



*Victoria Cross Recipient
Maurice Albert Wyndham
Rogers*

Maurice Albert Wyndham Rogers served in the 2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment in WWII. He was born on 17th July 1919, the son of Albert Edward and Dora Grace Rogers of Bristol, Gloucestershire. He enlisted in the Wiltshire Regiment in 1934 at the age of 14 as a drummer boy and he was married to Lena Elizabeth Stone, of Plaistow, Essex in Bethnal Green, Middlesex in March 1941. He was Patrol Leader of St. John's Scout Troop, Bethnal Green

His Citation reads;

War Office, 10th August, 1944

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve posthumous awards of the VICTORIA CROSS to: —

No. 5568932 Sergeant Maurice Albert Wyndham Rogers, The Wiltshire Regiment (Duke of Edinburgh's) (Plaistow).

In Italy a Battalion of the Wiltshire Regiment was ordered to attack high ground held by the enemy. The leading Company had taken their first objective but were unable to reach their final objective, owing to heavy enemy fire and casualties. The Carrier Platoon, dismounted, were ordered to capture the final objective, supported by fire from the Company and a troop of tanks.

The objective was wired and mined and strongly defended by the enemy. The Carrier Platoon advanced through machinegun and mortar fire until they reached the enemy's wire, which was 70 yards from their objective. At this point the Platoon was under the intense fire of seven machine-guns firing at ranges of from 50 to 100 yards, and sustained a number of casualties. The Platoon, checked (by the enemy's wire and the intensity of his machine-gun fire, took cover and returned the fire preparatory to gapping the wire. Sergeant Rogers, the Platoon Sergeant, without hesitation continued to advance alone, firing his Thompson Sub-Machine Gun. He got through the enemy's wire, ran across the minefield and destroyed two of the enemy machine-gun posts with his Thompson Sub-Machine Gun and hand grenades. By now, Sergeant Rogers was 100 yards ahead of his Platoon and had penetrated 30 yards inside the enemy's defences. He had drawn on to himself the fire of nearly all the enemy's machine-guns and had thrown their defence into confusion. Inspired by the example of Sergeant Rogers, the Platoon breached the enemy's wire and began the assault. Still alone and penetrating deeper into the enemy position, Sergeant Rogers, whilst attempting to silence a third machine-gun post, was blown off his feet by a grenade which burst beside him and wounded him in the leg. Nothing daunted he stood up and still firing his Thompson Sub-Machine Gun, ran on towards the enemy post. He was shot and killed at point blank range.

This N.C.O's undaunted determination, fearless devotion to duty and superb courage carried his Platoon on to their objective in face of a determined enemy in a strongly defended position. The great gallantry and heroic self-sacrifice of Sergeant Rogers were in the highest tradition of the British Army.

Sgt. Rogers was also a recipient of the Military Medal – gazetted on 18th November 1943.

No. 5568932 Sergeant Maurice Albert Wyndham Rogers, The Wiltshire Regiment (Duke of Edinburgh's) (London, E.13).

His story was published as the cover story for D.C. Thomson's Victor comic in issue 204 dated 16 January 1965. His Victoria Cross is displayed at The Rifles (Berkshire and Wiltshire) Museum in Salisbury, Wiltshire.

A plaque on "Rogers Estate", Bethnal Green London is dedicated to him and a block of flats in Shepherds Bush.

In 2003 Sergeant Rogers had a road named after him when a new industrial estate had been built at Hopton, Devizes, Wiltshire (near to the old La Marchant Barracks) and the road has been called "Sgt Rogers Way". The road sign gives his full name and location and year of the VC award. Earlier he had a block of flats 'Rogers House' named after him on the White City Estate in Shepherds Bush, London. His parents were in attendance at the opening ceremony.

Sgt. Rogers died on 3rd June 1944 and is buried in the Beach Head War Cemetery, Anzio, Italy

