country. I will try later on to send you a photograph of his grave.

His belongings are being carefully checked and will be sent to you in due course. Do not be disappointed if they do not arrive quickly, it generally takes a considerable time, but they will be sent without fail. You will, no doubt, have seen an account in the home papers of Gen. Allenby's great victory in which your son played such an honourable part. Our battalion and one other were the first to lead the attack, which produced such great results.

Again assuring you of my great regret and sympathy,

Believe me, yours very faithfully,

T. GIBBONS, Lieut. Col.



Written on two pages in pencil from Palestine envelope addressed OAS. Mrs Edith Fenn Alston Court Nayland Colchester England. Stamped Past Censor 809 and signed.¹

From Captain Finn.

26th September 1918

Dear Madam,

I believe Colonel Gibbons has written to you concerning the loss of your son second Lieutenant EGP Fenn. In sending you the latter's Record of Service Book I feel I must also express my sincere sympathy with you in your sorrow. Your son had only been with us a little while, but during that week or two I had come into contact with him frequently. It was recognised by all our Battalion Headquarters that he was a decided acquisition, and we counted ourselves lucky to have him posted to us.

I did not see him hit, but shortly before, Colonel Gibbons and I had gone over to speak to him, to guide him in his advance in the dark, over most treacherous and difficult country. He was in front of one of the leading platoons of his Company, in the fore-front of the attack, and was carrying on in a really excellent manner.

He was buried in the Wadi Rabah, one of the best known of the deep valleys in this part of the Holy Land. The Rev. H. J. W. Knights, C.F., officiated. He is a good friend of mine and I will ask him to write and give you further particulars. It is a difficult matter to express adequately in a letter one's deep sympathy, but please be assured that all here feel for you.

1. Fenn Family Archive – www.thekingscandlesticks.com

Perhaps you can extract some small amount of satisfaction from the knowledge that your boy fell in a battle that seems to have settled the fate of our enemies definitely in this part of the world.

He has gone the way of thousands of other excellent fellows, but the signs are that his and their sacrifices have not been in vain.

Believe me, yours faithfully,

J. F. FINN (Capt. and Adjt.) 1/5 Bn. Essex Regt.

P.S. All your son's kit has been sent to the Officer's Kit Bureau, Alexandria and his accounts out here are being dealt with by the Committee of Adjustment. G.H.Q. JFF.

*Written on two sheets of graph paper.*¹

26 September 1918

Dear Mrs Fenn

I am writing to tell you how sorry I am to learn the news of the death in action of your son Edward. We were very great friends, and it comes as a great blow to me. Having been classified as fit, he left with three others for the line. He joined his new Batt. on the 9th of September and went into action on the morning of the 19th September. He was killed that same morning at the beginning of the new offensive. One of the officers he went with has since written me to say he was killed by a sniper. I did not see him, before he left this Batt., as I was on a course at the time, but he wrote me the enclosed letter, which I thought you would like to see. I think this is about his last letter to anyone here. He was extremely popular, and everyone, officers and men, felt it greatly when the news came through. I am sending you any letters that come for him here and his kit will come to you also, but this will take some time. All his personal belongings were left at the base, excepting his large silver cigarette case and two revolvers, which he carried on him. These three articles may be lost. I am sorry I cannot look after the return of his kit or treasures, as this is all done officially, by his Battalion and special officers at the base, but if you will let me know if you do not get all his kit, I can easily make the necessary enquiries here.

Please do not think it rude of me if I ask that if there is any article of his you would care to let me have, as a keepsake and reminder of him, I should treasure it very much indeed. When Edward came to this Battalion last year he was posted to the same Company as myself, and we became great friends and shared the same rooms and were always about together. I feel I have lost a brother.

Will you please accept my deepest sympathy in your very great loss.

I am,

Yours faithfully

A W Croft 2nd Lt

6th Gar K.W.F

R.W.F. att 1/5 Essex Reg.

C/o Cox & Co.

Cairo. 25.12.18.¹

1. Fenn Family Archive – www.thekingscandlesticks.com

Dear Mrs Fenn

Please excuse me for taking the privilege in writing you, but I feel it my duty to do so. My sympathy goes with you regarding the death of your dear son. It was felt very keenly in the Essex but more so into this old Batt R.W.F. especially by the officers of the 3rd R.W.F. Hunthe (?) Park I had seen the officers of the R.W.F. since and I dear say you will have had letters from them. If you have not it is because of your address as no officer's death was more mourned for by his brother officers than that of your son. He and I have been together since we were in Cambridge and then we met again in the R.W.F and have been together ever since, even to the joining the Essex Regiment. I was taken ill just before he met his death and when I got to the clearing station and was told of it and I may tell you I really felt heart sick and felt as though I never wanted to see the Batt. again. He was my only pal in the Essex as we had not been with the Batt. long, so that it is the reason why I did not want to rejoin the Essex. He and I were always the best of friends and we used to share the same room in the Citadel.

Did he send you a snap which I took whilst travelling in the truck up Palestine I sent one to my dear Mater and told her of his death.

I have three brothers in France and in my last letter from home Mater told me she had not heard from the elder one for one month and it was just the week before the Armistice was signed but I hope they have had word by thus. The reason I have not written before this is I have been in hospital, and now the Batt. has come down in the line.

I hope this finds you all in perfect health and wishing you the Compliments of the Season.

I remain

Yours

Lance Steil Lieut.

Envelope addressed O.E.S Mrs Fenn Alston Court Nayland Southwark England postmarked Field Hospital, stamped Past by Censor No 809¹

Duke's Head Hotel

Penrith 24.11.19.

Dear Mrs Fenn

Many thanks for your letter which I received two days ago. I was very pleased that my letter to you had reached its destination as I could not find your address and sat down and at last it



1. Fenn Family Archive. www.thekingscandlesticks.com - Edward's family were supported at this time by many letters from his Army friends.

came to me the name of your place, so I got a map and I knew when I saw Nayland it was the place. I know I have your letter which I received in Egypt and I shall always keep it but at the time of writing I could not lay hands on it but my mother was sitting and I told her the sentences it contained which was perfectly true, but you probably forget and that was "Those who knew him loved him".

I have just written to two officers in charge of graves, Palestine and I will see if I can get a photograph of his grave.

I often think about times at the Citadel Cairo.

You see he and I shared one large room and I

had my white flannels out there and did not use them so he used to use them.

(Edward below in their room in the Citadel, probably in Lance Steil's white flannels?)



We used to share and share alike and all kinds of things I have in my kit brings back little memories of our room in the Citadel. It's very kind of you to ask me what I should like belonging to him but I can tell you now no one on earth would treasure one of his books more than I would. I say it myself but I am a terrible boy for taking care of my things and if you knew any of my friends they would be quite prepared to tell you so. I have a pair of field glasses but I'm sure I should not ask you for those of his. It is not kind of me to keep this thing up again but I can add a little phrase to my letter "Those who loved him, will never forget him" and that is why I speak of him.

Never part with his field glasses unless to some person who loved him as he was carrying those when he fell and also his compass. I don't like telling you this Mrs

Fenn after so long but his memory on that day is as fresh now as it was then so I know you will excuse me.

I will close now hoping that my letter finds you in perfect health.

I am yours faithfully

Lance Steil Lieut.

Written on three sides of three pages with envelope postmarked Penrith addressed Mrs Fenn Alston Court Nayland Suffolk.¹

1. Fenn Family Archive. www.thekingscandlesticks.com

The Limes, 3 Humphry St,
Crumpsall, Manchester. 14. 4. 20.

Dear Mrs Fenn,

Very many thanks for your kind letter. It is very good of you to suggest sending me some small thing as a keepsake of your dear boy. I should treasure it very much, not lest I forget, for that were not possible, but as a keepsake of one with whom I had the honour of helping to achieve a great worthy object, and as a help to try to follow the example of one who did a man's work and did it well, leaving behind him a bright memory, which after all, I think it is the best thing that any of us can do.

Yours very sincerely,

Ralph Chatham.

In an envelope addressed to Mrs Fenn, Alston Court, Nayland.¹

EARLY LIFE.

Edward's life was lost when starting to embark on his adulthood, along with millions of young men who died in a War little understood beyond the jingoistic propaganda of the time.

Born into 1894 at Grey Friars¹ Colchester Suffolk to Dr Edward Fenn², and his second wife Edith Todd² (*pictured*). From a privileged family Edward might have enjoyed a comfortable professional career as a lawyer, he matriculated at Cambridge but



there appears no suggestion he was exceptional with his studies. Edward was the only son to this second family, an older sister had died in early infancy, his younger sister Adria², the last survivor of their generation, dying unmarried in 1982. He had a loving and secure childhood with five older brothers from Dr Fenn's first marriage to Katharine Julius,² who died in 1886. Edward (*on left*) nicknamed Bo, is pictured at right with his father Edward² and grandfather Charles Todd³



The England census of 1901 finds Edward aged 6 with his family at Grey Friars¹, 81 High St Colchester. The 1911 census finds him aged 16 a school boy boarding at Sherborne School⁴, Sherborne, Dorset, under headmaster Nowell Smith. The first Headmaster of Sherborne School, was Thomas Copeland, in 1437! Edward entered the school in the 3rd term of 1908 leaving at the end of the school year in June 1914.



1. History of Grey Friars including Dr Fenn's occupation
<http://greyfriarscolchester.org.uk/grey-friars-book/>

2. Pictures & data, Fenn Family Archive - www.thekingscandlesticks.com

3. Charles Todd the "Father of the (London) City Corporation" Member for Queenhithe Ward for 50 yrs from 1857.

4. <http://oldshirburnian.org.uk/school-archives/>



Edward appears not to have won any Prizes at Sherborne, but was successful in the sporting life of the school, playing cricket for his house, and rugby for the school. He was capped in 1912 & 1913, his 1st XV cap (*left*) is today part of the family archive.



UNIVERSITY and ARMY LIFE.¹

After his summer holidays in 1914, just as World War I was declared, Edward went up to Emmanuel College Cambridge where he matriculated (*passed the entrance exams*) and started to study Law.

At Sherborne School, Edward had served with the School Corps for 5 years and 2 terms rising to the rank of Sergeant. Over that time he was assessed as “efficient” and “good” at musketry. On the 28th Nov 1914 he applied for appointment to a temporary commission in the Regular Army for the period of the war. However on the standards of the day he was found physically unfit for military service and his application rejected. The reason for this was his eyesight, his right eye measured at 6/6 his left 6/9.

1. Edward’s Military Records. The National Archive, Kew. WO339/93535

Edward applied again in Nov 1915, when he is recorded as enlisting as a private. On the 2nd of March 1917 he again applied for a commission. This time both his eyes were assessed at 6/9 and on the 19 Mar 1917 he was accepted to join at Jesus College

460

A 443 3504

If a General Mobilization is ordered every soldier on pass must return immediately to his unit without waiting for instructions.

No. 8.

Regiment G.O.C.B.

PASS.

No. (Rank) leader (Name) Fenn. 698

has permission to be absent from his quarters, from 24th May 1917 to Pending Commission

for the purpose of proceeding to Colchester

(Station) Cambridge

Date 24-5-17

Commanding No 3 Coy G.O.C.B.

ARMY FORM B. 295

NO 3 COY G.O.C.B. CAMBRIDGE

GROWN COPY RIGHT RESERVED

Cambridge, as an officer cadet with the rank of 2nd Lieut. On the 21st May 1917 he received his commission in the Royal Welsh Fusiliers authorized by the War Office, 9 June 1917.

At this time he was issued a leave pass to visit his home¹.

From The Adjutant,
Garrison Officer Cadet Battalion.

To Officer Cadet *James E. P.*

WESTCOTT HOUSE,
CAMBRIDGE.

I am directed to inform you that you have been appointed to a Second Lieutenancy in the TERRITORIAL FORCE. You have been posted to the *2nd Bn. R. W. Fus. B. 1917* Battalion *Northampton* and attached to the *Devonshire* Battalion.

You should report to the last-mentioned for duty at *Devonshire* on the *12th June 1917*

Railway warrant enclosed, the number of which please take note.

AUTHORITY.—W.O. letter No. *421/10/706* 2/1/17

Ration certificate enclosed.

Please acknowledge the receipt of this letter.

(Signed)
J. STUART,
Captain and Adjutant,
Garrison Officer Cadet Battalion.

9.9.17.

My dear Adria,

Very many thanks for your letter and the most welcome box of chocolates, it was very nice being able to get over to Van, I much enjoyed the weekend. I am appallingly hard worked at present and today Sunday I am on duty from 7 a.m. to midnight and tomorrow I have to take a entrenching party 2 or 3 miles away to another camp in the early morning and then go out again at eight o'clock at night for some night wiring which will probably go on till 11 or 12. My photos arrived at last yesterday I will send you them on in course of time. I should be much obliged if you would forward by return the following articles:

- 1 pair Footer boots
- 1 sweater (low necked, no collar)
- 1 striped shirt (Emmanuel colours)
- 1 white shirt (with Sherborne diagh on it)
- 2 pairs shorts
- 2 stockings (1 blue & 1 black with magenta tops)

I put in the full details to prevent mistakes.

I see no prospect of going on draft at present, so am preparing for a little footer. We shall probably leave this camp soon as it's too cold to be under canvas now. I believe our destination is near Ryal a seaside place in N. Wales.

1. Fenn Family Archive — www.thekingscandlesticks.com

2. Edward's Military Records. The National Archive, Kew. WO339/93535

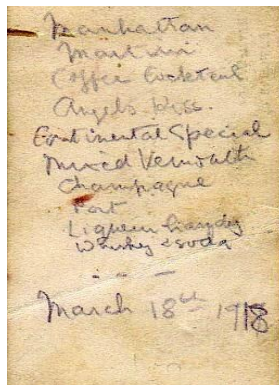
I am writing this on a bed so I am afraid the writing may be hard to decipher. Life has been quite an eventful lately - there is not the slightest prospect of any leave at present have a 48 hours touch.

Again very many thanks
Your affectionate brother
Edward G. P. Fenn.

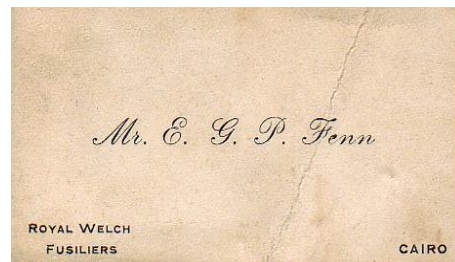
P. S. please also send a scrum cap - this is a black arrangement with black ribbons on it to go over the head and ears.

*Written on two pages in envelope addressed Miss Fenn Alston Court Nayland Colchester.*¹

On the 17 Nov. 1917 Edward joined reinforcements shipping to Cairo where he undertook an Officers General Course, he passed assessed "Fair". His record also indicates he was admitted to the Citadel Hospital, Cairo, for a few days in February 1918, the description of his complaint was Cl A by M.B.²



Edward is pictured also his card with bar notes, were these his favourite drinks?



His records show he was posted to the 1/5 Essex Battalion, on the 15th August, he joined them in the field on the 11th September 1918, 8 days before he was killed¹.

Edward pictured encamped in Palestine.



1. Fenn Family Archive – www.thekingscandlesticks.com

2. Edward's Military Records. The National Archive, Kew. WO339/93535

Background to the Battle of Meggido.

Today the land where the British forces were active in 1914-1918 lies in Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Syria. For centuries before the Great War, this land had been part of the Turkish Ottoman Empire. 'Palestine' is a shorthand for this campaign, applied to a widespread war that was initially centred along the banks of the Suez Canal, before in 1917 an offensive was launched which took British troops into the Holy Land and Syria. The Arab tribes in the area played an important part in the developing war, some rising against the British, many against the Turk.

Lawrence of Arabia and the Arab Northern Army under Emir Feisal played a crucial role in coordinating Arab resistance to the Turkish Army, cutting rail links, carrying out commando style raids on crucial military targets.

The land covered by this campaign varies in widely in terms of landscape. The most important features affecting the fighting were the narrow coastal plain from the Suez Canal area stretching northwards past Gaza and Jaffa, and the rocky heights of the two sides of the Jordan valley.

The Suez Canal was a vitally important supply route for the British Empire. During the war, troops and equipment of the Australian, New Zealand and Indian forces passed this way en route for the Western Front, in addition to millions of tons of foodstuffs, minerals and other provisions bound for Britain and her Allies. The importance of the Canal had been recognised by the British Government long before the war, and steps were taken to provide defences.

Egypt was occupied by British troops long before the Great War. Germany had for many years before the war assiduously developed Turkey as an ally, which it saw as an important part of the *Drang nach Osten* (The Thrust towards the East: Germany wanted new lands, new markets, lebensraum).

The Turkish army was led by German 'advisors', as was much of its trade and commerce. Pushed by Germany - who also tried to encourage a Jihad (Muslim Holy War) against the British forces - Turkey was to strongly resist the British incursion. Initially, Britain set out only to defend the Canal from the Turkish troops that were massed in Palestine. Following important victories that pushed the Turks further from the Canal, along with the helpful support of Arabs in the Hejaz and elsewhere, the British force began to contemplate a push into Palestine. This became additionally important once the attempt on Gallipoli was a recognised failure, and Britain also needed a success in Mesopotamia. Politically, success in Palestine was believed by some to be a less costly way towards defeat of Germany than the painful battering at the Western Front.

From late 1914 until mid-1915, the British force stood on the defensive along the Suez Canal, defeating attempts to capture or damage the canal. The British began to construct a railway and supply roads along the coastal plain at this time, both of which were to prove vitally important.

It was not until early 1917 that sufficient force had been gathered, for an assault on the large Turkish forces in Palestine. The Palestine theatre became the second largest in terms of forces deployed, after the Western Front. Allenby launched an attack in October 1917, capturing the notable prize of Jerusalem¹.

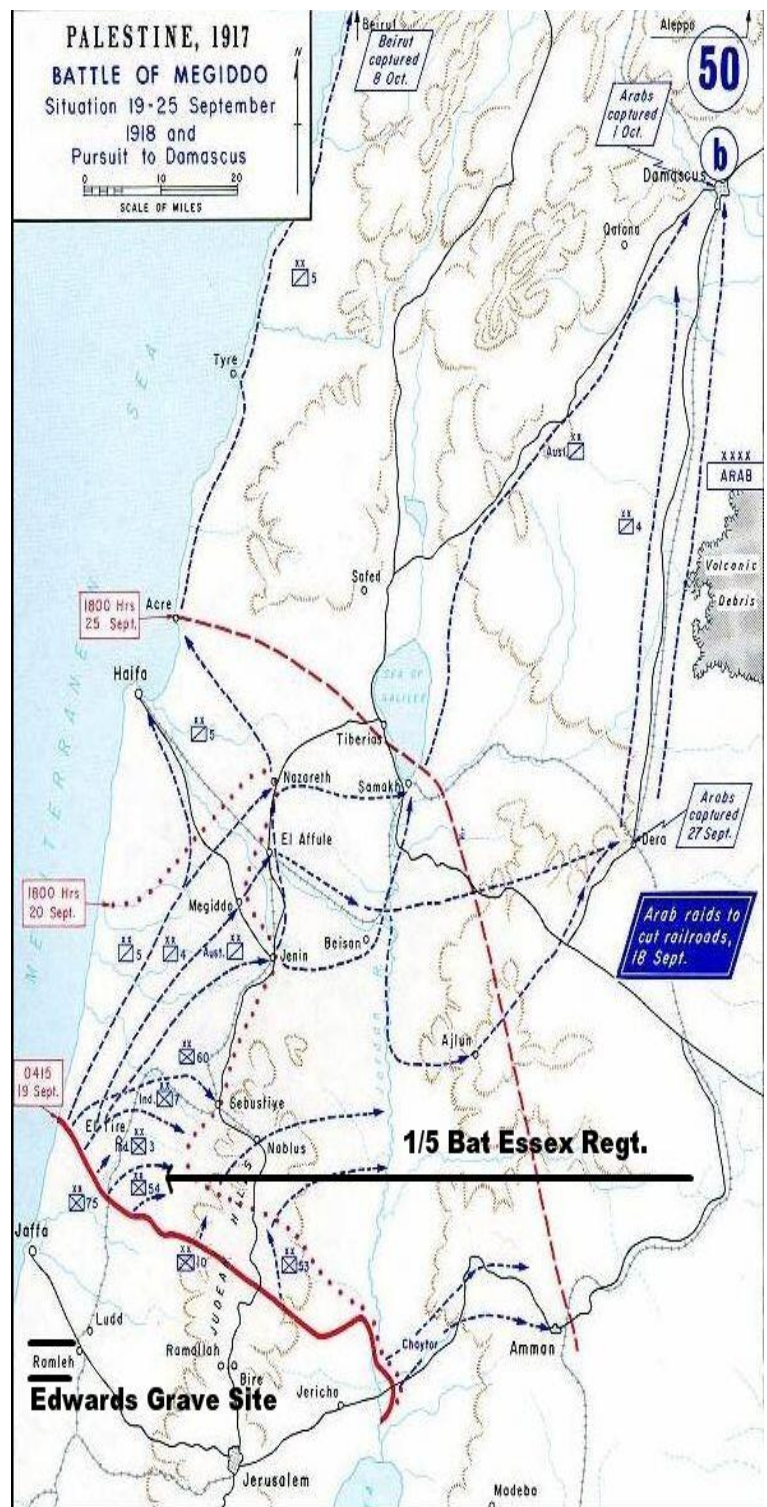
1. <http://www.1914-1918.net/palestine.htm>

The Battle of Meggido¹

The battle of Megiddo, 19-25 September 1918, was the climactic battle of the British invasion of Palestine of 1917-1918. It is also famous as the last great cavalry victory. The battle was subdivided by the British Battles Nomenclature Committee into the battles of Sharon, involving Edwards unit 1/5 Battalion Essex Regiment part of the 54th East Anglian Division on the coast, and of Nablus, in the Judean Hills, either of which name makes rather more sense than Megiddo. The cavalry advance flowed past the ancient site of Megiddo², location of the first battle in recorded history (c.1457 BC), on the night of 19/20 September, and the temptation to adopt the name was clearly too great.

After the capture of Jerusalem in December 1917 the fighting died down over the winter. The spring of 1918 saw the series of great German offensives on the Western Front, forcing the British to abandon any plans for a further campaign in Palestine. The Turks now had three armies in the line in Palestine, a total of 34,000 men to defend the line from the coast, across the Judean Hills, the Jordan valley and out to the Hejaz Railway, under the overall command of Liman von Sanders, a German officer who had spent three years in Turkey.

The British had 69,000 men in Palestine (57,000 infantry and 12,000 cavalry). Allenby had decided to attack along the coast, on the Plain of Sharon, where the ground was well suited for cavalry.



1. http://www.historyofwar.org/articles/battles_megiddo1918.html

2. Armageddon derived from Hebrew Har-Megiddo has become a byword for the end of the age.

Map. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Megiddo_%281918%29

The Turkish front line defences were 3,000 yards deep, well constructed and protected by thin barbed wire. The second line, three miles to the rear, was less well prepared and consisted of unconnected strong-points, unprotected by wire.

During the spring of 1918 Allenby sent a series of expeditions into the Jordan Valley. This convinced the Turks that the British attack was going to come along the line of the Jordan. An advance up the valley would threaten Beisan and the railway supplying the Seventh and Eighth Armies, while further east a strike towards Deraa would threaten all three Turkish armies.

Allenby's plan worked perfectly. By the middle of September the British had 35,000 infantry, 9,000 cavalry and 383 guns on the western fifteen miles of the front line, facing 8,000 infantry and 130 guns. On the remaining forty five miles of the front the British had 22,000 infantry, 3,000 cavalry and 157 guns and the Turks had 24,000 men and 270 guns. 11,000 of them were east of the Jordan Valley, and were effectively out of the battle.

Allenby (*pictured*) developed an ambitious plan for the battle itself. XXI corps, with five divisions, would attack along the coast and force the Turks to pull back along the line of the railway, north to Tul Keram and then east to Messudieh Junction. This would open a gap along the coast for the Desert Mounted Corps. Once they were past the Turkish lines their job was to ride north along the plain, cross a spur of the Judean hills and enter the Plain of Esdraelon. That would allow them to capture El Afule and Beisan, blocking the retreat of the Turkish Eighth and Seventh Armies. Their only possible line of retreat would have been east, across the Jordan Valley. XX corps was given the job of advancing along the hills towards Nablus to block the best passes down into the valley.



The preliminary operations began on 16 September. The Air Force bombed Deraa, further convincing Liman von Sanders that the British attack would come inland. At the same time a force of Arab rebels, amongst them T.E. Lawrence, cut the railways north, south and west from Deraa. Liman von Sanders moved some of his reserves east to deal with the perceived threat.

A second preliminary attack was launched by the 53rd Division of XX corps in the east of the Judean Hills. The attack was launched to move the 53rd Division into place for its main advance, to be once the attack on the left was well underway.

The main attack began at 4.30am on 19 September with a 15 minute artillery bombardment. The main infantry attack overwhelmed the outnumbered Turks in the front line. The 60th Division, on the left of the line, advanced 7,000 yards (nearly four miles) in the first two and a half hours, breaking through both the first and second Turkish lines, and capturing a bridgehead over the Nahr el Falik. This allowed the cavalry to begin its own advance. By the end of the first day XXI corps had captured most of the railway line north to Tul Keram. The Turkish Eighth Army, attempting to retreat through Tul Keram, was stopped by a combination of attack from

the air, a rapid advance by the 5th Australian Light Horse and finally by the 60th Division, who by the end of the day had advanced seventeen miles and captured Tul Keram.

Meanwhile the cavalry advance achieved all of its objectives. By the end of the first day of the battle the cavalry had reached the edge of the Plain of Esdraelon, and by 2.30am on 20 September were advancing down into the valley. El Afule and Beisan were captured later in the day. The cavalry even came close to capturing Liman von Sanders in his headquarters at Nazareth. Early in the battle all communications with the front had broken down, as happened so often during the First World War. The approach of the British cavalry was the first warning Liman von Sanders received of the scale of the Turkish defeat. While the British attempted to find his headquarters, he made his escape back towards Tiberias.

By the end of the second day the Turkish Eighth Army had been destroyed and the Seventh Army was in serious danger. With the railway blocked, its only chance of escape was east from Nablus, along a road that led down the Wadi Fara into the Jordan Valley. This had been the target of XX corps, but their advance, which began during the afternoon of 19 September, had not been as successful as on the left. During 20 September XX corps made very little progress, and on the night of 20/21 September the Turks began to evacuate Nablus.

They were stopped by air power. Allied aircraft caught the Turkish column just east of Nablus, where the road passed through a gorge. Bombing soon blocked the road, and the survivors scattered into the hills, where most were soon captured. The advancing British found over 1,000 vehicles (including 90 guns and 50 lorries) abandoned on the road.

The British took 25,000 prisoners during the battle of Megiddo. Less than 10,000 Turkish and German soldiers escaped to retreat north. The pursuit continued throughout October. The Turks lost control of Damascus on 30 September.

Over the next month the British captured Beirut (8 October), Tripoli (18 October) and Aleppo (25 October). On 30 October, with Palestine, Syria and Iraq lost, the Turks requested an armistice. Megiddo was one of the best planned and executed British battles of the First World War, and had the most dramatic results. Allenby must take much of the credit for this, emerging as one of the more imaginative generals of the war¹.

The Aftermath.

War time casualties generate a lot of paper work, Edwards death created some 84 pages on his Army File, not all completed fully, some a duplication.

It cites his Army record, then there appears to be three main categories at issue, the identification and return of Edward's kit, the calculation of pay and Army gratuity owing to Edward's estate plus identification of any creditors or debtors to his estate. Finally legal confirmation of his death and searching for a Will, it was concluded Edward died intestate, requiring Letters of Administration to obtain Probate of his estate.

1. http://www.historyofwar.org/articles/battles_megiddo1918.html

Pictured are the final inventories of Edward's kit collected up at the battle front, the field encampment and Cairo ¹.

Effects of Deceased Officers. (British Army). MFC/121/22.

Messrs. Cox & Co.,
108-111 St. Martin's Lane, W.C. 2.

I am to-day forwarding you by registered post for disposal, please, the following Effects belonging to the late 2/Lieut. E.G.P. Fenn, 1/5th Essex Regt. attached from 6th Gr. En. R.W.Fus. Kindly acknowledge receipt.

Binoculars in case.	3 keys on ring.	Safety razor & case.	Cards.
Metal pencil holder.	Cig. holder in case.	2 cig. holders.	Receipt.
Pince nez in case.	case.	Wrist-disc & chain.	Handkerchief.
Silver cig. case.	Oil Cavalry School compass.	Leather pouch.	Whistle.
Tobacco pouch.			

(Cash 100 Piastres is being handed to the Field Cashier, Alexandria, to be credited to the deceased's account).

19/10/18. *WH1784* *Gradu Rook* *Staff Captain, for D.A.G. 700 3rd Echelon, G.H.Q., E.F.F.* *Correct 7/3*

(A copy of the above has been forwarded to the Sec., War Office, C.W.)



Deceased. Inventory of kit belonging to the late 2nd Lieut. E.G.P. Fenn, 1/5th Essex Regt. att'd. from 6th Gr. En. R.W.Fus. Reference No. 5455

British Warm, 8 stars	1	1 Gladstone bag containing	
S.B. Slacks, pr.	1	S.B. Tunic	1
K.B. Slacks, pr.	1	K.B. Tunic, 4 stars	2
Purtees, pr.	1	Boots, ankle, pr.	1
Braces, pr.	2	Pyjama suits	8
Water bottle & carrier	1	Sword frog	1
Flask	1	Haversack	1
Ammunition pouch	1	Waistbelt	1
Bathing costume	1	Clothes brush	1
Towel	1	Coat hanger	1
Shirts	4	Breeches, pr.	1
Handkerchiefs	7	Gloves, pr.	2
Ties	2	Collars	15
Underpants, pr.	4	Undervests	3
S.B. Brace	1	Straps	2
Socks, pr.	1	Leggings, pr.	1
		1 valise containing	
Sleeping bag	1	French coat	1
Breeches, pr.	1	K.B. Slacks, pr.	1
Pyjama suit	1	Towel	1
Shirt	1	S.B. Cap & badge	1
Slippers, canvas, pr.	1	S.B. Belt, 1 brace	1
Mess-tin & cover	1	Boracic ointment & powder, ea.	1
Pince-nez in case, pr.	1	Torch refill	1
Collapsible cup	1	Revolver & lanyard in holster	1
Electric torch	1	Linen bag	1
Socks, pr.	7	Ties	2
Collar-pin	1	Puggaree	1
Adhesive plaster, roll	1	Handkerchiefs	8
Tablets, tin	1	Boots, ankle, pr.	1
Folding lantern in case	1	Sponge in holdall	1
Muffler	1	Holdall	1
Knife, fork & spoon, ea.	1	Comb	1
Tooth brushes	2	Shaving brush	1
Nail scissors, pr.	1	Soap-box	1
Hair brush	1		

Received 29/10/18.

W. J. Fenn Lieut.
C.O. Officer's Kit Bureau.

1. Edward's Military Records. The National Archive, Kew. WO339/93535

Deceased. Reference No. 3453
Inventory of kit belonging to the late 2nd Lieut. E. G. P. Fenn,
1/5th Essex Regt. att'd. from 6th Div. R.W.Fus.

1 Bundle of
Carpet 1 Blankets 3
Mosquito net 1 Canvas bags 3
Camp bed 1 Pillow 1
Sweater 1 Canvas bath & stand 10
Canvas basin 1 Camp chair 1
Camp table 1
Received from Cox, Alexandria, 5/11/18. *E. G. P. Fenn* Lieut.
C.i/o Officer's Kit Bureau.

Deceased. Reference No. 3453
Inventory of kit belonging to the late 2nd Lieut. E. G. P. Fenn, 1/5th
Essex Regt. att'd. from 6th Div. R.W.Fus.

1 Suit-case containing
Photos & negatives, tin 1 Pocket Wallet 1
Cheque-books 3 Handkerchief bag 1
Photo frame, silver 1 Bandolier in box 1
Prayer-book 1 Visiting cards, box 1
Nail file 1 Pin-cure in case, pr. 1
Badges 2 Razors in cases 2
Coin 1 Ointment, tin 1
Cigarette-holder in case 1 Pipes 3
Scissors, pr. 1 Mountain pen 1
Curios, various 4 Ash-tray 1
Gloves, pr. 1 Razor-strop 1
Small leather box 1 Postcards, pkts. 4
Tent pole hook 1 Books 20
Kerocies in box 2 Writing pad 1
Linen, piece 1 Egyptian tapestry, pieces 6
Received from Cox, Alexandria, 4/11/18. *E. G. P. Fenn* Lieut.
C.i/o Officer's Kit Bureau.

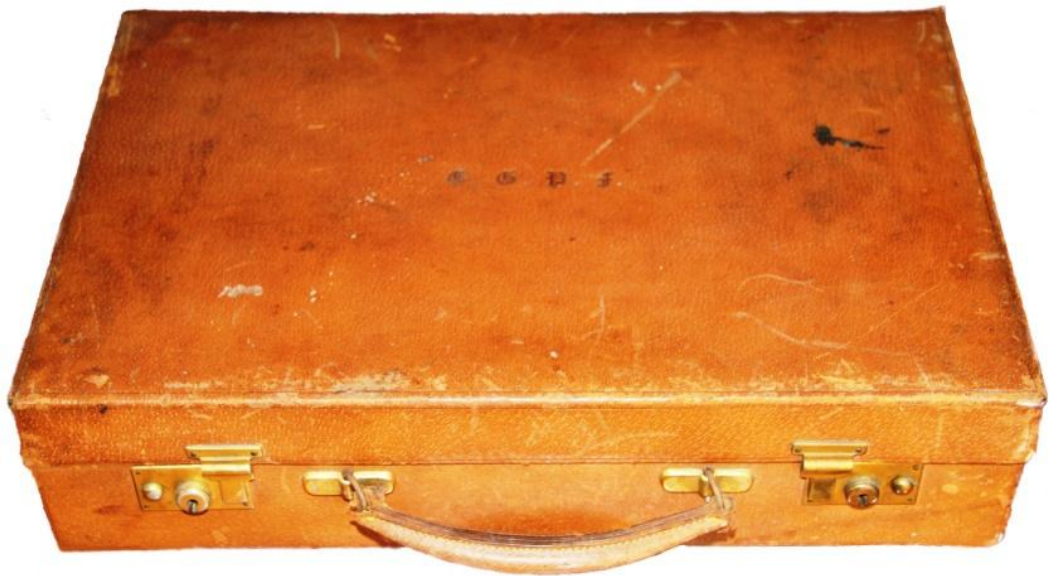


Edward's
Hat
Badge,
Cigarette
Holder &
Pencil.

Effects of Deceased Officers. (British Army) MFC/121/51.
Messrs. Cox's Shipping Agency Ltd.,
108-111, St. Martin's Lane, LONDON, W.C.2.
Gentlemen, I am to-day forwarding you by registered post for
disposal, please, the following effects belonging to the late
Lt. E. G. P. Fenn, 6th R.W.Fus. att'd. 1/5th Essex Regt., which was
found during work of exhumation.
Kindly acknowledge receipt.
Yours faithfully, *E. G. P. Fenn* Capt.
A/Staff Captain, for D.A.G.
3rd Echelon, G.H.Q., E.F.F.
(A copy of the above has been forwarded to the Sect. War Office, S)



Effects—Form 126A.
(Counts 4.)
This Undertaking to be signed, as the circumstances of the case dictate,
by one of the following persons in the order in which they appear:—
(1) Executor of the late Officer's Will or the Administrator of his estate.
(2) Widow.
(3) Father (if alive), or next surviving relative (if father is dead).
To the Army Council.
In consideration of your handing over to me, or at my request, the effects
of the late *2nd Lieutenant E. G. P. Fenn,*
3rd Bn, Royal Welsh Fusiliers att'd.
1/5th Bn, Essex Regiment.
in your custody, in anticipation of the final adjustment of his accounts, I undertake
to pay or secure the payment of any public or preferential claims that may exist
against his estate.
I desire that the late Officer's effects should be forwarded to the following
address:— *Alston Court,*
Weyland *Colchester.*
Signature *Edith Fenn (Mrs)*
Capacity in which signing *Mother.*
Date *Mar 25. 1918.*
This Undertaking, which is rendered necessary in view of the provisions of the Regimental
Debts Act, 1893, will not be held to apply to any amounts in excess of the assets of the late
Officer's estate.
Effects delivered to the address stated on this form will not subsequently be forwarded
elsewhere at the public expense.
(S 30 51) W1026—MP2498 5000 5/18 HWV(P250) H1860
32/1/18



Edward's Writing Case and I.D.

Edward's Estate Account with the Army.

Register No. 180055/3. Minute Sheet No. _____

Minute. 6.

Adjustment of Gratuity under Article 497, Pay Warrant.

GRATUITY ADMISSIBLE.

186 days, at 10/6- a day = £ 97 = 13 = 0.

LPSS.

Pay from 20/9/18 to 30/9/18 at 10/6. a day = £ 5 = 15 = 6.

Mess Allowance from _____ to _____

Children's Allowance from _____ to _____

at 10/- a month = £ _____

at 7 a month = £ _____

Accounts 1.

Please transfer: -

Debit Note L.P.A. (A) £ 97 = 13 = 0

Sub Credit Note L.C.I. £ 6 = 15 = 6

-Accounts 1 Agents *15.11.18*

Credit Income Duty £ - 12. 0

Credit Effects. 18-19 £ 91 - 5 - 6

Recorded by Accounts 1 on 25-11

Transfer No. 422 P. 3, Page 2 Item. 85 *YMS*

W. H. H. H.

W. H. H. H.

22/11/18

RECORDED BY _____

[29033] Wt. W.2806/WP2116 500m 7/18 M.R.Co.Ltd. E3461 [P.T. OVER.]

Continued:

FOR USE IN ACCOUNTS 4 ONLY.			NOT TO BE USED FOR MINUTES.					
Record No.	Year of Effects	Paymaster, &c.	DESCRIPTION	Period	£	s.	d.	Remarks
Register No. 18 00 55 1/3 Name and Regiment 21st L. G. P. Fenn 3rd Gren Bn R. Welch Fusiliers 15 Essex R								
CREDITS.								
44421	18/19		Gratuity under Arti- cles 496 and 497, R.W.P. ... 94. 13. 0.					
			LESS— £ s. d. Pay over- issued... 5. 15. 6. I.T. ... 12. 0.					
			Net Gratuity 91. 5. 6. (See Minute)		91.	5.	6.	
			ALLOWANCES— Lodging, Fuel and Light and Field ... 9 9/16		14.	11.	9.	
			RATION—					
			ADDITIONAL PAY—					
			OTHER CREDITS— Bal of Acct with National Bank of E. 1/18 Rec'd from D.A.G. 3rd Echelon		6.	8.	6.	
					1.	1.	6.	
			TOTAL		102	14	6.	
			Supplementary Credits received after first issue, but before paper is p.a. ...		4	18	3	
					107	9	3	
<small>(8 8 38) W785--HP2446 5000 4/18 HWV(P1582) H1308 5653--PP2106 5000 9/18</small>								
CHARGES OVERLEAF.								

The final sum accounted to Edward's solicitors Routh Stacey & Castle, London was £108 1s 3d.

Edward's Military Records. The National Archive, Kew. WO339/93535

The Final Winding-Up of Edward's Estate.

In the months after his death the Army searched without success for a Will for Edward, and for any creditors and funds owed to him.

Extract from "Egyptian Gazette" dated 3-10-18.

Any person having claims against the estates of the following Officers deceased, should forward their claims, with proofs, to the President, Committee of Adjustment, 3rd Echelon, G.H.Q., E.E.F., on or before Thursday the 10th. day of October 1918, after which date no claims will be considered.
"2/Lt. E.G.P. Fenn, Essex Regt."

(9 1 16) W2548-7372 2056 9/16 HWV(P716) H16/1382
1779-H4176 10,000 9/17

Effects.—Form 51.

Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to—
The Secretary,
War Office,
Park Buildings,
St. James's Park,
London, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted.

NO. 180 056/3 (Accts. 4.)

WAR OFFICE.

24th October 1918.

GENTLEMEN,

I am directed to request that you will report in the margin hereof whether you have in your hands any balance of pay, allowances, &c., due to the estate of the late 2nd Lt Edward Gerald Palmerham

SIR,

There is no balance in our hands due from Army Funds

2/Lt. E.G.P. Fenn, Essex Regt

19th Sept. 1918

Any such balance should be credited to the public under the head of Effects, 1918-19 the amount and the account in which the credit will appear being reported hereon.

I am,
GENTLEMEN,
Your obedient Servant,

Channing Cross
Assistant Financial Secretary.

To Messrs Box & Co
16 Charing Cross
S.W.1

ARMY FORM 151

The following amounts have been credited by us to the late officer's account in addition to pay up to 30.9.18

	£	s.	d.
Outfit Allowance	...	12	—
Field Kit Allowance	...	—	—
Field Allowance	...	—	—
Advance	...	—	—
Other issues	...	—	—
Special Reserve Gratuity (para. 419 S.R. Regulations)	...	—	—
CHIEF'S ALLOWANCE	...	—	—
ISSUED TO	...	—	—

Other issues Last ~~to~~ CWC 1-27/10/17

Can't to
Army Agents

From

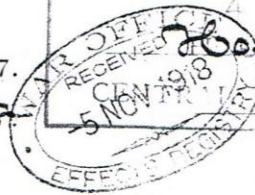
THE SECRETARY,
WAR OFFICE,
IMPERIAL INSTITUTE,
SOUTH KENSINGTON,
LONDON, S.W.7.

27 Nov 1918

L/18-0058/3 (Accounts 4.)

To

THE REGIMENTAL PAYMASTER,
ARMY PAY OFFICE, No 1



The Secretary of the War Office requests that you will be good enough to return this letter as early as possible, with a statement in the margin showing (1) whether the Active Service Pay Book (Army Book 64) of the late 2/Lt Edward G. Fenn 3rd Bn Royal Welch Fus. att 1/5 Bn & House Regt formerly No 5-66 31st Middlesex has been received by you; and if so (2) whether the "Will" pages still remain in the Book and (3) are blank.

If any Will appears therein it should be forwarded with your reply.

ANSWER.

Search has been made & will refer to in margin cannot be traced please

(1)

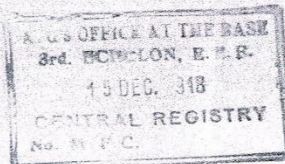
(2)

(3)

Wm. H. H. H.

FOR REGIMENTAL PAYMASTER.

If no enclosures, to be returned folded, not in an envelope.



M.F.C./37617/B.

D.D. & L., London, E.C.
(A8070) Wt. W2478/M1796 250,000 5/17 Sch. 2

Forms
A.2
40

Army Form A. 2.

PROCEEDINGS of a Committee of Adjustment

*N.B. - The Form being applicable to any Board of Officers, or Committee, or Court of Inquiry, this blank to be filled in accordingly.

The proceedings should be signed by each Officer composing the Board, etc.

assembled at Alexandria

on the 24th. day of November 1918

by order of General Sir E.H.H. Allenby,

G.C.B., G.C.M.G., ~~K.C.B.~~, C.in C., E.E.F.

for the purpose of winding up the affairs of the late
2/Lieut. E.G.P. Fenn, 6th. Bn. Royal Welch Fusiliers
attached 1/5th. Essex Regt., who was killed in
Action on the 19th. September 1918.

PRESIDENT

Lt. Col. A.K. Fletcher, V.D.,
A.A.G., 3rd. Echelon, G.H.Q.

MEMBERS.

Capt. G.U.B. Roose, Staff Captain,
3rd. Echelon, G.H.Q.

Capt. W.E. McClelland,
Royal Munster Fusiliers

IN ATTENDANCE.

The Committee having assembled pursuant to order, proceed to find that:-

Effects of the deceased, as per list attached, were forwarded to Messrs. Cox & Co., London, on 19-10-18.

Kit of the deceased, as per lists attached, has been received at the Officers' Kit Bureau, and will be forwarded to England in due course.

RECEIVED
21 NOV 1918
OFFICE

Edward's mother advises Army she has referred matters to her Lawyers

Alton Court.
Mayland.
Colchester.
Feb. 10.
6979
11 FEB 1919
OFFICE
RECEIVED
RECEIVED
Sir. - 180000/3. Officers
I thank you for your letter
relating to the estate of my son.
Lt. E. G. P. Fenn.
I am forwarding your letter to
my lawyer who will communicate
with you as soon as possible
Yrs faithfully
E. Fenn.

The Lawyers respond

Copy.

14, Southampton Street,
Bloomsbury,
W.C. 1.
21st February, 1919.

Sir,
Temp. 2nd Lieut. E.G.P. Fenn, decd.
Reserve Garrison Battn. Royal Welsh
Fusiliers attd. 5th Battn. Essex Regt.
Territorial Force.

We are acting for the personal representative of this Office
who was killed in Palestine on 19th September 1918 and are
applying for Letters of Administration to his estate.

We shall be obliged by your forwarding to the Commissioners
of Inland Revenue the necessary statement to remit death duties.

We are, Sir,
Your obed. Servants,
(Sd.) Routh Stacey & Castle

Letters regarding Letters of Administration and a Death Certificate

Telephone Nos.
1852 GERRARD
3458 CENTRAL
Telegraphic Address
"ROCASTLE WESTCENT, LONDON"
ROUTH, STACEY & CASTLE.
Chas. S. Routh,
Edward Stacey,
A. Harvey Thompson,
Gerald M. Todd.

115 ^{East} Southampton Street,
Bloomsbury, W.C.1.
attd 6 R.W. - Jas.
Dina 19/9/18 6th Feb 1919

Sir
2nd Lieut. Edward Gerald Palmer Fenn decd
Royal Welsh Fusiliers

We are instructed to obtain Letters of Administration to this deceased officer's estate he having been killed at Alexandria on or about the 23rd Sept. last.

We shall be obliged by your informing us what is due from Army Funds.

We are Sir,
Your obedient Servants,
Routh, Stacey & Castle

The Secretary,
War Office,
Imperial Institute,
South Kensington, S.W.7.

Telephone Nos.
1852 GERRARD
3458 CENTRAL
Telegraphic Address
"ROCASTLE WESTCENT, LONDON"
ROUTH, STACEY & CASTLE.
Chas. S. Routh,
Edward Stacey,
A. Harvey Thompson,
Gerald M. Todd.

115 Southampton Street,
Bloomsbury, W.C.1.
17th Feb 1919

Sir
180055/1. (C. 3. A. L.)
2nd Lieut. E. G. P. Fenn decd
3rd Reserve Garrison Battalion Royal Welsh Fusiliers
attached 5th Battaⁿ Essex Reg^t Terr. Force

We are obliged for the Certificate of death. With reference to the deceased's personal belongings we shall be glad to hear when they can be handed over to his Mother the intended Administratrix.

We are Sir,
Your obedient Servants,
Routh, Stacey & Castle

The Secretary,
War Office,
London, S.W.1.

Letters of Administration Granted 29 March 1919 – Edward's Estate is valued at £630 7s 6d

Register No. 180055/3
(Accounts 4.)

Extract from { Letters of Administration (~~Will annexed~~).
Probate of Will.
Confirmation.

Dated 29th March 1919 Granted at The Principal Probate Registry
Resealed

1. Estate of Edward Gerald Palmer Fenn of Alston Court Mayland
(Colchester) in the County of Suffolk temporary second
Lieutenant Royal Welsh Fusiliers

2. Date and Place of Death 19th day of September 1918 in Palestine intestate
a bachelor without father

3. Will

4. Grantees Edith Fenn Widow the natural and lawful Mother and only
next of kin of the said intestate

5. Gross Value £ 630.7.6.

6. Disposal of Medals
Decorations

7. Extracted by Messrs Routh Stacey & Castle, Solicitors, 14 Southampton
Street, Bloomsbury.

8. Produced by

9. Returned to

10. Date of Registration 2.4.19.

Edward's Military Records. The National Archive, Kew. WO339/93535

A Grateful Nation Honours its War Dead.



War Office (A.G. 10.)
27, Pilgrim Street,
London, E.C.4
3rd October 1922.

Madam,

I am directed to transmit to you the accompanying
"British War & Victory Medals"
which would have been conferred upon

2nd Lieutenant E. G. P. Fenn
had he lived, in memory of his services with the
British Forces during the Great War.

In forwarding the Decorations I am commanded
by the King to assure you of His Majesty's high
appreciation of the services rendered.

I am to request that you will be so good as to
acknowledge the receipt of the Decorations on the
attached form.

Mrs Fenn

I am, Madam,
Your obedient servant.

Philip W. Chetwode

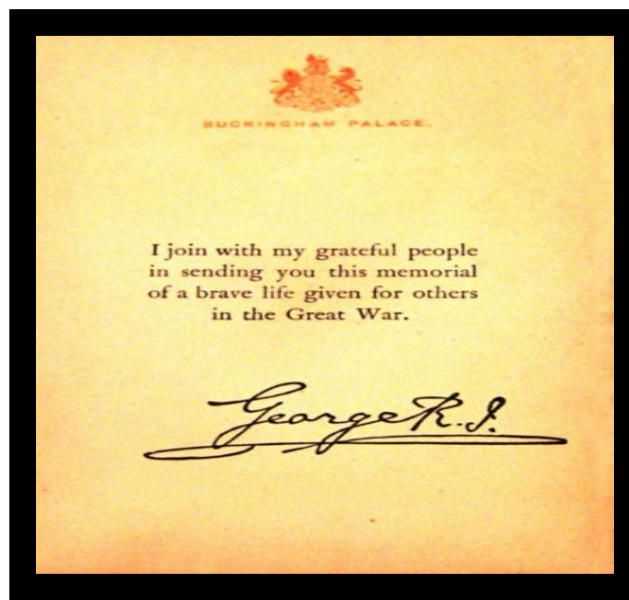
Adjutant General.





HE whom this scroll commemorates
was numbered among those who,
at the call of King and Country, left all
that was dear to them, endured hardness,
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 his name be not forgotten.

*2/Lt. Edward Gerald Palmer Fenn
Royal Welsh Fusiliers*



FINIS