

LEONARD GEORGE FISHER

Private, 9821, **2nd Battalion, Bedfordshire Regiment**
Died 12th October 1916, aged 23, **Battle of the Somme.**

Born in Batford, Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

Son of William and Emily Fisher (nee Chapman).

William was a farm worker. They had seven children:

- William Samuel Fisher (b. 1890, d. 1987)
- **Leonard George Fisher (b. 1892, d. 1916)**
- Annie Fisher (b. 1895, d. 1915)
- Lucy Sarah Fisher (b. 1898, d. 1914)
- Alice Louisa Beatrice Fisher (b. 1902, d. 1967)
- Cecil Arthur Fisher (b. 1908, d. 1974)

Educated in Harpenden then Ayot St. Peter.

Sang in the choir at Ayot St. Peter.

Resident of Redbourn, Hertfordshire.

Pre military service employed as a
farm labourer, Welwyn.

Enlisted at Hertford in 1911 and was serving in South
Africa when war broke out.

Went to Belgium on 6th October 1914.

Hospitalised in 1915 and treated in

England. Returned to the front in August
1916.

Killed during an attack on Gird Trench
near Eaucourt l'Abbaye (Battle of Le Transloy).

Remembered with Honour Thiepval Memorial, France
and commemorated on the Redbourn War Memorial
and on a plaque in St. Mary's church.



Herts Advertiser 23rd January 1915

REDBOURN. "Bed's"

Terrible Losses

Redbourn Man's Account of Very Hot Work

Mr. W. Fisher, jun., Flamsteadbury Farm, Redbourn, has received the following letter from his brother Len, who is in "D" Company, 2nd Bedfordshire Regiment:-

"January 9th. - I am serving with a battalion which all Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire people should be proud of Our first engagement was at Ypres, where we had it very stiff. Our division was outnumbered by the Germans nine to one, but anyhow, we held them back for three weeks till we got reinforcements up. My battalion was in reserve for the ----- Infantry Brigade, and we had a very hot job to do to keep the other battalions reinforced. We had to advance in daylight under very heavy shell fire, and my platoon and another had to go to the Scots Fusiliers, as they were getting cut up terrible. We reached their trenches all right with only a few casualties, and there was a fine sight to see. The Germans were advancing to our trenches about a half-a-mile off, and they were just like flocks of sheep coming towards us. We were firing rapidly for about two hours, but still they came in swarms, and by this time it was getting dark, and still they were advancing, and they got within two hundred yards of our trenches, and they charged us with the bayonet and we had to retire in to a wood. But we all formed up and did a counter-attack and drove them out of our old trenches at the point of the bayonet. And I must say they are a poor lot of chaps to face the cold steel ... I could tell you a lot more, but I have not the time to write. I am sorry to say that all that came out of the firing line of my battalion were one officer and three hundred men out of 1,100."

Herts Advertiser 18th November 1916

Pte. L.G. Fisher – Flamstead Bury Lad Falls On The Somme

*After fighting in France for two years Pte Len G Fisher, Beds Regiment, son of Mr. Fisher Flamstead Bury, Redbourn, was instantaneously killed on October 12th when taking part in an attack on a German trench on the **Somme**.*

A sergeant friend of deceased writing to the bereaved parent says “He died doing his duty a brave and noble lad. We reached a part of the trench we were fighting for and it was while holding on to that piece of ground that your son was killed. He was hit in the head by a bullet and died an almost painless death. On behalf of the company and myself I extend to you out heartfelt and deepest sympathy”

Private Fisher joined the army in 1911 and went out to France with the Expeditionary Force in 1914. Some time back he was invalided home suffering from enteric fever but returned to the front last August.

The same article also appeared in The Luton News and Bedfordshire Chronicle.

His brother **William Samuel Fisher** served as Private 2511, 105775

Hertfordshire Yeomanry.

Enlisted on 12th June 1915.

Main theatre of War: Mesopotamia.

Awarded the Silver War Badge.

Demobilised on 14th May 1919.

Professional Gardener.

Rector's Deputy Church Warden, 25 Years.

Long term resident of Batford, Harpenden.

Passed away 1987, aged 96.



Source: Jonathan Sinfield (great-nephew)