

THE FALLEN OF SUTTON-IN-CRAVEN



EVELYN FISHER

KINGS ROYAL RIFLE CORPS

DIED OF WOUNDS 25TH JULY 1916

BORN IN 1887 AT MORECAMBE, THE SON OF ROBERT
AND SARAH FISHER AND HUSBAND OF DOROTHY FISHER

Fisher Family History

- 1891 census shows Robert, his wife Sarah and their 6 children living at 42, Low Baildon, near Shipley as follows:

Name	Age	Work	Birth place	Birth year
Robert (Head)	36	Gardener	Old Buckingham, Norfolk	1855
Sarah Ann (wife)	37		Laneshaw Bridge, Nr Colne	1854
Ada	13	Worsted spinner	Rawdon	1878
Luis Edward	12	Worsted spinner	Rawdon	1879
Laura	10	Worsted spinner	Rawdon	1881
Nellie (Ellen on 1901 census)	6	Scholar	Ingrow, Keighley	1885
Evelyn	4	Scholar	Morecambe	1887 - 1916
May (Mary on 1901 census)	Baby		Baildon	1890



Low Baildon



Baildon

- **1901 census** shows Robert, his wife Sarah and their 8 children now living at 9, St James Place, Baildon, near Shipley as follows:

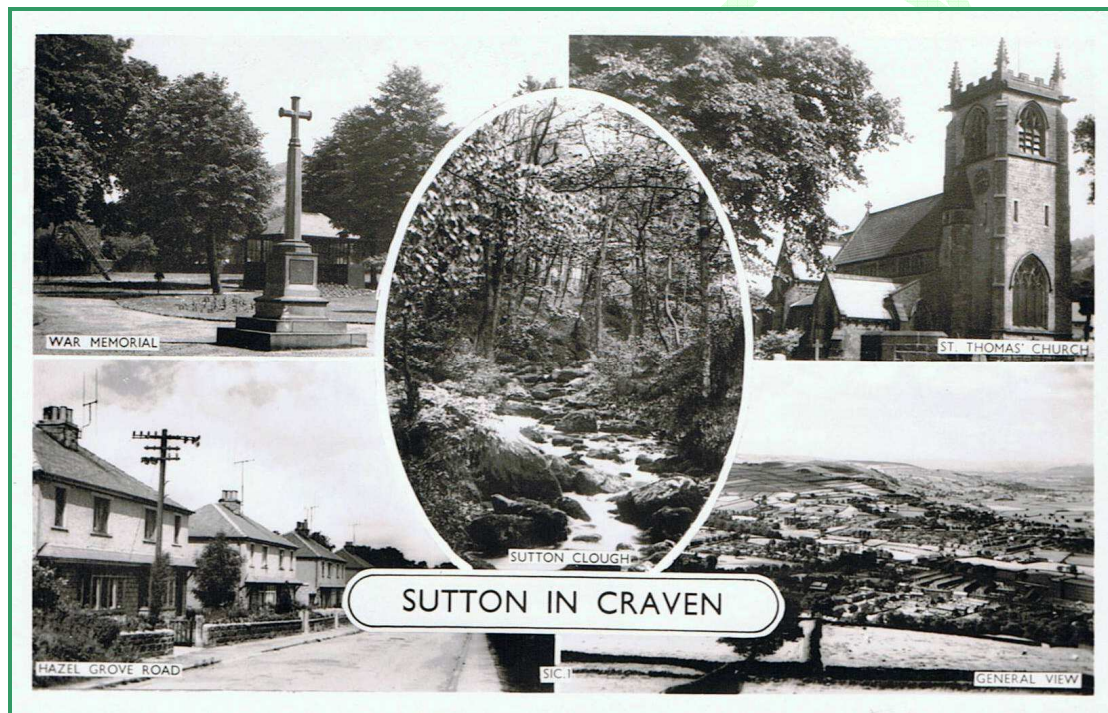
Name	Age	Work	Birth place	Birth year
Robert (Head)	46	Market gardener	Old Buckingham, Norfolk	1855
Sarah Ann (wife)	47		Laneshaw Bridge, Nr Colne	1854
Luis Edward	22	Worker	Rawdon	1879
Laura	20	Worsted twister	Rawdon	1881
Ellen	17	Worsted spinner	Ingrow, Keighley	1885
Evelyn	14	Worsted spinner	Morecambe	1887 - 1916
Mary	10		Baildon	1890
Maud	7		Baildon	1894
Eva Elsie	6		Baildon	1895
Ivy	baby		Baildon	1900

- **1911 census** shows 24 year old Evelyn residing at New Barracks, Alverstoke, Hampshire where he was stationed with the 1st Battalion Kings Royal Rifle Corps (K.R.R.C.). His military details list his army occupation as Bugler.

It also shows that his parents Robert and Sarah had been married for 36 years and that of their 10 children born alive, 2 had since died.

In addition, Robert, Sarah and 2 of their children had relocated and were now living at Hazel Grove, Sutton-in-Craven as follows:

Name	Age	Work	Birth place	Birth year
Robert (Head)	57	Gardener domestic	Old Buckingham, Norfolk	1855
Sarah Ann (wife)	58		Laneshaw Bridge, Nr Colne	1854
Maud	19	Spinner	Baildon	1892
Eva Elsie	17	Spinner	Baildon	1894



Hazel Grove Rd bottom left
(source: original postcard owned by Andrew Monkhouse)

Notes:

- 1901 census shows Maud as being born in 1894
1911 census shows Maud as being born in 1892
- 1891 census shows Evelyn's older sister Laura working as a worsted spinner aged just 10 years!

Pre-war army service

Prior to WW1, Evelyn Fisher had served as a professional soldier with the 1st Battalion Kings Royal Rifle Corps in Hampshire. His regimental number was 6555 and his rank was Rifleman.

He had enlisted on the 5th July 1905 and after 3 years military service he extended his service with the colours to 12 years in total, although he ended up serving only 9 years. During this time his regimental conduct was less than exemplary!

In 1908, Evelyn was based in Cairo. He was discovered drunk in his barracks at 10.00pm on the 25th November 1908. This 'drunk' charge was subsequently admonished.

However, on the 5th January 1909, Evelyn was charged with striking his superior officer for which he received 70 days detention for the assault.

In January 1910 he was in trouble again for being absent without leave and in October of the same year, he was again charged with assaulting his Commanding Officer.

Form 150,000 5-32 Form B 120
6 48 75

Conduct REGIMENTAL DEFAULTED SHEET.

Number of sheets (in words) One
Signature of C.O. or Adjutant Michael L. L. L.
THE RIFLE DEPOT, Regiment.

Regimental Number and Name 6555 Evelyn Fisher Attested 1 7 1908. Joined 7 1905.

Place	Date of Offence	Rank	OFFENCE	By whom reported and Names of Witnesses	PUNISHMENT awarded	Date of award, or of order dispensing with trial	By whom	Date of Commencement	Date of Expiration	REMARKS
Cairo	25.11.08	Rfm	Drunk in barracks about 10 p.m.	Sgt. Hopkins Sgt. Millingham Sgt. Davis Sgt. Hill Sgt. Powell	Admonished	22.11.08	Lt. R. S. Selby			Admon. for being drunk. R. S. Selby Capt. J. R. S. C.
		Rfm	Striking his Superior Officer.	Lt. Hopkins Lt. Millingham	40 days Detention	5.1.09	D. C. C.	5.1.09		Detention for striking superior officer. D. C. C.
Cairo	21.1.10	Rfm	Absent from Tattoo until 11.15am, 29.1.10. Breaking out of Barracks where in open arrest & remaining absent until 10pm. 30.1.10	Lt. C. C. C. Lt. C. C. C. Lt. C. C. C.	14 days B.B.	21.1.10	Lt. C. C. C. Lt. C. C. C.			Absent from Tattoo. Breaking out of Barracks. 14 days B.B.
Cairo	21.1.10	Rfm	Assault, commencing	Lt. C. C. C. Lt. C. C. C.	14 days B.B.	21.1.10	Lt. C. C. C. Lt. C. C. C.			Assault, commencing. 14 days B.B.

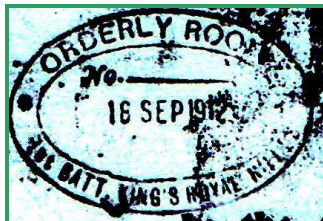
To be carried over

(source: army service papers The National Archives)

On the 16th January 1913, Evelyn received 14 days detention for being absent on parade and for using insubordinate language to a N.C.O.

(source: *army service papers* The National Archives)

(source: *army service papers* The National Archives)



In the County Borough of Portsmouth.

Before the Court of Summary Jurisdiction sitting at the Magistrate's Court,
Town Hall, in and for the said County Borough of Portsmouth.

The Thirtieth day of August
nine hundred and twelve.

EVELYN FISHER

of the said County Borough. Bugler Kings Royal Rifles herin-after called
the defendant, is this day convicted for that he on the twenty ninth
day of August, one thousand nine hundred and twelve at
the County Borough of Portsmouth aforesaid, did in which said County
Borough the provisions of the "Town Police Clauses Act 1847"
respect to obstructions and nuisances in streets were then and
still are in force, did in a certain street there called Madingley
Road Landport to the annoyance of the passengers unlawfully use
the following obscene language, namely :- You are only a bloody
-ing copper. I will put my fucking mark on you now.

contrary to the form of the Statute in such case made and provided.

And it is adjudged that the defendant for his said offence, do
and pay to the Clerk of this Court, at his offices in the Town Hall, in the said
County Borough, the sum of One shilling and sixpence as a penalty
and do also pay to Ernest George Brail Police Constable the Informant
the sum of Three shillings and six pence for costs
specially ordered. forthwith, or on

(source: army service papers The National Archives)

On the 4th July 1914 after exactly 9 years service, Bugler Evelyn Fisher was discharged from the regular army and transferred to the army reserve. His transfer papers noted that he had eight dots on the back of his left forearm (presumably tattoos) and several scars on his back.

He had previously forfeited his 'Good Conduct Badge' on the 28th December 1908!

World War 1



It had been **99 years** since Britain was last involved in a major European conflict following the defeat of Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815



The official announcement by Germany of the war (Berlin, August 2nd 1914)



People waiting for news on Parliament Square in London on August 3rd 1914, the day before war was declared



'Jubilant' scenes outside Buckingham Palace on August 4th 1914, the day that war was declared

August 4th 1914

Britain declares war on Germany

As an army reservist, Evelyn Fisher was immediately called up to join his old regiment, the King's Royal Rifle Corps at the outbreak of the Great War. He retained his pre-war regimental number of 6555 and his rank was Rifleman.

Data from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission during the Great War shows Evelyn was now married to his wife Dorothy and living at 90, Queen's Rd, Gosport, near Portsmouth, Hampshire.

During the Great War, the King's Royal Rifle Corps was expanded to 22 battalions and saw much action on the Western Front

Over 12,000 soldiers of the regiment were killed while 8 members won the Victoria Cross and over 2,000 further decorations were awarded



King's Royal Rifle Corps cap badge

The battalions of the regular units were naturally the first to go to war and they formed the bedrock for the later expansion of Kitchener's 'volunteer' army

Before WW1 however, the British army was very small in comparison with those of its European neighbours. The army's main role since the South African Boer War (1899-1902) was the policing of the British Empire.

Britain's traditional armed strength lay in the Royal Navy and there was no pre-conceived intention to commit a large army to a Continental war

However, army planning in the crisis years leading up to 1914 had provided for a small **Expeditionary Force** of 6 Infantry Divisions, equipped as a mobile force that could be deployed anywhere.



British pre-war regular army soldiers 'The Old Contemptibles'

In the last days of peace, the Government committed 4 Infantry Divisions consisting of pre-war regulars and reservists to the **British Expeditionary Force** going to Belgium and France.

These soldiers were known as the '**Old Contemptibles**', a phrase used by the German Kaiser to describe this small but efficient fighting force of the British army. These pre-war regulars and reservists were professional soldiers trained to fight, obey orders and not ask questions.

Rifleman Evelyn Fisher was part of the **British Expeditionary Force** with the 1st battalion Kings Royal Rifles Corps. They landed at Le Havre in France on the 13th August 1914; just 9 days after Britain had declared war on Germany and prepared for the Battle of the Mons.



British Expeditionary Force troops lined up for inspection at Havre, 1914
(source: www.gwpda.org/photos)

Mobilisation and embarkation for France proceeded faultlessly with all men and equipment moved across the Channel as planned. They moved swiftly into position before encountering the enemy for the first time at Mons on the 23rd August 1914, thus signifying the first engagement between British and German forces on the Western Front.

Rifleman Evelyn Fisher qualified for the Mons Clasp **5th Aug – 22nd Nov 1914** to be attached to the ribbon of his 1914 Star medal.



The Mons clasp was awarded to soldiers who had served in France and Belgium between 5th Aug and 22nd Nov 1914 **AND** who had been 'under fire' during that period.

Campaign: — 1914				(A) Where decoration was earned.
				(B) Present situation.
Name	Corps	Rank	Reg. No.	Roll on which included (if any)
(A) FISHER	1/KRRijC	Rgn	6555	MEDAL ROLL PAGE VICTORY * M/101 1/10 1234 BRITISH — 1/10 — 1/10 14 STAR M/3 45
(B) EVELYN	— " —	9 1/2	— " —	14 STAR M/3 45
Action taken		Died of wounds		
Clasp. 2/2692.				
QUALIFYING DATE.		13/8/14		
(6 34 46) W284—HP5590 500,000 4/19 HWV(P240) K608 [OVER.				

MEDAL INDEX CARD for Evelyn Fisher (source: *The National Archives*)

The British Expeditionary Force of 1914 is remembered because of its battle honours and the suffering it endured. This culminated in the bloody attritional fighting around Ypres in Oct and Nov 1914.



British troops attacking German trenches, WW1

Battle of the Somme

1st July – 18th November 1916

The Battle of the Somme was fought from the 1st July – 18th November 1916 and claimed more than 1.5 million casualties.

The battle was preceded by 7 days of preliminary artillery bombardment, in which the British fired over **1.7 million shells**. The logic behind this was so to destroy the German trenches and barbed wire placed in front of the trenches before sending in the infantry.

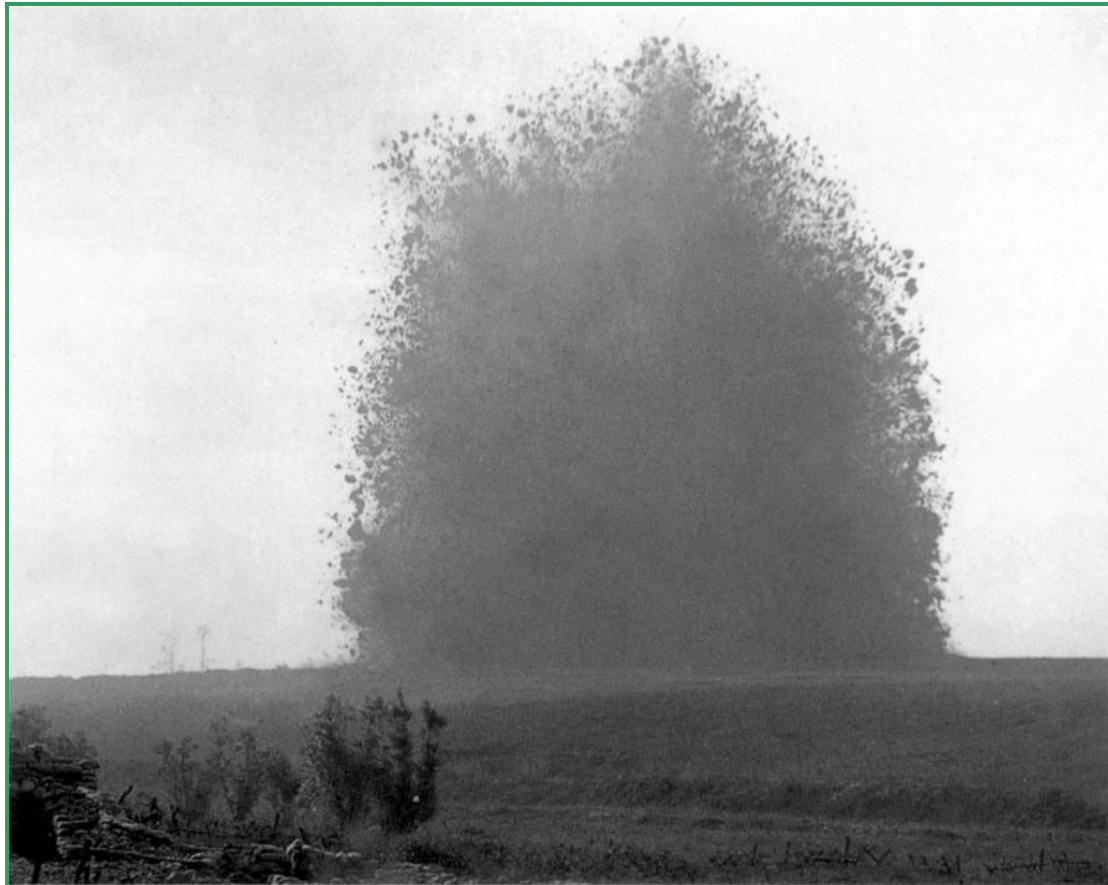


British Artillery, end of June 1916.

7 day preliminary artillery bombardment, Battle of the Somme, 1916

However, the enemy's position was situated on high, undulating tract of ground, in which they had deep trenches and bomb proof shelters for their men. When the bombardment started the Germans moved these men into the relative safety of the deep dugouts. When the bombardment stopped, the Germans knew that this was the signal for an infantry advance. They moved from the safety of their dugouts and manned their machine guns to face the British and French.

Ten minutes before the infantry advance, at 7:20 a.m. on the 1st July 1916, a British officer detonated a massive mine beneath the **Hawthorn Ridge** (photo below).



Explosion of the Hawthorn Ridge, 1st July 1916

At 7.30am, on a clear midsummer's morning, the British infantry emerged from their trenches and advanced in extended lines at a slow steady pace across the grassy expanse of 'No Man's Land'.

There they met a hail of machine-gun and rifle fire from the German defenders. Accurate German barrages immediately added to the pandemonium, as shells engulfed the attackers and wrecked the crowded British assembly trenches.

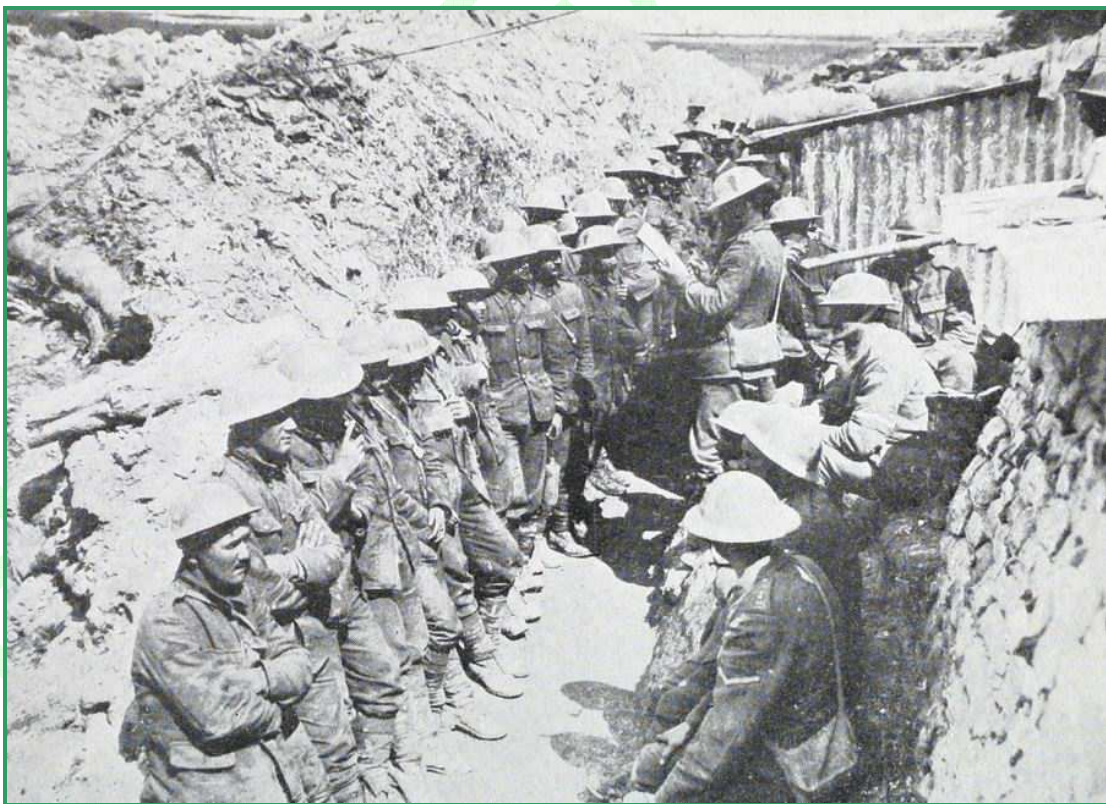
The advancing infantry and many more waiting to attack suffered enormous casualties.

The Battle of the Somme is best remembered for its first day, 1st July 1916 on which the British suffered 57,470 casualties, including **19,240 dead** - the bloodiest day in the history of the British Army.

The British Army suffered, over the course of the entire 142-day Somme campaign, some 415,000 casualties, which works out to be around 3,000 per day. The French lost 200,000 men and the German's nearly 500,000



Going 'over the top'



Roll call in the British trenches at the Battle of the Somme, afternoon, July 1, 1916
(source: www.gwpda.org/photos)

The Somme campaign finally came to and end on the 18th November 1916 when the British 51st Highland Division took Beaumont Hamel that had in fact been an objective for the first day.

The battle became a metaphor for futile and indiscriminate slaughter. By the time the Battle of the Somme was abandoned the Allies had advanced only 5 miles.

Having survived the battlefields of France since August 1914, Rifleman Evelyn Fisher was subsequently **Wounded in Action** three weeks into the Battle of the Somme. He later **Died of Wounds** on the 25th July 1916

He was 30 years of age



Casualty Details

Name: FISHER, EVELYN

Initials: E

Nationality: United Kingdom

Rank: Bugler

Regiment/Service: King's Royal Rifle Corps

Unit Text: 2nd Bn.

Age: 30

Date of Death: 25/07/1916

Service No: 6555

Additional information: Son of Robert and Sarah Fisher, of Morecambe, Lancs;
husband of Dorothy E. Fisher, of 90, Queen's Rd.,
Gosport, Hants.

Casualty Type: Commonwealth War Dead

Grave/Memorial Reference: I. C. 17.

Cemetery: DAOURS COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION

(source: *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* www.cwgc.org/)

DAOURS COMMUNAL CEMETERY EXTENSION



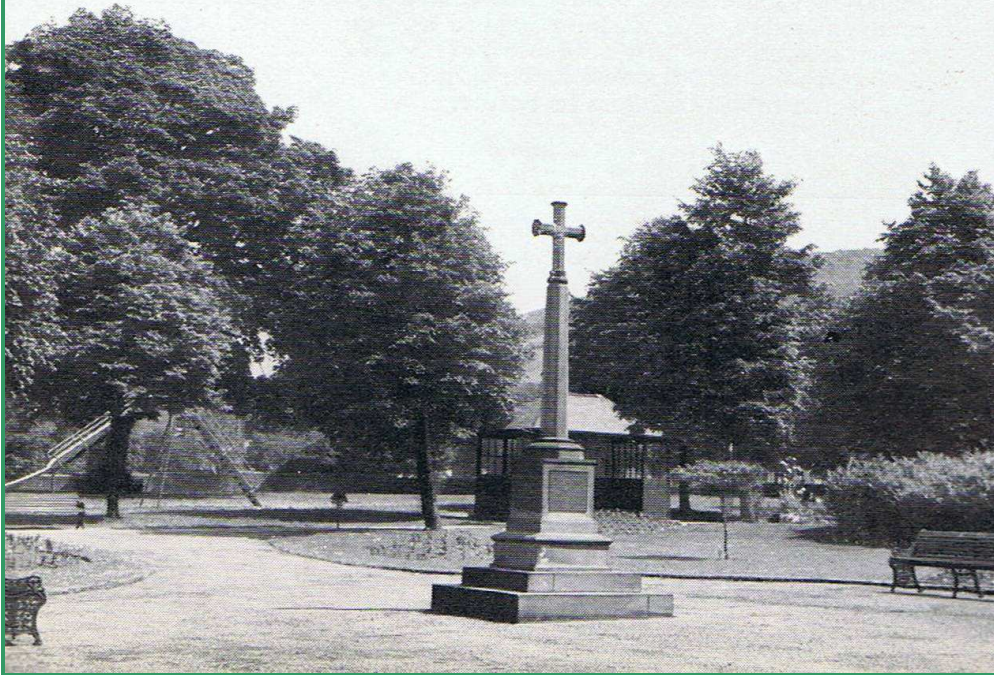
Daours Communal Cemetery Extension, France
(source: *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* www.cwgc.org/)

The preparations for the Somme offensive of July 1916 brought a group of casualty clearing stations to Daours. The extension to the communal cemetery was opened and the first burials made between June and November 1916.

There are now 1,231 Commonwealth servicemen of the Great War, including Rifleman Fisher, buried or commemorated in Daours Communal Cemetery Extension.

Rifleman Evelyn Fisher is also remembered on the Sutton-in-Craven war memorial

WAR MEMORIAL, SUTTON-IN-CRAVEN PARK



(source: *South Craven, the official guide*, 1950)



Sutton-in-Craven War Memorial (photo taken by Paul Wilkinson)

Rifleman Evelyn Fisher was posthumously awarded the
1914 Star + MONS CLASP, British War Medal & Victory Medal



Original trio of WW1 medals, obverse



Original trio of WW1 medals, reverse (star unnamed original)
(source: owned by Andrew Monkhouse)

A Memorial Plaque inscribed with the soldiers name was also given to the family of those who were killed during WW1



Original WW1 Memorial Plaque (name digitally altered)
Also referred to as a Death Plaque or Dead Man's Penny
(source: owned by Andrew Monkhouse)

FOR THE FALLEN

*THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD, AS WE THAT ARE
LEFT GROW OLD*

*AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM, NOR THE YEARS
CONDEMN*

*AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE
MORNING*

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

LAURENCE BINYON, 1869-1943



(Information compiled by Andrew Monkhouse 2011)