

Durrington War Graves



Lest we Forget

World War I



7308 PRIVATE

G. B. ROGERS

1ST BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

2ND JUNE, 1917 Age 39

Three Little Words

Forget Him Not

By His Loving Wife

And Daughters

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte G. B. Rogers is located in Grave Plot # 247
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

George Bell ROGERS

George Bell Rogers was born at Forbes, NSW on 8th June, 1877 to parents Robert B. & Harriet Rogers (nee Foster). He was a 39 year old, married, Wagon driver from Parramatta, NSW when he enlisted on 20th January, 1917 with the 1st Infantry Battalion, 24th Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 7308 & his religion was Church of England. His next of kin was listed as his wife – Mrs J. M. Rogers of Inkerman Street, Parramatta, NSW.

Pte George Bell Rogers embarked from Sydney on RMS *Osterley* on 10th February, 1917 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 11th April, 1917.

Reinforcements were only given basic training in Australia. Training was completed in training units in England. Some of these were located in the Salisbury Plain & surrounding areas in the county of Wiltshire.

Pte George Bell Rogers was marched in to 1st Training Battalion at Durrington, Wiltshire on 11th April, 1917.

Pte George Bell Rogers was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire on 26th May, 1917.

Private George Bell Rogers died at 9.20 a.m. on 2nd June, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire from Broncho Pneumonia.

A death for George B. Rogers, aged 39, was registered in the June quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private George Bell Rogers was buried on 5th June, 1917 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 247 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone. From the burial report of Pte George Bell Rogers – *Military Funeral, Coffin was Elm. The Rector of Durrington undertakes that this grave shall be cared for and he will gladly answer any enquiries.*

Private G. B. Rogers is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 30.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia

Pte G. B. Rogers is also remembered on the Parramatta War Memorial located at Prince Alfred Park, Church Street and Victoria Road, Parramatta.



Parramatta War Memorial

(Photos from Register Of War Memorials in NSW – Peter Levarre-Waters & Vaughan Williamson)

Pte G. B. Rogers is also remembered on the St. John's Anglican Cathedral Memorial Arch located in Church Street Mall, Parramatta, NSW.



St. John's Anglican Cathedral Memorial Arch *(Photo from Register Of War Memorials in NSW – David Roden)*

Pte G. B. Rogers is also remembered on the Parramatta & District Great War Roll of Honour located in Parramatta Town Hall, Church Street, Parramatta, NSW.



Parramatta & District Great War Roll of Honour (Photos from Register Of War Memorials in NSW – David Roden)

Pte George Bell Rogers was entitled to British War Medal only as he had not entered a Theatre of War. A Memorial Scroll & Memorial Plaque were also sent to Pte Rogers' widow – Mrs J. M. Rogers (sent September, 1922 & August, 1922)

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private George Bell Rogers – service number 7308 as being 39 years old & served with 1st Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of Robert and Harriet Rogers, husband of Jane Mary Rogers, of Inkerman St, Parramatta, New South Wales. Born at Forbes, New South Wales.

A War Pension was granted to Jane Mary Rogers, widow of late Pte George Bell Rogers, in the sum of £2 per fortnight from 6th August, 1917. War Pensions were also granted to late Pte George Bell Rogers' two daughters – Kathleen Rogers - £1 per fortnight & Vera Rogers – 15/- per fortnight.

(64 pages of Pte George Bell Rogers' Service records are available for On Line viewing at National Archives of Australia website). *Information obtained from the CWGC, Australian War Memorial (Roll of Honour, First World War Embarkation Roll, Red Cross Wounded & Missing) & National Archives*



Pte George Bell Rogers

Newspaper Reports

BRAVE BOYS WHO HAVE DIED FOR THEIR COUNTRY

PRIVATE J. BENTLEY late of Church-street, Parramatta, killed in action in France May 13th, 1917. During his residence in Parramatta he was for a time employed by Messrs. Summons and Graham. He was a close friend of Private G. B. Rogers, whose death from pneumonia is announced in this issue.

PRIVATE G. B. ROGERS – Mrs G. M. Rogers, of Inkerman-street, Parramatta, has been officially notified that her husband Private G. B. Rogers, who enlisted on the 20th January and sailed from Sydney on the 10th February, 1917, died on the 2nd June, aged 39 years, from broncho-pneumonia at Fargo military hospital.



PRIVATE G. B. ROGERS.

(The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Parramatta, NSW – Saturday 23 June, 1917)

ROLL OF HONOUR

ROGERS. — Died of illness in England, June 2nd, 1917, Private G. B. Rogers, of Inkerman-street, Parramatta, aged 39 years. He did his duty nobly. Sadly missed by his loving wife and mother and four daughters.

Dear is the place where father is laid,
Sweet is the memory that never shall fade;
Flowers may wither, eyes fail to see,
If others forget him never shall we.

Inserted by a friend, Mrs G. Rogers and family, Inkerman-street, Parramatta.

(The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Parramatta, NSW – Saturday 23 June, 1917)

DEATHS

ROGERS – November 26, 1924, at South Sydney Hospital, Waterloo. Jane Mary Rogers, relict of the late George Bell Rogers, and late of 331 Harris-street, Pyrmont, aged 43 years. R.I.P.

(The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW – Thursday 27 November, 1924)

Commonwealth War Graves Commission Headstones

The Defence Department, in 1920/21, contacted the next of kin of the deceased World War 1 soldiers to see if they wanted to include a personal inscription on the permanent headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery. Space was reserved for 66 letters only (with the space between any two words to be counted as an additional letter) & the rate per letter was around 3 ½ d (subject to fluctuation).

The expense in connection for the erection of permanent headstones over the graves of fallen soldiers was borne by the Australian Government.

(Information obtained from letters sent to next of kin in 1921)

Pte G. B. Rogers does have a personal inscription on his headstone.

Three Little Words Forget Him Not By His Loving Wife And Daughters

Photo of Pte G. B. Rogers' Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)

Pte G. B. Rogers is also remembered on the Red Granite Obelisk Memorial to Men of 1st Training Battalion A.I.F. which is located in Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo by Dave Healing 2013)



(Photos by Ian King 2010)



Memorial to 1st Training Battalion A.I.F. at Durrington Cemetery