

Leonard Newman Bishop



Leonard was born in 1885, the March Quarter, in St Faith's, in Winchester, the son of Edward Bishop (1841-1911) and Sarah Rebecca, nee Newman (1840-1887) and he lived in Winchester, transferring to Isleworth with his post office occupation in 1912. His grandfather, Benjamin, was a cordwainer and his father worked as a servant at Winchester College in 1861 and then a warder and principal warder at Winchester Jail, in 1881. His parents had married on May 9th 1878, in Henley Parish Church; both were aged 37; Edward was a widower, from Winchester and Sarah Rebecca, originated from Isleham in Cambridgeshire. Leonard had three siblings: Edward Charles (1879-1946), Edith Annie (1880-1961) and Lilian Lucy (1883-1954). Edward Charles was an organ builder in 1901 and 1911, and he married twice:- to , Emily Louise Bishop in 1903 in Winchester and to Margaret Frances Carpenter in Christchurch in 1908. Edith Annie married John Henry Whitear in Winchester in 1902. By 1911, , Lilian Lucy was assisting in the hotel business at the White Horse Hotel, Bournemouth, and in 1918 she married Hubert Rider.

Leonard worked as a postman in 1901. In the 1911 census, he was recorded as a soldier, Overseas and Military, at Harrismith in South Africa with the South Wales Borderers. His father had died shortly before this; his mother in 1887. He was appointed to Isleworth Post office in 1912.

"It is with the deepest regret that I have to inform you of the circumstances resulting in the death of No. 9416, Private L. Bishop. At the same time, an Englishman can but feel proud that our country possesses such splendid soldiers as your brother, Private Bishop. During the early morning of 26th September, our regiment was very heavily attacked by the Germans, who succeeded in reaching our trenches. The fighting was almost hand to hand, and after a most gallant and stubborn resistance, the Germans, who were in very superior force, were driven back with great losses. Private Bishop fell, shot through the head, but not before he had covered himself with glory in that gallant stand; his conduct and bravery that morning went a long way towards upholding the splendid name of the regiment to which he belonged. This incident took place at Vendresse, on the Aisne."

Leonard was also a member of the Reserve until called up, along with 6 other local postmen from Isleworth Postal Staff, when War broke out. He had also helped to organise a Postal Staff Dinner at the Milford Arms, Isleworth, as reported in the Middlesex Chronicle on February 14th 1914.

Leonard (9416) served with the D Company, 1st Battalion, South Wales Borderers, and was killed in action on September 26th 1914 at Vendresse (Ardennes), France. His brother Charles Edward received a letter from Lieutenant J.R. Homfrey from Leonard's regiment: see below. Leonard also named his brother with probate authority, providing £264. 5s. 5d and giving his own address as 20 Newton Road, Isleworth. His Record of Soldiers' Effects details his will as providing for Elsie May Bristow and Lily Lucy Bishop, and his nephews and nieces. He was awarded the 1914 Star, The Victory and British War medals.

His 'Soldiers Died in the Great War' file records that he also served with the Dorset

regiment, formerly 7325. Leonard Newman Bishop is commemorated on the La Ferte-Sous-Jouarre Memorial, and also remembered on the memorial at St John's Church, Isleworth as well as the Twickenham Post Office Staff War Memorial, along with other members of the Twickenham head branch and sub post office staff who lost their lives during the War of 1914-1918.

