

By: Bill Stevens; originally published in September 2006 Newsletter

On April 23, 1915 Lance Corporal Fred Fisher was killed in action in the area of St. Julien. Fred went forward with the machine gun, of which he was in charge, under heavy fire, and most gallantly assisted in covering the retreat of a battery, losing four men of his gun team. Later, after obtaining four more men, he went forward again to the firing line and was himself killed while bringing his machine gun into action under very heavy fire, in order to cover the advance of support. For his bravery, he was the first Canadian born male to be awarded the Victoria Cross while serving in the Canadian Army. He was born on August 3, 1895 in St. Catharines to Mr. and Mrs. William Henry Fisher. The family moved to Westmount, Quebec where he attended Westmount Academy and then McGill University. He enlisted on August 6, 1914 at the young age of eighteen years. He went overseas with the 13th Battalion (Royal Highlanders of Canada) in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He was promoted to the rank of Lance-Corporal on December 22, 1914. His grave in the trench where he was originally buried by his comrades was lost. His name is inscribed on panel 24-26-28-30 of the Menin Gate (Ypres) Memorial in Belgium.