

## Lance Corporal John Frederick Bishop

**Regimental Number: 8084**

**9<sup>th</sup> Battalion, East Surrey Regiment**

**born: 1894 - died: 29 November 1918**

Private John Frederick Bishop was the son of George and Ellen Bishop.<sup>1</sup> He was born in St Clements Danes, London, probably in November 1894. In 1911, George and his wife, Emily, were living at 16 Theberton Street, Islington, London with two of John's three siblings: Charlotte Elizabeth (born about 1893) and Charles Henry (born about 1900).<sup>2</sup> An older brother, George, was born about 1891.<sup>3</sup> John's father, who was born in about 1869 in London, was a pastry cook.<sup>4</sup> Emily was born about 1872, also in London.

John enlisted as a Private in the 9<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the East Surrey Regiment on 25 January 1915 at St Paul's Churchyard.<sup>5</sup> At the time, he was living at 18 Oswin Street, St George's Road, Southwark, London. He was 20 years old, a waiter, 5' 4" tall and had a sallow complexion and dark brown eyes and hair. He had married Florence Louise Simmons just a few months earlier. They were married in Islington, London on 2 August 1914. She was listed as living at Seven Sisters' Road, Finsbury Park when John enlisted.

He served the first eight months at home, joining the British Expeditionary Force and leaving for France on 24 September 1915. He was wounded in action on 14 August 1916 and was admitted to 24 General Hospital on 16 August with gun shot wounds to his right hand. He recovered and rejoined his Battalion on 13 September.

He was granted a Good Conduct Badge in January 1917 and was appointed Lance Corporal in June. However, just six months later, he relinquished his appointment. The same day, 5 December 1917, he had an offence report for "making comments prejudicial to good order and military discipline"



J F Bishop in Gosselies Communal cemetery (Source: Author)

"not complying with an order viz. not going on parade at 10 p.m. 5th inst. when ordered to do so with the raiding party." His punishment was 28 days of F.P No. 1. [Field Punishment No. 1, which "consisted of the convicted man being placed in fetters and handcuffs or similar restraints and attached to a fixed object, such as a gun wheel or a fence post, for up to two hours per day."<sup>6</sup>]

He was wounded a second time and was admitted on 30 March 1918 to the 72 General Hospital in Trouville with gun shot wounds to his back. He went to the 15 Convalescent Depot in mid-April, but rejoined his Battalion on 18 May.

He was awarded home leave from 8 - 21 June 1918 and returned to the United Kingdom via Boulogne. While he was at home, he was injured again. On 15 July he was admitted to the General Military Hospital at Silver Street, Edmonton with burns to his foot. Again he recovered and he rejoined his Battalion on 26 July 1918. In September 1918, he was once again appointed Lance Corporal.

By 19 October 1918, he was reported as missing. He had been taken prisoner of war. When he was admitted to the 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station on 25 November 1918, he was a returning prisoner of war.<sup>7</sup> He had a fracture and gun shot wounds to his left leg. The leg was amputated, but he died of his injuries on 30 November.<sup>8</sup> He was buried two days later in the Communal Cemetery at Gosselies (Grave 249) with the chaplain, W. O'Neill Fisher presiding. There are ten First World War servicemen buried in the Gosselies cemetery, all of whom died after the Armistice.<sup>9</sup> The chaplain also notified his wife, who was then living at 22 Woodside Gardens, Bruce Grove, Tottenham, London, of his death.

When he was in the 1<sup>st</sup> CCCS it was the foremost Casualty Clearing Station on the advance to Germany and close to the outpost line.<sup>10</sup> The day he was admitted the station had received a large number of patients, mostly returning prisoners of war. The following day, the prisoners were described as "... arriving in shocking condition, starved, emaciated, very scantily clad, very lousy and dirty with wounds and sores showing gross lack of care or treatment. Very busy."



Graves of nine WW1 soldiers in Gosselies Communal cemetery (Source: Author)

John was survived by his wife, his parents and his three siblings: George, Charles and Charlotte.<sup>11</sup> It is possible that Charles also served in war. His sister, Charlotte, had probably married George E. Wilson in 1913.<sup>12</sup>

John was awarded the British War Medal (for service overseas between 1914 and 1918), the Victory Medal (for service in an operational theatre) and the 1914-15 Star (for service in the war against Germany between 5 August 1914 and 31 December 1915).<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 31 March 2015), entry for John Frederick Bishop, Form Title: Short Service Attestation

<sup>2</sup> "1911 England Census," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 31 March 2015), entry for George Bishop, Registration district: Islington, Registration District Number: 10, Sub-registration district: Islington South East, ED, institution, or vessel: 33, Piece: 935. The census indicates that John's mother is called Emily and she and Goerge have been married for 15 years. However, John's army service record indicates that his mother's name was Ellen.

<sup>3</sup> "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920," entry for John Frederick Bishop

<sup>4</sup> "1911 England Census," entry for George Bishop

<sup>5</sup> "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920," entry for John Frederick Bishop. Unless otherwise noted, all information about his military career comes from his WW1 service record.

<sup>6</sup> "Field punishment," Wikipedia ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Field\\_punishment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Field_punishment); accessed 1 April 2015)

<sup>7</sup> "Record of Deaths, 17 February 1916 - 10 February 1919, a record maintained at No. 1 CCCS," Library and Archives Canada, (records accessed 2013 & 2015), Record Group 9, series IIC10, volume 4556, Record number 730

<sup>8</sup> The 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station journal indicates that he died on 29 November. However, his army service records indicate that he died on 30 November.

<sup>9</sup> "Gosselies Communal Cemetery," *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* (<http://www.cwgc.org/>; accessed 30 March 2015)

<sup>10</sup> "War Diaries of the First World War: 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station 1914/08/13-1919/03/31," Library and Archives Canada (<http://data4.collectionscanada.gc.ca/netacgi/nph-brs?s1=casualty+clearing&s13=&s12=&l=20&s9=RG9&s7=9->

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<sup>11</sup> "British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920," entry for John Frederick Bishop

<sup>12</sup> "England & Wales marriages 1837-2008," *Findmypast* ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk); accessed 31 March 2015), entry for Charlotte M. Bishop, District: Wandsworth, County: London, Volume: 1D, Page: 802

<sup>13</sup> "British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914-1920," *Ancestry* ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk); accessed 1 April 2015), entry for Bishop, John F.