



Joseph Spedding Fisher

1887-1918

Joseph was born in Chickenley on 27th October 1887 and baptised 12th March 1888 at Chickenley Wesleyan Methodist Chapel. His father was Harry Fisher, a self-employed House Painter and Plumber born in Whitley Lower in 1864 and died in 1941. His mother was Sarah (nee Spedding) born in Earlsheaton in 1862 and died in 1922. They were married on 15th September 1884 at All Saints Church, Dewsbury.

Their other children were; Charles, born in 1885, Hubert, born in 1886 and died in 1886, Charlotte, born in 1889, Elsie, born in 1891, Dorothy, born in 1898 and Sara Emma, born in 1900.

On the 1891 Census the family lived at Short Street, Chickenley and in 1901 and 1911 at 84, Chickenley Lane, Chickenley.

Harry worked for his father in his painting and plumbing business. He was married on 30th October 1911 to Mary Louisa Cowling (born in 1889 and died in 1970) at St. Matthew's Church, Westtown. They lived at 2, Queen Street, Chickenley and did not have any children. Mary was remarried to Sidney Fawcett (born in 1893 and died in 1968) on 1st August 1921 at St. Mary's Church, Gawthorpe. They had two daughters, Muriel, born in 1921 and Edith, born in 1924. They lived at 21, Blacksmith Fold, Alverthorpe, Wakefield.

He enlisted on 7th August 1916 into the Royal Garrison Artillery serving as Gunner 113459 and was posted to 245th Siege Battery on 8th September 1916 and was sent to the Western Front on 25th January 1917. He was hospitalised for two weeks with measles on 8th March 1917 and again after being gassed on 17th October 1917; he came home on leave from 18th to 30th January 1918 and was transferred to 184th Siege Battery on 5th February 1918. He was wounded in France on 24th October 1918 during the Battle of the Selle and was taken to Casualty Clearing No. 1 at Escaudoeuvres suffering from gunshot wounds and a fractured thigh; he died the following day on 25th October 1918 and was buried in Escaudoeuvres Convent Cemetery. His remains were reburied in 1920 in Ramillies British Cemetery, Nord, France. Joseph was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Ramillies is a village approximately 3 kilometres north-east of Cambrai. The village was captured by the Canadian Corps on the night of 8-9 October 1918. The original cemetery contained 93 graves dating from 30th September to 17th October but after the Armistice, further graves were brought into the cemetery from Escaudoeuvres Convent Cemetery which was South-West of the village of Escaudoeuvres, close to the road to Cambrai, in the grounds of the Convent of the Little Sisters of the Poor. It contained the graves of 80 soldiers from the United Kingdom, six from Canada, 43 German soldiers and two French civilians). Ramillies British Cemetery now contains 180 First World War burials.

Joseph is commemorated on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park and in the Dewsbury Roll of Honour kept in Dewsbury Central Library and on the Earlsheaton Park War Memorial and on the Ossett War Memorial and on the Gawthorpe and Chickenley Heath St. Mary the Virgin Church Oak Memorial Plaque (relocated to Ossett Trinity Church following the demolition of St. Mary's) and as *Joseph S. Fisher* on the Memorial in the now demolished Chickenley Wesleyan Methodist Chapel (current whereabouts of Memorial untraced).

In Memory of

Gunner

Joseph Spedding Fisher

113459, 184th Siege Bty., Royal Garrison Artillery who died on 25 October 1918 Age 32

Son of Harry and Sarah Fisher, of 84, Chickenly Lane, Dewsbury; husband of Mary Louisa Fawcett (formerly Fisher), of 21, Blacksmith Fold, Alverthorpe, Wakefield, Yorks.

Remembered with Honour

Ramillies British Cemetery



Commemorated in perpetuity by
the Commonwealth War Graves Commission



Headstone photograph by courtesy of Ms. Danielle Roubroeks, Antwerp, Belgium.