

# Durrington War Graves



*Lest we Forget*

## World War I



6807 PRIVATE

**H. W. ROGERS**

5TH BN. AUSTRALIAN INF.

23RD JANUARY, 1917 Age 25

*Commonwealth War Graves Headstone for Pte H. W. Rogers is located in Grave Plot # 158  
of Durrington War Graves Cemetery*

## Hector William ROGERS

Hector William Rogers was born at Coleraine, Victoria in 1891 to parents James & Annie Rogers. He was a 25 year old, single, Labourer from Coleraine, Victoria when he enlisted on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 1916 with the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, 22<sup>nd</sup> Reinforcements of the Australian Army (A.I.F.). His service number was 6807 & his religion was Presbyterian. His next of kin was listed as his father – Mr J. Rogers of Coleraine, Victoria.

Pte Hector William Rogers embarked from Melbourne on HMAT *Ulysses (A38)* on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 1916 & disembarked at Plymouth, England on 28<sup>th</sup> December, 1916.

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.

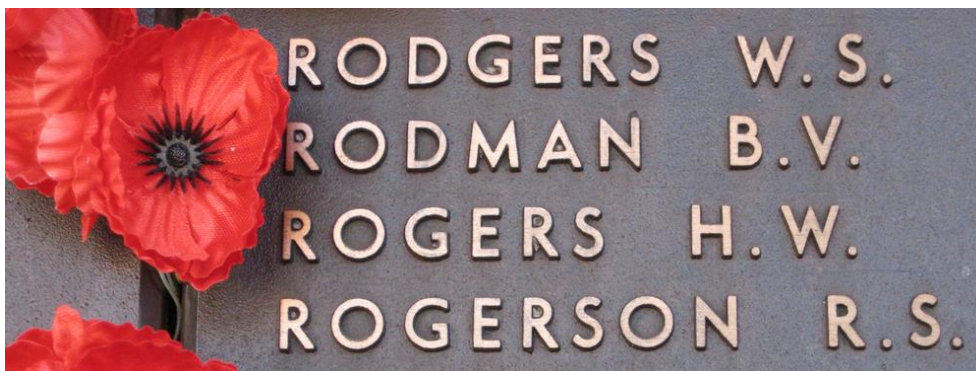
Private Hector William Rogers was admitted to hospital on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 1917 from 2<sup>nd</sup> Training Battalion at Durrington, Wiltshire.

Private Hector William Rogers died at 2.30 p.m. on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 1917 at Fargo Military Hospital, Wiltshire from Pneumonia.

A death for Hector W. Rogers, aged 25, was registered in the March quarter, 1917 in the district of Amesbury, Wiltshire.

Private Hector William Rogers was buried on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 1917 at Durrington Cemetery, Wiltshire – Plot number 158 and has a Commonwealth War Graves Commission headstone.

Private H. W. Rogers is commemorated in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 45.



(Photos by Cathy Sedgwick)



*Roll Of Honour WW1 Australian War Memorial Canberra, Australia*

Pte H. W. Rogers is also remembered on the Coleraine War Memorial located in front of the former Court House – 78 Whyte Street, Coleraine, Victoria.



*Coleraine War Memorial (Photos from Victorian War Heritage Inventory)*

Pte Hector William 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' father – Mr J. Rogers (both sent December, 1921).

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists Private Hector William Rogers – service number 6807 as being 25 years old & served with 5th Battalion Australian Infantry. He was the son of James and Annie Rogers of Salt Pans Road, Coleraine, Victoria.

(36 pages of Pte Hector William 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) & National Archives*

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## Newspaper Reports

### AMONG THE AUSTRALIANS

#### DEATH OF PRIVATE HECTOR ROGERS

The half-masting of the Shire Hall flag yesterday morning proclaimed that another of Coleraine's volunteers had become a sacrifice in the great war raging, although in this case it was illness and not fighting that led to his death. The victim was Private Hector Rogers, one of the comparatively recent batch of lads who left Coleraine to give their services for King and country. It appears that Private Rogers (son of Mr. James Rogers, and brother of Mr. Henry Rogers, who has received his discharge through disablement), was sent abroad, and having contracted pneumonia became a hospital inmate. Word received by his father showed that the complaint ended fatally.

*(Coleraine Albion and Western Advertiser, Victoria – Thursday 1 February, 1917)*

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### AUSTRALIANS AT WAR

#### 271<sup>st</sup> CASUALTY LIST

#### DIED OF ILLNESS

Pte H. W. Rogers, Coleraine

*(Hamilton Spectator, Victoria – Friday 9 February, 1917)*

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### MEMORIAL SERVICE

In honor of two fallen soldiers - Privates William Hector Rogers and Herbert Dugald Beaton - a memorial service was held yesterday morning at St. Andrew's Church. There was a large congregation and the Rev. J. Alexander gave an appropriate discourse. His subject was the Kingdom of Christ, and its establishment, he pointed out, rested on love and sacrifice. Wickedness was reigning, and, to defeat evil, men were dying. In such days as these it was, in the interests of those

who suffered wrong, necessary to resist evil. The ultimate gain would come from men willing to lay down their lives.

It was his sad duty to speak of two of their soldiers who had laid down their lives. Private William Hector Rogers, after his brother had returned wounded from the landing at Gallipoli, heard his country's call, and enlisted last September. In due course he arrived in England, but catching a cold which developed into pneumonia he bore his illness without complaining, and died on the 23rd, January.

Private H. D. Beaton, who had spent most of his life at Wando Vale went into camp a year ago. He was sent to France about the 10th December, and in a little over seven months from his enlistment was sent into the firing line of the most dreadful war the world has even known. After five months in action he fell and met his death.

These two men, said the preacher, had each received a soldier's crown. They had laid down their lives for the weak and helpless, for the crushed and oppressed. " Whatsoever ye do unto one of these ye do it unto, Me." They remembered their noble and willing sacrifice with credit and love, and extended their sympathy to those who mourned their beloved. The hymns sung were appropriate.

*(Coleraine Albion and Western Advertiser, Victoria – Monday 28 May, 1917)*

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## IN MEMORIAM

ROGERS - In affectionate remembrance of Private Hector William Rogers, who died at Fargo Military Hospital, Salisbury, England, on 23rd January, 1917.

We watch and wait for his return,  
    And we long for the clasp of his hand;  
But God postpones our meeting  
    Till we meet in the better land.  
Inserted by his sisters May Rankin & Elizabeth Murtagh.

*(Coleraine Albion and Western Advertiser, Victoria – Thursday 31 January, 1918)*

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### 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 H. W. Rogers does not have a personal inscription on his headstone. He also does not have the Christian cross on his headstone like so many other Australian soldiers.

Photo of Pte H. W. Rogers' Headstone at Durrington War Graves Cemetery, Wiltshire.



(Photo © Ian King - with permission)